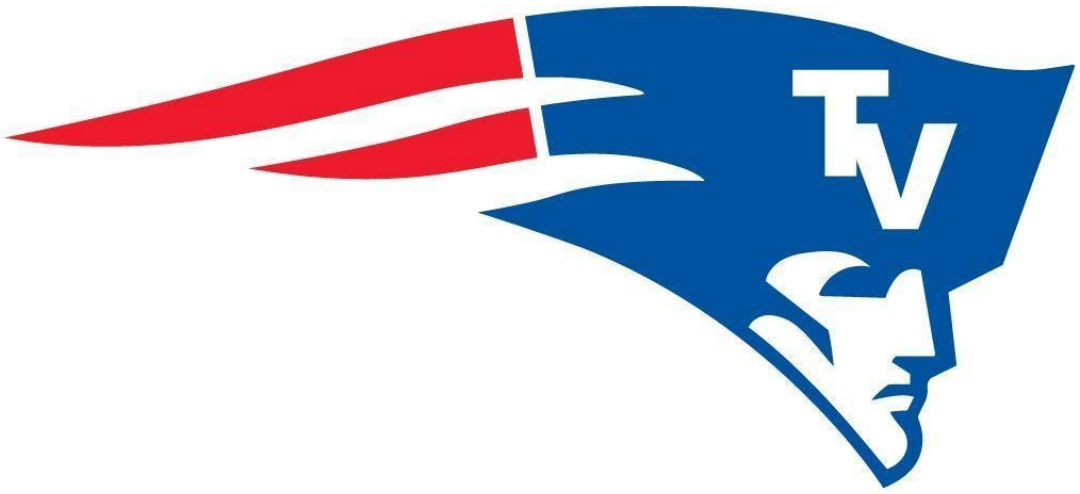
Tri-Village High School

Athletic Handbook

2026-2027



Mr. Josh Sagester, Superintendent
Mr. Lee Morris, Principal
Mr. Brad Gray, Athletic Director

I. PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

The purpose of the Athletic Handbook of Tri-Village Local Schools is to serve as a guide to athletes and their parents, informing them of all rules, regulations, and policies relevant to the athletic program. By having written information available for each athlete, the possibility of inconsistent treatment is nearly eliminated. Each athlete and his/her guardian or parent is required to carefully review and become familiar with this document and its contents. There must be written confirmation on file that each athlete and a parent or guardian(s) have reviewed it. See back page.

The specific goal of the handbook is to help student athletes reduce the potential for problems by knowing and understanding exactly what is expected of them during their involvement with the athletic program.

The athletic handbook will be distributed through Final Forms as part of the form requirements that athletes and their parents/guardians must sign each school year if they intend to participate in athletics.

II. FOREWORD

TRI-VILLAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The purpose of athletics is to give a student, whether he/she is gifted in athletic ability or interested in being involved in interscholastic athletics, the opportunity to participate in the best possible athletic program. To be a part of a quality program the following concerns must be addressed:

A. The employment of the best available educators to direct and/or assist in the development of an interscholastic athletic program. This will involve:
   - **i.)** Recruitment of outstanding candidates.
   - **ii.)** Development of an evaluation instrument of the coaching staff that fosters growth and will prevent stagnation.
   - **iii.)** Encourage staff development by requiring regular attendance at clinics.

B. Provide a fiscally sound athletic program so that equipment, uniforms, and the needs of the program are met without periods of high income and high expenditure followed by periods of low income and no expenditure.

C. Foster an academic posture for athletics that encourages excellence in the classroom as well as in athletics. This involves monitoring the grades of student-athletes and the establishment of assistance and counseling for those individuals who are not achieving.

D. Promotion of all interscholastic contests and athletes in a favorable light to the community. This will include timely press releases to the media promoting the achievement of Tri- Village student athletes.

III. TRI-VILLAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

- BOARD OF EDUCATION
- SUPERINTENDENT
- PRINCIPAL
- ATHLETIC COUNCIL
- ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
- SPORTS COORDINATOR
- HEAD COACH/ADVISOR
- ASSISTANT COACHES
- JUNIOR HIGH COACHES
- VOLUNTEERS

IV. ATHLETIC COUNCIL

NAME:

- The Tri-Village Local School District Interscholastic Athletic Program will be administered by the Athletic Council. MEMBERSHIP:
- The Athletic Council shall consist of a member of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Principal of the junior/senior high school, the athletic director, and a member of the faculty.

OFFICERS:

- Junior/Senior High School Principal – Chairman
- Athletic Director - Secretary

VOTING:

- On matters which require voting, each of the following will be entitled to one vote: the school board member, the Superintendent, the junior/senior high school principal, the member of the faculty, and the athletic director.

MEETINGS:

- The Athletic Council shall meet at least once each year. The chairman may call a special meeting when he/she deems it necessary.
- The agenda will be developed and distributed to all voting members of the Council prior to the Athletic Council meeting when possible.
- Four members shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least one of the members present is a member of the Board of Education.

V. PHILOSOPHY

Tri-Village High School and Junior High School are members of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Western Ohio Athletic Conference. All coaches are expected to conduct the athletic programs according to the spirit, as well as the letter, of the OHSAA Constitution and WOAC league rules.

Athletics should be an experience aimed at providing a healthy, enjoyable atmosphere conducive to the growth of the individual. This experience should promote and develop the competitive spirit as well as foster the psychological, emotional, and athletic growth of the participants.

Athletics at Tri-Village is an extension of the classroom aimed at developing self-discipline, positive moral values, and sportsmanship. Academic success is recognized as the base upon which the athletic program is funded.

In exchange for the many benefits and advantages afforded to student athletes, they have an obligation to exhibit morally responsible behavior and to provide wholesome, positive leadership in the school and community.

VI. DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE

A student is considered to be an athlete from the first day he/she starts to practice with any interscholastic team in school until he/she graduates from high school or fails to report for any other athletic squad while attending Tri-Village Local Schools.

This policy is in effect for all sports that are recognized by the Tri-Village Local School Board

VII. EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

Athletes, equipment managers, statisticians, and any student affiliated with the athletic program representing Tri-Village Local Schools must realize their conduct reflects on themselves, their school, and their community. Therefore, all Tri-Village students involved or affiliated with the athletic department in any way shall:

- Have a high standard 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 and community related activities.

APPEARANCE: Athletes are expected to have a well-groomed appearance. The athlete's clothes must be clean. His/her hair style must be appropriate for each sport and conform to the rules set by each individual coach. It is not to interfere with the individual's performance nor present a situation which could cause a hazardous condition for the athlete or for other athletes.

VIII. GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

A. A student on out-of-school suspension is ineligible to participate in practice or contest during the term of the suspension. This will be determined by the Principal depending on the severity of the offense.
B. The second time an athlete is suspended out of school he/she will begin an athletic suspension of 10%.
C. An athlete is responsible for the equipment issued to him/her. If this equipment is not returned to the athletic department by the athlete, his/her athletic awards and diploma will be held. Once the equipment is returned or paid for, the athlete will receive his/her award.
D. Parents are responsible for proper medical insurance programs. Tri-Village Local School District will assume no responsibility for athletic injuries. No athlete will be allowed to participate in official practice sessions or contests until all required O.H.S.A.A. and school forms are signed and on file with the appropriate school personnel.

IX. CODE OF CONDUCT

As representatives of their school, athletes should strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards both in the classroom, in their respective sport, and in the community. Tri-Village has set standards, i.e., rules, which every athlete is expected to abide by. It is the responsibility of each coach to inform his/her athletes of the rules and regulations that govern their sport, including the Tri-Village Local School District Athletic Code. Infractions of the coaches' rules, the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook, the Tri-Village Local School District Athletic Code, the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Policies, or the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director and/or the Principal. Each case needs to be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Principal to determine the context in which the violation occurred, extenuating circumstances surrounding the violation, and whether or not the violation is subject to penalty. Infractions that occur during scheduled OHSAA contests or scrimmages by an athlete (any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul) will be handled by following established procedures and penalties set down by the OHSAA (General Sports Regulation M-5).

OFFENSES

A. Substance abuse
    i. An athlete finds himself/herself suspended immediately from the team if he/she is found:
        * to have used or are using or in possession of alcoholic beverages.
        * to have used or are using or in possession of tobacco/nicotine products.
        * to have or are using or in possession of any drug, not prescribed for the student

athlete by a physician.

B. Theft, damage, or misuse of school and private property
   - No athlete shall steal or intentionally damage any school or private property.

C. Assault on or physical injury to students and/or adults
   - No athlete shall intentionally assault, cause, or attempt to cause physical injury to other students and/or adults.

D. Sexual misconduct
   - No athlete shall intimidate or be a party to the intimidation of another student for the purpose of sexual interest, engage in any form of exhibitionism, or act of sexual misconduct.

E. General misconduct
   - An athlete shall not display character or conduct deemed to reflect discredit upon the team and/or the school.
   - An athlete must follow any rules or requests set down by the coach.
   - An athlete is prohibited from exhibiting obscene and lewd gestures during a school function or event.

***** NOTE *****

Some types of misconduct are so intolerable they may warrant skipped steps of discipline or disqualification at the first occurrence.

CONSEQUENCES Any student participant in the athletic program, grades 7-12, representing Tri-Village Local Schools will be subject to the following penalties.

A. If it is determined that a student is using alcohol or tobacco/nicotine, is in possession of alcohol or tobacco/nicotine or is behaving in a manner which reflects negatively upon the athlete, athletic department, or school, he/she shall be denied the privilege of participation in the athletic program. The amount of time will depend upon the following sequence:
   i.) A first offense will result in a suspension of 10% of total games.
   ii.) A second offense will result in a suspension of one calendar year.
   iii.) A third offense will result in the athlete losing his/her privilege to participate in athletics at Tri-Village Local Schools.

B. An athlete shall not possess, use, transfer, conceal, sell, attempt to sell, deliver, or be under the influence of any illegal and/or non-prescriptive drug. The amount of time will depend upon the following sequence:
   i.) A first offense will result in a suspension of 25% of total games
   ii.) A second offense will result in a suspension of one calendar year
   iii.) A third offense will result in the athlete losing his/her privilege to participate in athletics at Tri-Village Local Schools

C. To be reinstated after one year, the athlete must request an appeal hearing with the athletic council, and this request needs to be in writing to the athletic director. It is the athlete's responsibility to prove to the athletic council that they have changed their behavior and are now willing to abide by the rules in the athletic handbook.

D. Suspensions will carry over to the next sport the athlete goes out for, if the suspension cannot be completed in the sport in which the suspension was administered.

E. The Athletic Council reserves the right to review on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility of participation in the event a student athlete is involved in the criminal justice system.

The suspension begins the date of the offense, extending from one school year to the next if necessary. The athlete will be required to practice with the team or teams during this time of the denial of the privilege of participation. The athlete is required to sit on the bench with the team during his/her time of suspension but will not be in uniform nor can he/she participate.

*****PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT*****

X. COACHES PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING VIOLATIONS

A coach suspecting an athlete of violating the Athletic Code will confer with the Athletic Director and the building administrator to determine what action will be taken. During the conference the coach and Athletic Director will both be present and will give the athlete an explanation of the suspicions/allegations and ask the athlete to explain his/her involvement. The Athletic Director and coach will evaluate the evidence and render a decision.

XI. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DISMISSAL

A coach may suspend an athlete from practice for a period of time no greater than twenty-four hours for a violation of training rules or for actions or behaviors which are detrimental to the program. This action may not be appealed through the Athletic Due Process.

XII. ATHLETIC DUE PROCESS

A. In the case of an athlete being suspended or dismissed from an athletic squad, the head coach and Athletic Director will talk with the athlete and explain the reasons for the suspension or dismissal. The head coach and/or Athletic Director will give the athlete, the parent, guardian or custodians, the Athletic Director, and Principal, a written report of the situation to include the ...
   - Infraction of the Athletic Code.
   - Action taken by the coach according to Athletic Code.
   - Right to appeal to the appeal board.

B. If the athlete or parent, guardian, or custodian is not satisfied with the explanation of the coach and/or Athletic Director, he/she has the right to appeal within seventy-two (72) hours after the coach has given the written report to the athlete. The appeal must be requested in writing and filed with the Athletic Director. The Appeal Board shall meet with the appealing student and parents/guardians no later than five (5) school days after the appeal request. The Appeal Board will be made up of the High School Athletic Director, the Junior/Senior High School Principal, and the Superintendent of schools or Designee. The athlete and his/her parents/guardians will be allowed to meet with the Appeal Board and present their position. If the coach and Athletic Director are the same person, another school official will be appointed to the Appeal Board by the respective building Principal. The High School Principal may appoint a replacement for any member of the Appeal Board if a conflict of interest presents itself. The Appeal Board will give the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian, head coach and the superintendent a written report of the decision. The decision will then be presented to the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian within forty-eight (48) hours after the Appeal Board has made its decision. The decision must be made within seventy-two (72) hours after the hearing. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final. The appealing student's parent(s) should also be at the review.

C. An athlete is under suspension during the appeal process.
   - **Note 1:** If circumstances not listed in this handbook develop, the head coach may bring the information (written) to the Athletic Director. The coach will meet with the Athletic Council and this group will determine the procedure for solving the situation.
   - **Note 2:** Changes or additions in this handbook will be presented to the Athletic Director and then taken to the Athletic Council for approval. If approved by the Athletic Council, it will be presented to the Tri-

Village Local School District Board of Education. If approved by the Board of Education, the changes or additions will go into effect immediately.

XIII. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- See pages nine and ten of this athletic handbook. These are minimum guidelines established by the OHSAA. Refer to the following two points of the handbook for Tri-Village School Board policy which is more stringent than those adopted by the OHSAA.

1. students must be passing a minimum of 5 credit hours worth of classes (this is the OHSAA rule)
2. students cannot have more than 2 F's on their report card during the nine weeks prior to the current grading period

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association
For School Counselors – 2026-2027
Revised May 2025

Many student scholarship appeals that come to the OHSAA office place **sole responsibility on you**, the school counselor, **for their failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws** found in 4-4. The OHSAA recognizes that this notion is fundamentally flawed and incorrect and emphasizes that our rules make reference to the fact that scholastic success is a shared responsibility with parents and students expected to shoulder most of the load. The Executive Director's Office has prepared this resource to help inform you of the crucial information that you need to know in order to best advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. Incoming 9th graders MUST earn passing grades in a minimum of **four courses in their final grading period of grade 8** in order to be eligible, with regard to scholarship, during their first grading period of 9th grade.
2. Thereafter, all high school students MUST earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
3. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** each grading period.
4. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
   a. Are you a student athlete?
   b. What sports do you play?
   c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
5. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five credits unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here:http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf
6. Physical Education Courses do count towards athletic eligibility but will NEVER count as a full credit course. It usually counts as only ¼ or ½ credit. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
7. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
8. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
   The OHSAA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSAA matter

Grades 7-8

1. All 7-8th grade students MUST be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **four courses** during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **four courses** each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
   a. Are you a student athlete?
   b. What sports do you play?
   c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below four courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here: http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf
5. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods," and restoration of eligibility is NOT permitted after such evaluations.

Passing grades must be received in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

FORMULA: CREDIT VALUE x FACTOR = EQUIVELANCY

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit &Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English10		C 1 - all year		1 1 x 1 = 1
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 =1
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 =1
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
Total Credits				**5 = eligible for 2nd grading period**

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit &Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
History	B	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
P.E.	B	1/4 - semester	2	1/4 x 2 =1/2
Keyboarding	C	1/4 - 4th 9weeks	4	1/4 x 4 = 1
Total Credits				**4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year**

Post-Secondary Option – College Credit Plus

Note:. Please note that in order for a CCP class to be used for determining eligibility for Bylaw 4-4-1, the class must count toward HS graduation.

In order for a CCP class to be used for determining eligibility for Bylaw 4-4-1, the class must count toward HS graduation. In addition, students electing to enroll in CCP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively

or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. **College courses for which three or more semester hours of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately. This means that courses which are four, five, six or even seven hours of credit receive just one Carnegie unit.**

For the 2023-24 school year, the OHSAA membership made changes to how "sprint" and/or "A/B" courses can be counted. A student enrolled in a College Credit Plus (CCP) course or courses which credit hours would have counted towards the satisfaction of this Bylaw BUT FOR the fact that the actual course work did not commence in the grading period in question (but within the same semester), can nonetheless have the course credit/credits count towards satisfaction of this requirement PROVIDED the student was enrolled in the CCP course at the beginning of the semester in question. Likewise, if the CCP course work is successfully completed within the semester of the high school's calendar but before the high school's calendar's next grading period within the same semester starts, the CCP credits can count towards satisfaction of this requirement. **A student who is engaged in a CCP course has an added responsibility to immediately notify the school for which they participate when any changes with their enrollment status within the CCP course occurs, and it is the school's obligation to confirm the schedule change upon receipt of notification.**

Examples of CCP options:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period (College on SEMESTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	1 x 1 = 1
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	1 x 2 =2
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	1 x 2 = 2
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	1 x 2 = 2
Total Credits			**7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed**

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system.
The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period (College on QUARTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	1 x 4 =4
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	1 x 4 = 4
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	.67 x 4=2.68
Total Credits			**10.68 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed**

The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters as long as the class is completed during one quarter. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	**Grade**	**Credit &Duration**	**Factor**	**Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)**
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	1 x 2 = 2
Spanish 2 C	1 - semester	2	1 x 2 = 2	
Health	B	1/4 - 1st 9weeks	4	1/4 x 4 = 1
Total Credits				**5 = eligible for 2nd grading period**

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period Subject

Subject	**Grade**	**Credit &Duration**	**Factor**	**Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)**
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	1 x 2 = 2
French	C	1 - semester	2	1 x 2 = 2
Phys. Ed	A	1/4 - semester	2	1/4 x 2 = 1/2
Total Credits				**4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period**

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades are required in a minimum of four subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses, regardless of how many times per week the course meets, in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	F
Music	C
Health	F
Subjects Passed	**3 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period**

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Social Studies	C
Science	B
Physical Education	B
Subjects Passed	**4 of 5 classes = Eligible for 4th grading period**

NOTE: For additional information, contact: **Ohio High School Athletic Association** 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Telephone:** (614) 267-2502 • **Fax:** (614) 267-1677 • **Website:** ohsaa.org
The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA website.

XIV. PROCEDURES

When a violation occurs:

- The athletic director will meet the student(s), parents, and coaches involved and will discuss the alleged violation of rules.
- The athletic council will render a decision within 3 school days of the meeting regarding whether or not to deny the privilege of participation to the athlete.
- Notice of the decision will come from the athletic director in writing.

XV. POINTS OF INFORMATION

A. The policy established here is a minimum standard. Each head coach has the authority and will establish additional rules that he/she will explain prior to the beginning of an athlete's participation in a sport, along with an explanation of the consequences of violating those rules. Such consequences can include, but are not limited to, benching for a period of time up to and including removal from a team for the balance of a season. If you, as an athlete, do not understand the rules and consequences that a coach explains to you, you have the responsibility to ask for additional information.

B. This minimal policy statement is in effect 24 hours per day, during the athletic calendar year. This will also include organized summer activities like practice and team play.

C. Any disagreement between an athlete and a coach that cannot be resolved by them should be brought to the attention of the athletic director. If this does not resolve the issue, the matter will then be taken to an advisory committee composed of the athletic director, head coach, principal, and athlete. The decision reached here will be final.

D. If a student athlete has been given a detention assignment, he/she is ineligible to participate in athletics during the time of the detention. In other words, the detention assignment takes priority over athletic participation. Students must take this into consideration and the effect it could have on the day of a contest.

E. If a student athlete is assigned a detention or Tuesday/Thursday School and this assignment conflicts with participation in an athletic event, attendance at the detention or Tuesday/Thursday School shall not be waived. Detention and Tuesday/Thursday School attendance policies will apply. This policy also applies to any student who may be attending the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.

F. All participants will be under the direct supervision of a coach, advisor, or principal while traveling to and from contests. See Tri-Village School Board Policy 8640 – Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips for complete explanation and details.

G. Overnight field trips – housing

1. **Arrangements**

   Prior to the trip, arrange sleeping accommodations for the students and chaperones. Make sure chaperones and room assignments are gender-specific, and roommates are close in age.

   a. Housing – will align with BOE approved arrangements.
   b. Meals not to exceed $30.00 per day.
   c. Travel – current IRS rate per mile for round trip mileage within the State of Ohio.

2. **Supervision**

   Special consideration should be given to the number of chaperones on an overnight trip. Additional chaperones may be needed. Ensure students have supervision at all times while on a school sponsored field trip. Chaperones will not sleep in the same rooms as students, students will be supervised in their rooms, in the following manner a room check every 30 minutes until the students are asleep.

3. **Providing information to parents/guardians**

Communicate housing, information, including the names to Athletic Director prior to trip departure.

4. **District Policies Apply**
   Ensure parents, students and chaperones understand that district policies and procedures pertaining to pupil conduct, discipline, and rights apply to pupils while on trips, and that parents will be responsible for getting the student back home if the student breaks the rules. Rules on trips are the same as required of students within the school confines.

Students violating school conduct rules on a trip are subject to the same disciplinary action as would apply if they were on school property.

XVI. ATTENDANCE

All athletes are strongly encouraged to be prompt in their daily attendance. However, when unavoidable circumstances are present, the following guidelines shall be used. Students who miss classes without authorization on the date of a contest may not represent their school on that day.

Participants must either be in class by the beginning of 3rd period to participate in any evening activities or show proof with a physician's note that you had an appointment to practice or play that day, unless the student has special permission from the Principal. This also includes practices. If you are not in school that day, you are not permitted to be in school after hours. If you have an appointment that day, you must present your excuse to the attendance secretary before going to any practices or games. Coaches are responsible for checking the absence list for the purpose of determining who may or may not be eligible to participate that evening.

XVII. AWARDS

This section of the Athletic Handbook concerns the awards which athletes may receive for their participation in Tri-Village athletics. Some awards are for participation and others are for special achievement.

Participation

1. Seventh and eighth grade athletes will receive certificates for cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, and track.
2. Ninth grade basketball players will receive a certificate
3. 1st year award – 1st varsity award will be a 7inch letter. The athlete must participate in at least a minimum of 25% of all varsity contests. However, varsity coaches have the final decision in regards to whether or not an athlete receives a varsity letter.
   - To earn a varsity letter in golf, the athlete must finish in the top six on the team in at least 25% of all contests.
   - To earn a varsity letter in cross country, the athlete must finish in the top seven on the team in at least 25% of all contests.
4. 2nd year award – 2nd varsity award will be a medal for the letter.
5. 3rd year award – 3rd varsity award will be a plaque.
6. 4th year award – 4th varsity award will be a trophy or plaque.
7. Reserve awards will be given a certificate.

A senior who has been out for a sport for two years, but who has limited playing time, or for who the head coach sees special circumstances which prevented the athlete from lettering, may receive a varsity 7" letter.

In order to be eligible for any award, an athlete must complete the season, injury or illness is the only

exception to this rule.

Special awards in each sport are left to the discretion of the head coach of each sport, with the approval of the athletic director.

Requirements to receive participation awards will be provided to each participant prior to the beginning of each season.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

www.ohsaa.org

The enrollment and attendance requirements set forth at Bylaw 4-3 of the OHSAA Handbook have been among the "gold standard" rules for participation in interscholastic athletics since the inception of the OHSAA in 1908. These rules are grounded in some of the same principles behind "neighborhood schools" and exist in order to achieve the educational outcomes for which these interscholastic programs are designed to achieve. Included among these desirable educational outcomes are the instilment of the notion of citizenship, loyalty and school spirit, the building of a cohesive student body, the promotion of amateurism by drawing athletes from the school's population only which, in turn, discourages an overemphasis on sports, avoids "team shopping," keeps in proper perspective the relationships among student-athletes and coaches and secures role models for other students.

Over the years the member schools have made modifications to this gold standard as changes in education in Ohio have been made. Presently, there are seven exceptions that have been adopted by the member schools that accommodate these changes in Ohio's education system and the law, all of these exceptions having been deemed necessary and appropriate by the member schools. On July 1, 2013, Governor Kasich signed into law the biennium budget bill which, among other things, legislates some additional "exceptions" to this gold standard. Although technically the law does not become effective until 90 days after the Governor signed the bill, given that the start of the 2014-2015school year is upon us, the Commissioner's Office of the OHSAA is treating this matter as though the bill became effective upon the signing of the same by the Governor.

There are two (2) aspects of the Budget Bill that affect a student's "opportunities to participate" in all extra-curricular activities (Note: this bill is not limited to just interscholastic athletic teams or sports) that will be addressed in this Guidance. Those aspects are students who are excused from compulsory education or home-educated students and students enrolled at nonpublic (chartered and non-charted) schools. They will be discussed in that order.

I. HOME EDUCATED STUDENTS

The Budget Bill sections that address home-educated students are actually split into two sections: students whose parents reside in your district and who may wish to participate on your school-sponsored teams and students whose parents reside "outside" your district but who may still wish to participate on your school-sponsored sport teams.

A. The home educated student who resides in your district

Section 3313.5312(A) provides, in pertinent part, that "a student who is receiving home education in

accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code **shall be afforded,** by the Superintendent of the school district in **which the student is entitled to attend school** under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, **the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year**…" This law differs significantly from Exception 6 to Bylaw 4-3-1 in that it removes the option available under Exception 6 of requiring a student to enroll at your school and/or to take at least one course at your school. Any student who is receiving home education pursuant to statute and who resides in your district or is otherwise entitled to attend your schools, **shall have** the same opportunities to participate on your school sponsored teams (and all extra-curricular activities for that matter) as any and all other students in your district. The statute does go on to state that the **home-educated student must meet all other eligibility requirements**, e.g. transfer, scholarship, age, semesters, etc., and pay the same fees (*e.g.* pay-to-play) as any other student. Note: A student who leaves a member school for home education during the school year in order to avoid the consequence of failing grades shall be ineligible for one grading period upon return to the member school's athletic programs.

B. The home educated student who does not reside in your district

Section 3313.5312(B) addresses the student who receives home education under division (A)(2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code and **who is not entitled to attend school in the district** under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code. In that situation, the Budget Bill states that "the superintendent **may afford** [the student] . . . the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered by a school of the district **if the district to which the student is entitled to attend does not offer that extracurricular activity."** While the language of this section of the bill is confusing and fraught with practical difficulties for schools (financial accounting and otherwise), for purposes of interscholastic athletic competition, two things must be kept in mind: (1) that it remains the "**option"** of the superintendent as to whether s/he would permit this participation and (2) that **"option"** only exists if the school to which the student is entitled to attend does not offer the sport in question. In other words, if Jane Doe is a resident of District A and is receiving home education under division (A)(2) of 3321.04, Jane Doe is not eligible at District B for volleyball if District A sponsors volleyball even if District B's superintendent would have otherwise "permitted" Jane's participation at District B's school. NOTE: The Budget Bill does address the "student who commences home education after the beginning of the school year" and who is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the time s/he commences home education by declaring "**no student under this section shall be eligible to participate in the same semester in which the student was determined ineligible.**" While there exists some ambiguity to this provision, it is the position of the Commissioner's Office that the legislative intent with this language is that no student shall be permitted to circumvent the academic standards for participation in extracurricular activities by receiving home education. Therefore, the position of the OHSAA is that the scholarship bylaw applies to all students and that a student who was failing to meet the academic standards of the bylaws and/or the member school at the time s/he becomes "home educated" shall be ineligible for the remainder of that grading period as well as the following grading period.

II. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A NON-PUBLIC (CHARTERED OR NON-CHARTERED) SCHOOL

Section 3313.5311(B) of the Code provides that "if the nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the extracurricular activity, a student enrolled in a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school **shall be afforded, by the superintendent of the district in which the student is entitled to attend school** under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, **the opportunity to participate in that extracurricular activity** at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned . . . " Section 3313.5311(C) also addresses the non-resident student (not otherwise entitled to attend school under 3313.64 or 3313.65) who is enrolled in a non-public school but goes on to declare interscholastic athletics and interscholastic contests as excluded from the extracurricular activities covered under that section. Please note that the word "chartered" in this provision of the law refers to a non-public school which is chartered by the State Department of Education. Chartered in this context should not be confused with a charter or community school, which by

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

The most likely scenario you will face is a student from a small chartered non-public school or a student from an "08" school (non-chartered non-public school) who resides in your district requesting access to interscholastic athletics. In either of these scenarios, the Budget Bill declares these students **must be afforded** the same opportunity to participate as would be afforded to any of your students who reside in your district. Again, the athletic aspects of this law, while probably the most conspicuous and dramatic, actually pale in comparison to the more practical effects with which schools will actually have to deal. Funding, accounting (financial or otherwise) academic standing, semesters and the like, not to mention the displacement issues and the effects on the underlying reasons for why you sponsor these activities in the first place, are all impacted by these changes. Ohio law, be it enacted by the General Assembly or through common law, always supersedes the bylaws, rules and regulations enacted by the member schools of the OHSAA. As such, the Commissioner's Office is compelled to recognize and to comply with these laws as enacted by the legislature. To the extent these changes in the Code conflict with OHSAA bylaws or your school policy, the Code prevails, and that is precisely how the Commissioner's Office intends to go about enforcement of these changes as they relate to Bylaw 4-3. Please feel free to contact our eligibility/compliance staff with questions on this legislation and its impact on interscholastic athletics at your school.

STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK CERTIFICATION
2026-2027

We, _____and _____Parent/Guardian and Student Athlete have received and read the **Tri-Village Local School Athletic Handbook**. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, regulations, guidelines, procedures, and policies of the Tri-Village Athletic Department.

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature

_____

Student Signature

_____

Date