

LICKING HEIGHTS  
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK

FOR

STUDENTS AND PARENTS

2016 – 2017

LICKING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

LICKING HEIGHTS CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

This handbook is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in an extra-curricular program, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We are pleased with your interest in our programs. We believe that a program of student activities is vital to the educational development of our students.

Participating in an extra-curricular program is a privilege. As a participant you are held to higher standards in the classroom and on the playing field as well as in the community. You are representing many people, including your family, the community, the school, your coaches, directors, advisors and fellow participants. You must realize that you are a role model for the younger members of this community. As a participant, you have many opportunities to set a good example for those who follow you.

This handbook is to serve as a guide to answer questions that you may have about the policies of the program. We are hopeful that this handbook will be of assistance to you as your child participates in an extra-curricular program.

Yours in scholarship, sportsmanship and success,

*Ken Kraemer*  
Principal LH High

*Maria Redanty*  
Assistant Principal LH High

*Rita Pendexter*  
Assistant Athletic Director

*Belinda Hohman*  
Principal LH Central

*Brent Ferne*  
Assistant Athletic Director

## STATEMENT OF LICKING HEIGHTS ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY

We at Licking Heights Local Schools place much emphasis on education and learning. We realize that this not only is accomplished in the classroom but also through extra-curricular activities. Extra-curricular activities give the young men and women of our district the opportunity to grow and develop in many areas in addition to academics. Extra-curricular activities are important in enhancing growth in leadership, responsibility and character. They assist in developing a positive attitude.

As representatives of the school, these young men and women are, at all times, under the watchful eyes of their community, peers, and all neighboring communities. Because of the close scrutiny by others, these young men and women involved in extra-curricular activities must behave in such a manner as to set a good example for and have a positive influence upon those emulating them.

In an effort to aid these young people in grades seven through twelve, Licking Heights Local Schools has set forth a list of rules, regulations, and standards by which participants in extra-curricular activities should abide.

### GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: The student participant shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

#### **Objectives:**

- The student participant shall learn teamwork: To work with others in a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline, and respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
- To have fun: The main reason people participate in sports and games.
- To be successful: Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- Sportsmanship: To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- To improve: Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a participant, you must establish a goal and constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
- Enjoy athletics: It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics, and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- To develop desirable personal health habits: To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PARTICIPANT**

Being a member of a Licking Heights Local School District team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great tradition is not built overnight. It takes hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold. Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our participants, our school and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. It will not be easy to contribute to such a great tradition. When you wear your school colors, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF**

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

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL**

Another responsibility you assume as a member is to your school. Licking Heights Local School District cannot maintain its position as having outstanding programs unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in extra-curricular activities to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on a squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on the stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Licking Heights proud of you and the community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS**

As a member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game "all out," you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the Licking Heights Local School District are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

# PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## Communication with your child

- Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. You were frightened, backed off at times and were not always heroic. Athletic children need their parents, so do not withdraw. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
- Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some of us climb mountains and are afraid to fly. Some of us will fly but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

## Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

## Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

## Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

## Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

## Appropriate Procedures For Discussing Concerns with Coaches

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
- Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)

## If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution

- Call to set up an appointment with the athletic administrator or activities director
- Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting

## **FAN CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Licking Heights Local School District, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any competition and is expected from participants, coaches, officials and fans. As a fan/spectator of the Licking Heights Local School District we want you to be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our students, officials and coaches/advisors/directors. Our behavior should be positive, respectful and encouraging of the participants, coaches/advisors/directors, officials and the game. Failure to be an example of these practices and/or ejection from a contest will result in the following procedures to be taken:

**First Offense** – Removal from the next two home contests and/or one calendar week (7 days) of the same sport. A letter will be sent by the athletic director and/or designee of the respective school to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates that they must be absent from the contests.

**Second Offense** – Removal from all home contests for that season. If applicable, relinquishing their season pass to the athletic department. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Superintendent and/or designee notifying the spectator of the ejection.

**Third Offense** – Removal from all home Licking Heights Local School District contests for the year. If applicable, relinquishing their yearly pass to the athletic department. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Superintendent and/or designee notifying the spectator of the ejection. Any athletic official, including but not limited to, officials, athletic directors/coordinators, principals, assistant principals, site directors and anyone else in an administrative role on the site, may uphold enforcement of an ejection.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS**

All participants shall abide by a code of conduct which will earn him/her the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the participant, team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, but are not limited to, theft, vandalism, harassment, disrespect or violations of the law, tarnishes the reputation of everyone associated with the programs and will not be tolerated.

## **ATHLETIC MAJOR INFRACTION POLICY**

Participation in athletics is a privilege extended to all students who meet the Licking Heights School District eligibility requirements. Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values of a Licking Heights student athlete. Any behavior (associated with) that results in dishonor to the student, team, or school will not be tolerated and is subject to athletic major infraction policy.

Coaches reserve the right to remove a student athlete from activity for conduct considered detrimental to the team.

**Violations of the athletic code of conduct include but not limited to:**

- Arson
- Assault
- Bullying
- Conduct outside of school hours or away from school
- Fighting
- Gambling
- Gang Behavior
- Harassment/Intimidation
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices
- Inciting a fight/causing a disruptive situation
- Insubordination
- Leaving school without permission
- Loitering/Trespassing
- Possession/Influence of Alcohol
- Possession/Intent to sell controlled or non-controlled drugs
- Possession/Intent to sell drug paraphernalia
- Possession/use of tobacco or tobacco products
- Unwelcome Sexual Misconduct
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Verbal abuse of student/staff

**Consequences:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| First Offense  | 20% loss of participation for the current or upcoming season<br>Loss of Leadership in the respective activity               |
| Second Offense | 50% loss of participation for the current or upcoming season<br>Loss of Leadership for all activities for one calendar year |
| Third Offense  | Permanent loss of the privilege to participate in all extra-curricular activities   |

- Offense steps will reset upon entering high school

A participant will be considered in violation of the code if he or she is observed doing something, which is prohibited, by a coach/ advisor/director, athletic directors, principals, assistant principals, superintendent or other school personnel.

If a participant is in violation of a major infraction during the off-season (summer to be included in the off-season), his/her punishment will begin at the beginning of his/her next seasonal activity in which the student-athlete completes the season.

Coaches/ advisors/directors should establish and explain to their participants the rules of that particular activity and the consequences for breaking those rules for all matters not already covered in this handbook.

## **STUDENT EJECTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, flagrant foul, or inappropriate language shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that program until two regular contests are played at the same level as the ejection occurred (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next activity in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that activity. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student will be ineligible for two times the ejection penalty.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory.

This regulation shall apply to all 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 Bylaws 3-3-1, decisions for the contest officials are final.

## **HARASSMENT**

Harassment of a student(s) by other student(s) or any member of the staff is a violation of Federal law and is contrary to the Board of Education's commitment to provide a physically and psychologically safe environment in which to learn.

In addition to sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome sexual advances or any form of improper physical contact or sexual remark, harassment shall also include any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment.

It is a violation of law and of school rules for any student to harass or intimidate another student or staff member. If a student is the victim of any unwanted sexual actions or comments or of derogatory statements or actions concerning his/her gender, religion, race,

ethnic group, or disability, the student should report such behavior to the principal's office. Discipline measures will be taken and may result in suspension or expulsion. All reports shall be kept confidential and shall be investigated.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the superintendent, principal, assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating for any violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student participants are further subject to this Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic events for violations therein.

## **DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

A participant may appeal a prohibition. The steps are as follows:

- When an infraction occurs, the coach/ advisor/director of that activity have the responsibility to discipline the participant.
- The coach/ advisor/director shall meet with the participant being disciplined and present him/her with the charge(s). The participant shall have an opportunity to explain his/her position.
- If disciplinary actions results in denial of participation for more than twenty four (24) hours, the student shall be informed by the coach/ advisor/director of the intended removal and the reason(s) for the proposed action.
- The participant shall be given the right to appeal the decision of the coach/ advisor/director to the appeal board within three (3) days of the official notice.
- The Appeal Board shall consist of the principal, athletic director, activity advisor and the superintendent.
- During the appeal process, the participant shall not be permitted to participate in the sport or activity.
- The Appeal Board's decision is final. No further appeal can be sought with the Board of Education.
- Participants dismissed from an activity are subject to the same regulations as participants who quit a team.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING PAY TO PARTICIPATE)**

You are NOT eligible to participate in any activity until the following are completed. It should be noted participation includes practices as well as contests.

- Prospective participants and parents must attend the pre-season meeting with the coach/advisor/director and the athletic director.
- Participating in an activity that requires a physical exam, a student must complete the Athletic Acknowledgement Form/Student Data Sheet attached to the back of this handbook. The form must be signed by parents and the participant and on file in the athletic office.
- A physical card must be completed, signed and on file in the athletic trainer's office. A physical is required for an individual who participates in a physical activity program that involves athletics, routine regular physical activity or health and safety considerations.
- An Emergency Medical Form must be completed, signed and on file before the participant is permitted to participate.
- Academic eligibility requirements must be satisfied.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities – Participation Fee**

As outlined in the levy discussions in April 2011, the Licking Heights Local School District is moving forward with the addition of a pay to participate fee as it relates to extra-curricular activities. The institution of a participation fee is intended to recoup a portion of the funds paid from the general fund to support the activities held beyond the normal academic school day (i.e., athletic teams and marching band). These fees will not be applied to co-curricular activities, such as student council, national honor society, etc. All students participating in an extra-curricular activity will pay a participation fee.

A paid participation fee does not guarantee that a student will play. The direction for the sport/activity will remain the responsibility of the coach/director.

The pay to participate program will be reviewed at the conclusion of each year of operation.

### **Payment**

Students participating in athletics and/or marching band will be permitted to participate in practice until the payment deadline. If payment is not received in full by the payment deadline, the student will not be able to attend practice, contests or scrimmages until payment is made in full.

Fees should be paid in the athletic department between the hours of 8am and 3:30pm. Payment can be made in the form of cash, check, or money order. All checks/money orders

must be made out to: Licking Heights Local School District. The student's name and activity should be noted on the check. The district has an online payment system through EZ Pay. There is a link on the district website, please check the website for more information.

There will be no waiver of pay to participate fees due to free or reduced lunch status or any other financial hardship.

There will be no caps on fees paid by one (1) family.

In the event that a check is returned (i.e. "bounces"), the student will not be permitted to attend practice, contests or scrimmages until the fee is paid in full through the district's returned check process. Once the collection process has started, cash payments will not be accepted to remedy a returned check.

### Payment Schedule

Fall Activities: August 1, 2016 to August 26, 2016  
Winter Activities: October 28, 2016 to December 1, 2016  
Spring Activities: February 20, 2017 to March 25, 2017

### Refund Policy

100% refunded, if the student has a season-ending injury prior to the start of the competitive season.

50% refunded, if the student misses one-half or more of the regular season contests as the result of a season-ending injury.

No refund for loss of academic eligibility, unless determined prior to the start of the season.

No refund if a student quits the team or is removed from the team.

### Participation Fees

Athletics:

High School (9-12)	\$100.00 per student, per activity
Middle School (7-8)	\$ 75.00 per student, per activity

Marching Band:

High School (7-12)	\$100.00 per student
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During these difficult economic times, the Licking Heights Local School District appreciates the cooperation and support of the community and parents as we work to provide the best educational and extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

OHSAA physical examination forms for all participants shall be signed by a physician, the participant, and by a parent or legal guardian, and must be on file in the athletic trainer's office before any candidate for a team may participate in any way. These forms necessitate the physician's certification of the individual's physical fitness no less than once each school year. Students are encouraged to get their physicals during the month of May, which are offered through the athletic department.

## **INSURANCE**

Licking Heights Local School District does not provide accident or health insurance coverage for athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility and a requirement of the parents to maintain an active accident and health policy while their child is participating in sports. The district does offer a supplemental accident insurance policy at the beginning of each school year to all students. Information on this policy can be obtained from the school office or athletic director.

## **SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be eligible in grades 7-12, the student must be currently enrolled at Licking Heights and must have been enrolled in a school the immediately preceding grading period. In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletics Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average for the grading period prior to the grading period in which she/he wishes to participate.

To be eligible in any nine-week period, the participant must have passed FIVE one credit courses or the equivalent in the preceding grading period and have earned a 2.0 GPA. Scholastic deficiencies at the end of any semester cannot be removed by summer school, night school, special examinations, tutoring, etc., in order to obtain eligibility.

The eligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Effective at the end of the first grading period seventh and eighth grade students must pass a minimum of FIVE one credit courses of all subjects taken the preceding grading period and earn a 2.0 GPA.

A student enrolling in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period of his/her eighth grade year. Effective at the end of the fourth grading period of their eighth grade year 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must have passed a minimum of FIVE one credit courses of all subjects taken and have a 2.0 GPA.

To participate in any extra-curricular activity a student must be **in school all day** on the day of the activity. Saturday events will refer back to Friday's attendance for participation. Rare exceptions to this policy may be made with prior notification and approval by the principal and/or designee's with written verification of the need for the absence (for example, but not limited to, medical appointment, court appearances, etc.) Activity is defined as any practice, contest, open gym/field, weight lifting, and conditioning.

## **PRACTICES**

- The head coach shall determine all practice times.
- Gym times shall be established by a meeting of all coaches and the athletic director.
- A monthly schedule shall be distributed.
- No Sunday or holiday practice unless approved by the superintendent through the athletic director.
- Snow Days- all practices will be cancelled unless approved by the superintendent through the athletic director.
- A participant may not practice or participate in a contest if he/she has not been in attendance the entire day. This rule may be waived at the discretion of the principal or his designee in unusual circumstances, i.e., family emergency, dental or medical appointments substantiated by a physician's note.

## **OPEN GYMS/FACILITIES-OHSAA**

School officials may designate open gyms or facilities and the sports to be played. You may participate in open gyms or facilities provided:

- no one is limited from participating
- no one is required to attend
- no school officials are permitted to invite selected students, determine the teams or transport students
- no timing or written scoring is kept
- no coaching or instruction is provided
- no one is restricted from observing

## **CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations.

The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When conflicts do arise the sponsors will meet and work out a solution so the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, then the Athletic Director will have to make the decision based on the following.

- The relative importance of each event.
- League event.
- Tournament event.
- The relative contribution the student can make.
- How long each event has been scheduled.
- Talk with parent(s) or guardian(s).

## **OVERLAPPING SPORTS**

All athletes may take five school days off before beginning practices of their next sport. However, you must attend tryouts.

## **INDIVIDUAL TEAM RULE**

Coaches will establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the respective coaches.

## **QUITTING A TEAM OR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

Any member of a team or activity who quits before the second contest will be subject to the following regulations:

- Notify the head coach/advisor/director of his/her intention to leave the team or activity.

- Hand in all equipment, uniforms, etc.
- Clean out locker and dressing area.
- Pay any fees or damage costs, which have been accumulated.
- A participant who quits a team or activity after the second contest will not be permitted to begin practice with another team or activity until the first team's season or activity is complete or with permission from the athletic director/activity supervisor.
- Participants quitting teams or activities forfeit all awards and any nominations for post-season honors and awards.

Failing to comply with any of the above regulations will result in the following:

- The participant will not be permitted to join any other team or activity until all obligations are met.
- Participants who do not meet financial obligations will be dealt with according to board policy.
- Proper authorities will be notified in extreme cases when equipment or uniforms have not been turned in.

## **TRAVEL**

All participants must travel to and from away contests in transportation provided by Licking Heights Local School District.

Participants will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach/advisor/director when attending events.

Participants who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the event. If there are extenuating circumstances involved that caused the participant to miss the bus, prior to the bus departing Licking Heights Local Schools, the coach/advisor/director may allow the participant to play only if the participants' parent/guardian transports him/her to the contest. The final decision is up to the coach/advisor/director.

All regular school bus rules will be in effect, including rules pertaining to food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment.

## **TRAVEL RELEASE**

Under certain circumstances where it creates an inconvenience to the family, participants may be excused from riding either to or from an event on school authorized transportation. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy is that a participant is part of a team.

To ride on private transportation:

- A travel release form must be requested by the participant.
- The participant will be released to the parent(s) or designated adult by the coach/advisor/director upon presentation of a copy of the approved travel release form at the contest.
- Participants will not be allowed to ride home with a student.

## **AGE**

High school students (grades 9-12) who turn 20 years of age are ineligible for interscholastic athletics. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 are not eligible for 7 or 8 grade athletics. After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to Bylaw 4-2-3, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

Those with a disability may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the principal or athletic director to review the exception.

## **RESIDENCE**

A Student must live in the school district. (See OHSAA Bylaws 4-6-1 through 4-6-3)

## **TRANSFERS**

The transfer bylaws of the OHSAA apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. Contact the athletic director for further information.

## **COLLEGE RECRUITMENT**

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the Athletic Office. Eligibility requirements can be found at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EQUIPMENT**

All equipment issued to a participant will be turned in at the end of the season unless otherwise approved by the coach/advisor/director and athletic director.

All equipment not turned in will be paid for by the participant at the cost it would take to replace it.

Any participant not turning in or making restitution for equipment issued to him/her will NOT be permitted to take part in any activity until restitution is made.

Any participant not turning in equipment will NOT receive any award until the equipment is turned in.

Any participant not turning in or making restitution for lost or stolen equipment will be turned over to the proper legal authorities for legal action. The records and/or transcripts of any participant not turning in equipment will NOT be released until such time equipment is turned in or restitution is made. The diploma of any senior participant whose equipment is not turned in or who does not provide restitution for equipment will be withheld.

## **PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

At the beginning of each school year or at the time a student tries out for a team he/ she will be presented with this handbook and all necessary forms and information for participating in extra-curricular activities.

Each parent/guardian and participant should read all of the material and certify that they understand all rules and regulations of Licking Heights Local School District and the OHSAA. The signed document(s) will be placed on file in the athletic office for the current school year.