



Handbook
For
“Student Athlete”

**2016-2017 School Year
West Muskingum Local School District
Student Athlete Program**

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WEST MUSKINGUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2016-2017

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the athletic program in the West Muskingum School District is based on several ideals. Every activity sponsored and supported by the school district, at whatever level, must be considered a phase of the educational process. If an athletic program does not fulfill these requirements, it would be difficult to justify the expenditures of either time or money for that program.

In order to be considered an educational experience, athletics must have specific and worthwhile objectives. These should include the development of physical fitness skills, mental alertness, moral qualities, social abilities and emotional maturity.

Competition is a life-long experience and positive attitude toward competition should be developed through the athletic program. All objectives and principles in athletics must be primarily concerned with the welfare and educational development of the student-athlete.

The West Muskingum Schools are members of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Muskingum Valley League (MVL). The athletic program will conform to the principles, policies and regulations governing amateur athletics, prescribed by these organizations.

Local board policy will supersede policies set forth by the OHSAA and the MVL.

EDUCATIONAL VALUES OF ATHLETICS

West Muskingum Schools believe in inter-scholastic athletics.

West Muskingum Schools believe there are substantial educational outcomes from soundly conceived and executed program for the players, the student body, and the community as a whole. Athletics provides tangible values for the student body as a whole, providing substantial contributions to school morale and an outlet for student body enthusiasm.

West Muskingum Schools believe the potential values to the participants are genuine. Athletics provides students with the means to develop concepts of health, sportsmanship, initiative, achievement, and emotional control.

West Muskingum Schools believe that students can develop an appreciation for competition and a positive attitude towards winning and losing.

West Muskingum Schools believe the welfare of the individual student-athlete is always the primary concern. The game exists for the student; the student does not exist for the game.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- I. The eligibility for the 2016-2017 school year will be based on the OHSAA guidelines. The G.P.A. requirement will start at the beginning of the first grading period.
 - A. The OHSAA policy for scholarship states the following:
 1. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility. (Exception: All 7th graders will be eligible during their first grading period.)
 - a. Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - b. Grades 7-8: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - c. For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.
 - B. At the end of each grading period, student eligibility will be determined by the following guidelines:
 1. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.
 2. OHSAA requirements for passing classes leading to five one credit course or the equivalent that should lead to graduation for the grading period and must maintain a 1.5 G.P.A. (C- average). If a student-athlete is below a 1.5 G.P.A. the student-athlete will be automatically ineligible for the grading period.
 3. All student-athletes receiving a D or F will receive a progress report from their teachers at the end of the three weeks, with copies of the report going to the Athletic Director and the Head Coach.

4. Eligibility will be established as follows:

High School

- a. 1st nine weeks based on previous school year's 4th nine weeks (9th graders will be eligible if they receive passing grades in a minimum of five courses, in the immediately preceding grading period.)
- b. 2nd nine weeks based on 1st nine weeks.
- c. 3rd nine weeks based on 2nd nine weeks.
- d. 4th nine weeks based on 3rd nine weeks.

Middle School

- a. all 7th graders eligible the first nine weeks
- b. 8th graders eligibility is based on 4th nine weeks grades of 7th grade year
- c. 2nd nine weeks based on 1st nine weeks
- d. 3rd nine weeks based on 2nd nine weeks
- e. 4th nine weeks based on 3rd nine weeks

5. Student-athletes will be informed at the beginning of the season regarding this athletic policy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. West Muskingum Schools student-athletes (student-athlete is defined as any participant in West Muskingum athletics, male or female).

A student becomes eligible to participate in West Muskingum School Athletics as of the first day of practice of the first day of fall sports or the first day of school for all other athletes. The student remains a student-athlete until the completion of all West Muskingum athletic activities for all sports for the school year.

- II. Training Rules

- A. Student-athletes may not be in possession of tobacco in any form, alcoholic beverages, or illegal substances.
- B. A student-athlete will be disciplined for the commission of any unlawful act that detracts from the image of the West Muskingum Schools Athletic Program.
- C. All other training obligations for the student-athlete will be left to the discretion of the coach or coaches for the particular sport in which he or she is participating.

III. Discipline

A. Fair Dismissal Policy

Suspension from Athletic Teams and Participation: Only the principal can suspend a student-athlete from athletics for the season. Suspended student-athletes are not permitted to take part in that sport for the remainder of that season. Such suspensions shall be reported to the superintendent, athletic director, and parent or guardian of the student-athlete within a 24-hour period. The report of suspension shall be in writing and include reason for the action. The parents shall be advised that within 72 hours after the tentative suspension, an informal hearing will be held if they desire. Such hearings, which are not judicial proceedings, must be provided at a minimum:

1. Statements in support of the charge(s) against the student-athlete upon which the hearing is conducted.
2. Statements by the student-athlete and others in defense of the charge(s) and/or an explanation of his/her conduct.
3. The administrator is not required to permit the presence of counsel or follow any prescribed judicial rules in conducting the hearing.
4. The administrator will, within 24 hours, advise the student-athlete and parent/guardians by letter of his decision and reasons thereof.
5. The administrator shall notify the parent/guardians of their right to appeal the decision to the Appeal Committee,* or its designee, to be represented in the proceedings and to request that such hearing be held in executive session.

* Appeal Committee will be made up of the Athletic Director, Building Principal and one head coach.

B. Violations

1. Use or Possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited.
 - a. 1st violation: suspension for 10% of season's games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - b. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - c. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.
2. Use or Possession of Illegal Substances or Alcohol in any form is prohibited.

- a. 1st violation: suspension for 20% of season games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - b. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - c. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.
3. Theft, Vandalism, or any other criminal act that is prohibited.
- a. 1st violation: suspension for 20% of season games or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - b. 2nd violation: suspension for remainder of season or if at the end of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport season for the same number of games as the season in which the offense was committed.
 - c. 3rd violation: suspension for a period of one calendar year from the date of the infraction from all sports at West Muskingum Schools.
4. During the suspension period for the second and third offenses, the student-athlete will not be allowed to practice or to attend the games with the teams.
- C. If the punishment period exceeds the sport season in any of the above, student-athletes guilty of violations will forfeit any awards and banquet recognition.
- D. Punitive action for violations of the athletic discipline policy as outlined above will be taken in each of the following conditions:
1. A student-athlete is observed by two or more teammates who are willing to confront the accused student-athlete.
 2. The student-athlete is observed by any coach on the staff.
 3. The student-athlete is observed by any school employee who is willing to confront the student-athlete.
 4. The student-athlete is reported by an official of the law.
 5. The student-athlete is reported by a parent or guardian.
 6. The student-athlete admits he/she is in violation of the above-mentioned policy.

- E. Suspension period shall begin: (Excluding the 2nd and 3rd offense suspension)
 - 1. From the date of the suspension for infractions that occur during the competition season.
 - 2. If the infractions occur during the pre-season, the student-athlete will be suspended for the first week of competition, including a minimum of one contest for the 1st smoking offense.
 - 3. If the infractions occur during the pre-season, the student-athlete will be suspended for the first two weeks of competition, including a minimum of two contests for the 1st alcohol, drug, vandalism, or theft offense.
- F. Any student-athlete under suspension for the 1st offense involving any of the above infractions (refer to section B) must attend all practices and contests during the duration of the suspension.
- G. Accumulation of infractions is carried over from one sport to another.

GENERAL POLICIES CONCERNING STUDENT-ATHLETES

- I. All of the rules and regulations of the OHSAA and West Muskingum Local School Districts must be strictly adhered to.
- II. Student-athletes must have a physical examination and participation card signed by a parent or guardian, signed copy of Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility and authorization statement, and an insurance policy form signed before they may participate in practice or contest.
- III. All student-athletes must be covered by either the school insurance plan or policy carried by their parents or guardian. Football players should be advised the school policies will not cover participants in Football. The Athletic Department will provide a policy to cover Football players. It is not mandatory for the Football players to carry the school policy if their parents or guardian insures them.
- IV. The beginning of each sport is determined by the OHSAA.
- V. A student-athlete may not quit one sport to participate in another sport until the season for first sport has ended without the consent of both coaches and the Athletic Director.
- VI. A member of a team may not come out for practice until the first team has concluded its season.

- VII. All student-athletes must be at school for at least ½ of the regular school day in order to participate in practice or a contest that day (can be overruled by the Principal under special circumstances).
- VIII. A student-athlete who has just completed a previous season during the school year will be given a five-day grace when coming out for the next sport season.
- IX. A student-athlete will be permitted to compete in more than one sport during any given season with mutual consent of the head coaches of the sports involved.
- X. The athletic department may provide transportation to and/or from contests at the discretion of the coach and athletic director. If transportation is provided, student-athletes are expected to go together and return the same way. Student-athletes can ride home with their parent or guardian if arrangements are made with the coach prior to the contest in writing. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the principal.
- XI. All student-athletes are expected to attend practices and games unless excused by the coach in advance and/or notified by the parent. Three unexcused absence from practice and/or games result in suspension from the team or squad. The coach will notify the parents or guardian after the second unexcused absence.
- XII. Student-Athletes participating in the athletic program will be responsible for the care of all school equipment issued to them. The student-athlete will pay for lost or damaged equipment. All equipment is to be turned in promptly at the conclusion of the season. Student-Athletes will not be allowed to practice or participate in another sport until all outstanding equipment is either turned in or paid for at replacement cost.
- XIII. Coaches may discipline student-athletes for being disrespectful, using improper language, fighting, poor sportsmanship, and other inappropriate actions. Severity of punishment is at the discretion of the coach.
- XIV. All sports will play no more contests than the number established in the OHSAA Policy Handbook.

ATHLETIC SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

- I. All student-athletes in the West Muskingum Local School District are subject to the Athletic Sportsmanship Policy. Any discipline is to follow the rules set forth by the West Muskingum Local School District and OHSAA.
 - A. Ejection for un-sportsmanlike conduct: Any student-athlete ejected for un-sportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the next seven calendar days in the sport from which the student-athlete was ejected. If no contests are played during this seven-day period at the same level as the ejection, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the next football game or a minimum of two contests in any other sport. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the

student-athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student-athlete participates. A student-athlete under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

- B. A student-athlete who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. If the second infraction occurs at the end of the sport season, the suspension will carry over to the next sport the student-athlete is to participate in.
- C. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student-athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-11, the decisions of contest officials are final.
- D. Any student-athlete suspended for the remainder of an athletic season will also forfeit any awards he/she was to receive.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

I. Awards Procedure

- A. Awards will be presented to student-athletes for participation in the various athletic programs sponsored by the West Muskingum Local School District.
- B. Information concerning awards should be thoroughly explained to participants in all sports.

II. Award Requirements

A. Varsity

1. Attend practices, scrimmages, games and meetings unless excused.
2. Complete the season in good standing.
3. Maintain eligibility.
4. Must meet requirements of sportsmanship, citizenship, and policies of the school and athletic program.
5. All equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned to the school, or compensation must be made.
6. Attend banquets unless excused.

B. Reserve

1. Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in.

C. Freshman

1. Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in.

III. Participation Requirements

- A. Varsity must participate in half of the quarters, halves, meets, matches, or innings.
- B. If a student-athlete fails to meet the minimum participation requirements and the head coach believes the individual has made an outstanding contribution to the team, after reviewing the situation with the Athletic Director, the coach may recommend the student-athlete be granted a letter.

IV. Boys/Girls Awards

A. Varsity - 1st year

1. Boys - a six-inch, royal blue letter "M" with gold border embroidered with "WEST" in gold letters.
2. Girls - a six-inch, gold letter "M" with royal blue border embroidered with "WEST" in royal blue letters.
3. Metal insert indicating sport.
4. Varsity certificate.

B. Varsity - 2nd year

1. Metal bar insert.
2. Varsity certificate.

C. Varsity - 3rd year

1. 3rd year certificate and metal insert.

D. Varsity - 4th year

1. 4th year award plaque.

E. Reserve

1. Boys - a four-inch, royal blue letter "M" with gold border embroidered with "WEST" in gold letters.
2. Girls - a four-inch, gold letter "M" with royal blue border embroidered with "WEST" in royal blue letters.
3. Meritorious award certificate.

F. Freshman

1. Boys - a four-inch, royal blue felt insignia of the sport with gold border and "Frosh" embroidered in gold.
2. Girls - a four-inch, gold felt insignia of the sport with royal blue border and "Frosh" embroidered in royal blue.

V. Procedure for Granting Awards

- A. At the close of the season, coaches should turn in to the Athletic Director a list of students who are considered members of the team along with their award recommendations.
- B. The award should be based on:
 1. Requirements as established by the sport
 2. Return of all athletic equipment
- C. If the situation arises concerning whether an award will be presented, the matter should be reviewed with the Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and the Head Coach. They, together, will make the final decision.

VI. Service Awards

Coaches may recommend students for service awards. Any student-athlete who has been a member of a team in good standing for two years but has not met the above requirements is given a first year award in his/her senior year. If the Head Coach believes an athlete has done an outstanding job the two-year requirement may be waived.

VII. Managers and Trainers

Awards will be based on the requirements of the various sports and will not be subject to the actual participation rule.

VIII. Number of Awards

Only one varsity and reserve letter will be given to each player earning an award. Certificates and designated sport insignias will be granted if other letters in the same or different sports are earned.

IX. Special Awards

- A. League Champions and Tournament Champions will have a felt plaque displayed on the wall in the gymnasium. Each team member will receive a small felt insignia, indicating his or her accomplishment.
- B. Student-athletes placing in the state finals competition or being selected, as a member of an All-Ohio Team will have their names placed on the All-Ohio Board.
- C. Coaches may present trophies for excellence in certain categories. Arrangements for these should be reviewed with the Athletic Director.

X. Varsity Jackets

Student-athletes are eligible to purchase a varsity jacket after a student-athlete has earned a varsity letter.

XI. Special Situation

- A. Student-athlete who is removed from a team for disciplinary reason by a coach/administration, or leaves by their own choice, forfeit all awards for that sport.
- B. Transfer student-athletes, who have been a letter winner, must earn awards as per requirements in the various sports for the WMSD, before they would be eligible for a varsity jacket.

XII. Presentation of Awards

- A. November - Awards Assembly for Fall Sports.
- B. March- Awards Assembly for Winter Sports.
- C. May- Awards Assembly for Spring Sports.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

I. Financial Support

There will be one athletic account for both the Middle School and High School.

II. Equipment

- A. The Athletic Director, Head Coach of the varsity sport, and the Middle School Coach will meet prior to the season and determine the equipment needs for that sport.
- B. The Athletic Director will meet with the Middle School building Administrator to review the needs for the program.

III. Schedule

Schedules for football, volleyball, basketball, track, and wrestling will be set up by the Athletic Director after reviewing with the Middle School Administrator and Coaches.

IV. Officials

The Athletic Director will hire all officials.

V. Transportation

The Athletic Director will arrange transportation for Middle School contests played at the facility of the opposing school.

VI. Awards

- A. Students will receive participation certificates for each sport in which they participate.
- B. 8th Grade
Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in
- C. 7th Grade
Same as Varsity with one exception: there will be no requirements as to the number of quarters, meets, matches, or innings the student-athlete participates in.

VII. Home/Athletic Contests

- A. Personnel for home athletic contests will be arranged by the Athletic Director or Assistant to the Athletic Director and the coach for that sport, including:
 - 1. Supervisory personnel
 - 2. Ticket sellers
 - 3. Scorekeepers
 - 4. Timers
 - 5. Chain crew
 - 6. Arrangements for visiting teams
 - 7. Any other details for the contest

- B. The Athletic Director will be responsible for depositing gate receipts and payment of officials.

VIII. Practice/Game Sites

- A. Football - practice on the Middle School field home games will be played on the High School varsity field.
- B. Basketball - will practice and play their home games at the Middle School gym, exceptions will be reviewed by circumstances.
- C. Track - will practice and have their home meets on the varsity track at the High School. Locker room facilities will be used at the Middle School with supervision being by the coaches in that sport.
- D. Volleyball - practice and home games will be at the Middle School gym.

CHEERLEADERS

I. Purpose

The West Muskingum Cheerleading program will be a dynamic program with a positive emphasis on sportsmanship, school spirit, and the awareness of cheerleading as a sport. Cheerleaders will support all athletic programs of our school.

Cheerleaders shall attempt to direct crowd involvement toward positive cheers and by doing so help build relationships between schools.

II. Eligibility

Refer to Eligibility Section on page 2.

III. Seasons

West Muskingum High School and Middle School cheerleading programs will be divided into a fall and winter season.

IV. Squads Selected

- A. West Muskingum High School will have squads selected for the following:
 - 1. Fall - football and boys soccer.
 - 2. Winter - boys basketball.

- B. West Muskingum Middle School will have squads selected for the following:
 - 1. Fall - football.
 - 2. Winter - boys basketball.
- C. Additional squads may be added if it was considered to be an asset to the school and the program. The Cheerleader Coach and the Athletic Director will determine these additions.
- D. All cheerleaders will begin their season after try-outs with conditioning and basics, and will continue with summer practices, camps, and games until that student-athlete's season is completed. This will include pre-season, regular season, and post season games.

V. Selection Procedures

- A. Try-outs will be held in the spring (March – May) for all seasons.
- B. Additional tryouts will be held at the discretion of the cheer coaches and Administration. Current cheerleaders will not be affected by an additional try-out.
- C. Try-outs will be held so as not to conflict with those student-athletes that participate in additional sports.
- D. The try-out and practice schedules will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

VI. Method of Selection

- A. Selection will be based on three criteria.
- B. Point System Areas
 - 1. Practice Attendance
 - 2. Individual Try-Out Evaluation
 - 3. Sports test

VII. Squad Membership

- A. Squad size may vary year to year at the discretion of the cheerleading coach as determined by the number and skill level of try-out participants. The maximum size for a squad in any sport season will be eight (8) members. Each squad will have a minimum of six (6) before any squad is increased to eight (8) members.

- B. Varsity squads will be composed of students who will be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the school year following try-outs.
- C. Reserve squads will be composed of students who will be freshmen, sophomores, or juniors in the school year following try-outs.
- D. Freshman squads will consist of freshman only.
- E. Middle school squads will consist of one squad for the seventh grade only, and one squad for the eighth grade only.
 - 1. The top three or four student-athletes on freshman and Middle School squads may choose fall, winter, or both seasons.
 - 2. The next three or four will choose one season, and the final three or four will take remaining season.
 - 3. Adjustments to members on the season squads can be made at the discretion of the head coach, the coach for that squad, and the athletic director.

VIII. Cheerleading Squads

- A. Prior to final try-out selections, students will have the opportunity to select the squad(s) and the season(s) they prefer. If they see a conflict with other school activities, they should get written approval from both advisers.
- B. First and second choices will be indicated for the fall and winter season. The coach will place the students according to their choices and final ranking.
- C. Fall Sports Squads
 - 1. Varsity Football
 - 2. Reserve Football
 - 3. Freshman Football
- D. Winter Sports Squads
 - 1. Varsity Boys Basketball
 - 2. Reserve Boys Basketball
 - 3. Freshman Boys Basketball
- E. The coaches shall select, or direct a selection process, for squad captains for each squad. The coach shall also select any squad combination needed for camps.

IX. Practice Sessions

- A. The coach shall set up a schedule for regular practices, both during the summer and the school year. A qualified adult can supervise practice if they have had the sports medicine seminar.

- B. Cheerleaders are expected to attend scheduled practices and should notify the coach or school, if possible, when going to be tardy or absent. Absences will be excused in accordance with board policy.

X. Games

- A. Varsity, reserve, and freshmen cheerleaders shall cheer at their respective games, both home and away.
- B. Reserve and freshmen cheerleaders may assist at pep rallies, assemblies and varsity games when asked.
- C. Middle school cheerleaders will cheer at games determined by their coach.
- D. During reserve games, the Varsity cheerleaders shall be dressed in their varsity uniform or their warm-up suit and will be present, as a group at the reserve game. The same applies to reserve cheerleaders at the varsity game. Exceptions to this only include football as varsity and reserve games are played on different days. This also applies at the Middle School level.

XI. Cheerleading Awards

A. Awards Requirements

- 1. All high school and middle school squads
 - a. Attend practices, camps, clinics, games and meeting unless excused.
 - b. Complete the season in good standing.
 - c. Maintain eligibility.
 - d. Must meet requirements of sportsmanship, citizenship and policies of the school and athletic program.
 - e. All uniforms and equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned to the school, or compensation must be made.
 - f. Attend awards banquets unless excused.

B. Participation Requirements

- 1. Varsity, Reserve, Freshmen Cheerleaders shall cheer at their respective games, both home and away as determined by their coach.
- 2. 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders will cheer at games determined by their coaches.
- 3. If a student-athlete fails to meet the award/participation requirements and the coach believes the individual has made an outstanding contribution to the team, after reviewing the situation with the Athletic Director, the coach may recommend the student-athlete be granted an award.
- 4. A certification of participation will be issued to individuals not meeting the award/participation requirements for an athletic letter.

C. Awards

1. Varsity - 1st Year

- a. Six inch gold letter “M”
- b. Insert indicating the sport
- c. Varsity certificate

2. Varsity - 2nd Year

- a. Bar
- b. Varsity certificate

3. Varsity - 3rd Year

- a. 3-year certificate and metal bar insert

4. Varsity - 4th Year

- a. 4th year award plaque

5. Reserve

- a. Four inch gold letter “M”
- b. Certificate

6. Freshmen

- a. Megaphone letter with year of graduation

7. Academic Awards

- a. Principal’s list - A pin designating each time on principal’s list
- b. Honor Roll - A pin designating each time on honor roll.

8. Procedure for Granting Awards

- a. At the close of the season, coaches should turn into the Athletic Director a list of students who are members of the team along with their recommendations.
- b. The award should be based on:

1. Requirements as established by the sport.
 2. Return of all uniforms and equipment.
- c. If the situation arises whether an award will be presented, the matter should be reviewed with the Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and the Head Coach. They, together, will make the final decision.

XII. Discipline

All West Muskingum Cheerleading squads will adhere to and be governed by the West Muskingum Athletic Discipline Policy.

TWISTERS

I. Purpose

The West Muskingum Twisters program will be a dynamic program with a positive emphasis on sportsmanship, school spirit, and the awareness of twisters as a sport. Twisters will support all athletic programs of our school.

II. Eligibility

Refer to Eligibility Section on page 2.

III. Seasons

West Muskingum High School Twisters program will be divided into a fall and winter season.

IV. Squads Selected

A. West Muskingum High School will have squads selected for the following:

1. Fall
2. Winter

B. All Twisters will begin their season after try-outs with conditioning and basics, and will continue with summer practices, camps, and games until that student-athlete's season is completed.

V. Selection Procedures

A. Try-outs will be held in the spring (March-May) for all seasons.

- B. Additional tryouts will be held at the discretion of the Twister coaches and Administration. Current Twisters will not be affected by an additional try-out.
- C. Try-outs will be held so as not to conflict with those student-athletes that participate in additional sports.
- D. The try-out practice schedules will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

VI. Method of Selection

- A. Selection will be based on three criteria.
- B. Point System Areas
 - 1. Practice Attendance
 - 2. Individual Try-Out Evaluation
 - 3. Sports test

VII. Squad Membership

- A. Squad size may vary year to year at the discretion of the Twisters coach as determined by the number and skill level of try-out participants.

VIII. Practice Sessions

- A. The coach shall set up a schedule for regular practices, both during the summer and the school year. A qualified adult can supervise practice if they have had the sports medicine seminar.
- B. Twisters are expected to attend scheduled practices and should notify the coach or school, if possible, when going to be tardy or absent. Absences will be excused in accordance with board policy.

VIII. Twister Awards

- A. Awards Requirements
 - 1. High School Squad.
 - 2. Attend practices, camps, clinics, games and meeting unless excused.
 - 3. Complete the season in good standing.
 - 4. Maintain eligibility.
 - 5. Must meet requirements of sportsmanship, citizenship and policies of the school and athletic program.
 - 6. All uniforms and equipment issued to the student-athlete must be returned to the school, or compensation must be made.
 - 7. Attend awards banquets unless excused.

B. Participation Requirements

1. Twisters shall perform at their respective home games as determined by their coach.
2. If a student-athlete fails to meet the award/participation requirements and the coach believes the individual has made an outstanding contribution to the team, after reviewing the situation with the Athletic Director, the coach may recommend the student-athlete be granted an award.
3. A certification of participation will be issued to individuals not meeting the award/participation requirements for an athletic letter.

C. Awards

1. Varsity-1st. Year
 - a. Six inch gold letter “M”
 - b. Insert indicating the sport
 - c. Varsity certificate
2. Varsity-2nd. Year
 - a. Bar
 - b. Varsity certificate
3. Varsity-3rd. Year
 - a. 3-year certificate and metal bar insert
4. Varsity-4th Year
 - a. 4th year plaque
6. Academic Awards
 - a. Principal’s List – A pin designating each time on principal’s list
 - b. Honor Roll – A pin designating each time on honor roll.
7. Procedure for Granting Awards

- a. At the close of the season, coaches should turn into the Athletic Director a list of students who are members of the team along with their recommendations.
- b. The award should be based on:
 - 1. Requirements as established by the sport.
 - 2. Return of all uniforms and equipment.
- C. If the situation arises whether an award will be presented, the matter should be reviewed with the Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and the head Coach. They, together, will make the final decision.

IX. Discipline

West Muskingum Twister squads will adhere to and be governed by the West Muskingum Athletic Discipline Policy.