

Pickerington  
SCHOOLS

EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW

**2019-2020**

# **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

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Pickerington High School Central  
Ridgeview Junior High  
Pickerington High School North  
Lakeview Junior High



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## Message to Parents and Student Athletes

This handbook is made available to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We are pleased with your interest in the athletic program. We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities is vital to the educational development of our students.

Participating in an athletic program is a privilege. As an athlete, you are held to higher standards in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. You are representing many people, including past athletes, your family, the community, the school, your coaches, and fellow athletes. Your involvement in athletics can be very rewarding.

As an athlete, you have to carry yourself with tremendous pride. You must wear the uniform proudly. Your actions constantly reflect on others. You must realize that you are a role model for the younger members of the community. As an athlete, you have an opportunity to set a good example for those who follow you.

As students elect to participate, there are many questions that both you and your son/daughter may have regarding the athletic program. The purpose of this handbook is to answer as many questions about the policies of the program as possible (i.e. keep students and parents as informed as possible in order to assist in making the athletic experience a positive one for our student athletes). We are hopeful that this handbook will be of assistance to you as your child participates in the athletic program.

Sincerely,  
*Mark Aprile, Director of Student Activities*  
Pickerington Local School District

*Molly Feesler, Athletic Administrator*  
Pickerington High School North

*Bo Hanson, Jr., Athletic Administrator*  
Pickerington High School Central

*Jeff Good, Assistant Athletic Administrator*  
Lakeview Junior High

*Eric Music, Assistant Athletic Administrator*  
Ridgeview Junior High School

## **Statement of Pickerington Athletic Philosophy**

The Pickerington Athletic Program, 7-12, should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost" and discourages any and all pressures that might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.

### *I am a Youth Athlete*

I am brave and strong and talented. But I'm still just a kid. I am not perfect. I am a work in progress. I need you to be patient while I test the limits of my body and work through the emotions that come with success and failure. When I make a mistake, I wonder if you will be disappointed. When I reach my goals, I look to see if you are watching. I am a young athlete. I love my sport. You call it competition. I call it playing the game. I want to win and have fun. I am a young athlete. I am your young athlete. Winning feels great, but your praise feels infinitely better. Please remember these things and I promise to do my best to make you proud.

- Author Unknown

## Parent/Guardian Expectations

- A. Parents will communicate openly and freely with coaches and administrators.
- Parents will communicate with respect.
  - Parents will be honest.
  - Parents will communicate issues and concerns in a timely manner, including those of student's physical and emotional well-being.
  - Parents will follow an appropriate chain of command:
    - Parent – Position Coach or Head Coach of the level of play  
(7, 8 Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity)
    - Parent – Head Coach of the program (*Varsity Head Coach*)
    - Parent – Athletic Administrator (*JH: Assistant AA / HS: AA*)
    - Parent – Principal / Assistant Principal of the specific school (*JH or HS*)
    - Parent – Director of Student Activities
    - Parent – Superintendent
  - Parents are required to attend meetings and read all information disseminated by coaches and the athletic department.
  - Playing time is not guaranteed by paying the participation fee and may only be discussed with the coaches.
- B. Parents will display good sportsmanship and behavior by doing the following:
- Understanding the game is for the students, not the adults
  - Recognizing that student participation is a privilege
  - Displaying good sportsmanship as a spectator, and conducting yourself in a manner that reflects positively on both the team and school
  - Promoting the team by being supportive and positive when helping the program
  - Respecting the officials, opponents, coaches, and players
  - Refraining from coaching from the stands
  - Understanding that the student has an obligation to attend all practices and games
- C. Parents will create a positive and supportive environment to promote your student-athlete's well-being by:
- Supporting good conditioning and a healthy lifestyle
  - Placing the emotional and physical well-being of your student ahead of any personal desire to win
  - Expecting your student to play in a healthy and safe environment
  - Supporting your student to be successful in the classroom given the demands of training and practices
  - Being a role model for other parents by remaining positive at sporting events
  - Getting involved and staying involved in a positive manner as you support your student is critical to the success of the team (i.e., concessions, game support, fundraisers, banquets)
- D. Failure to follow the standards and expectations of Pickerington Local School District and the Athletic Department may cause you to forfeit your right to support your student and the team.

## **Parent/Guardian Consequences for Unsporting Conduct**

### **First Offense**

Any fan ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall be suspended from all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the fan shall be suspended from attending contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. In addition, the fan shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Sportsmanship" course, which must be completed before returning to athletic contests and can be taken at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). A letter will be sent by the Athletic Director of the respective school to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of their suspension.

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the fan shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year.

On the day of the ejection, a fan that has been disqualified shall be ejected from the vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with team members, managers, coaches, and contest officials during the remainder of the contest. No refund will be given.

### **Second Offense**

A fan who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A fan who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contest subject to the discretion of the Athletic Director. In addition, the fan shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Positive Sport Parenting" course, which must be completed before returning to athletic contest and can be taken at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). A letter will be sent by the Director of Student Activities to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of their suspension.

### **Third Offense**

A fan who is ejected or disqualified a third time shall be suspended from all athletic contests *for one calendar year from the date of the ejection*. A letter will be sent by the Director of Student Activities notifying the spectator of the ejection.

## Requirements for Participation

You are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following are completed:

- A. Prospective athletes must meet with the Athletic Administrator and/or designee prior to the first day of participation to cover rules and regulations found in the athletic handbook.
- B. Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Form/Student Data Sheet (purple/gray card) (can be found on the District's website) must be on file and signed by parent/guardian and the athlete verifying that both have fulfilled the OHSAA rules meeting requirement.
- C. A current physical must be on file in athletic office prior to tryouts.
- D. Emergency Medical Form (blue card) needs to be completed online.
- E. Academic eligibility requirements must be satisfied.
- F. A pre-season drug test must be completed and on file in the athletic office (7-12 only). This initial drug test cost \$20 for HS Athletes and \$15 for Jr. High Athletes and the payment is the responsibility of the parents.
- G. All uniform and other fees including "Pay to Participate" fees need to be paid (if applicable). Participation Fee Regulation Policy 2432.04 AG can be found on the district's website.
- H. You must be officially enrolled with the Welcome Center or Fairfield County Educational Service Center for home schooled athletes and have the proper paperwork on file. Once that process has been completed, you should contact your school's Athletic Administrator.
- I. Managers/Mascots will be required to complete all paperwork in order to participate but will not be required to pay the participation fee.

# Athletic Department Policies

## ***Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies:***

At the beginning of each school year, the Athletic Handbook and all necessary forms and Information for participating athletes can be found on the District website:  
<http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us/>

## **Physical Examination**

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 Administrator'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 and are valid for one calendar school year (those physicals done in May are good for 13 months.) Students are encouraged to get their physicals during the summer months. Physicals are valid for one calendar year from the date of the exam. (Form can be found on the district's website.)

## **Scholastic Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, grades 7-12, all students will be required to meet certain standards established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Pickerington Local School District Board of Education. These standards are as follows:

### **Minimum Grade Point Average: 1.75**

Maintain a 1.75 GPA per grading period:

- A. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by the grades received the preceding grading period. An athlete will be eligible or ineligible for the next grading period beginning with the fifth school day after the end of each grading period. Eligibility or ineligibility would remain until the fifth school day after the end of the next grading period.

For eligibility purposes, new 9th grade students will have established their GPA if they took any junior high school course(s) for high school credit (e.g., if a student took Spanish only and received a "C", their 9th grade GPA for eligibility purposes would be 2.0).

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period (last grading period of 8th grade year) in which the student was enrolled.



- B. A student who fails to earn a 1.75 grade point average per grading period, shall be granted one period of probation during his/her junior high career, provided they are passing 5 credits, and one period of probation during his/her high school career, provided they are passing the 5 credits set by OHSAA at the high school level. A period of probation is defined as one grading period

*Example:* A student who fails to meet the 1.75 GPA, will receive one grading period of probation, and may be eligible on the fifth day of the next grading period provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

- C. Students for whom an Individualized Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan is on file, at the time he/she would be declared ineligible under the above standards, (minimum GPA) shall automatically be afforded a review of their case. The review shall be conducted by the principal or designee, Athletic Administrator, the student's guidance counselor, and the student's special education/regular education teacher. This review committee shall have the right to waive the eligibility requirement if, in their professional judgment, the student has made a reasonable effort to meet the standard.

### **Pickerington Local School District Eligibility**

All student athletes,7-12, shall have their grades checked at interim and at the end of the grading period.

- A. Student athletes must be passing 5.0 credits (grades 9-12) and 5 classes (grades 7-8). Athletes in Grades 9-12 need to schedule 1 additional class if they choose a Physical Education class which is .25 credits.
- B. For the purpose of determining a student athlete's grades, teachers shall use grades from the current grading period only (i.e., grades are not accumulative from one grading period to the next).
- C. A student athlete who is ineligible under the interim standard cannot be in uniform but may practice, travel and sit on bench with the team by mutual consent of the parent and coach.
- D. Changes in athlete eligibility will become effective on the start of the fifth school day after the end of the grading period and interim grade check and will last until five (5) days after the next grading period ends (summer school not included.) The student athlete will be ineligible for a minimum of five (5) school days. Eligibility can be restored any time after the five (5) days, once the student athlete is passing five (5) credits. Due date of interims and the conclusion of each nine weeks will be established on a yearly basis as determined by the school calendar.

- E. Teacher grades not posted on time will not be used to calculate eligibility or ineligibility for interim grades.
- F. There is no probationary period permitted for this standard.
- G. Those students taking post-secondary courses, attending a career center or who are home schooled, attending private schools or those attending community school are responsible for submitting their grades to the Guidance Office and the Athletic Department in a timely manner.

### **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Bylaws**

#### **A. High School**

During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses, or the equivalent, which count toward graduation.

#### **B. Junior High**

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement.

Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five (5) of those subjects in which the student received grades.

#### **C. High School and Junior High**

The eligibility or ineligibility 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.

#### **D. High School**

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period (the last grading period of 8th grade) in which the student was enrolled.

#### **E. High School and Junior High**

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

### **NCAA Eligibility Center**

Any high school credit class taken prior to the ninth grade will not count toward eligibility for a

student athlete's participation in Division I and Division II college athletics. Please see your guidance counselor or the NCAA Eligibility Center website for more information. ([www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org))

## **Code of Conduct – 12 Month Rule**

All athletes 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 athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, hazing, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs and will not be tolerated. This code shall be in effect for 12 months a year, 24 hours a day, for those who made the team. If you make the team and quit, the code still applies. If an athlete is cut, the code does not apply. The code of conduct applies for one calendar year after the conclusion of the last sports season in which the athlete participated.

*Penalty:* The penalty shall range from a minimum of 10% prohibition of participation for the season or succeeding season to a maximum of permanent prohibition of participation.

## **Bullying and Hazing (Harassment, Intimidation, and Dating Violence) Policy 5517.01 AG**

Bullying is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited more than once toward a student or students. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for other.

Hazing is defined as any act of coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

All students must follow the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy 5517.01 AG regarding Bullying and Hazing.

## **Training Rules and Regulations**

Any student using or possessing alcohol or tobacco, or using, possessing, buying or selling counterfeit drugs, look-alike drugs, including E-Cigarettes, juuling, illegal drugs or any substance represented to be an illegal drug, shall be prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics.

This rule shall be in effect 12 months a year, 24 hours a day for those who made the team. If you make the team and quit, the rule still applies. If an athlete is cut, the rule does not apply. The training rules apply for one calendar year after the conclusion of the last sport season in which the athlete participated.

“Illegal drugs” or “drugs”-

Any substance as defined by United States Code which any individual may not sell, offer to sell, exchange, give, possess, use, distribute or purchase under state or federal law. This definition also includes all prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes, in accordance with the directions for use provided in the prescription or by the manufacturer. This definition includes nicotine and any vaping /juuling devices.

With the start of the 2019-20 school year, drug testing will be expanded to a year round program. Athletes will be in the pool of candidates to be randomly tested for one year from the start of their athletic season. Consequences for a failed test or failure to take a test can be found in Policy 2431.02 AG, Drug Testing of Students in Interscholastic Athletics.

The drug testing program will also be introduced at the Junior High. All athletes will need to complete a pre-season test prior to trying out for a team. This will be the only requirement for Junior High athletes as there will be no random drug testing at this time.

For multiple sport athletes, the year will start for each sport that the athlete participates.

*Penalties:*

A. Self-Referral

1. This applies to drug and alcohol use violations only and carry no penalty.
2. Further violations will carry a penalty as a student's first offense.
3. The student/athlete must complete an intervention or prescribed treatment program and provide the Athletic Administrator with verification that the program has been completed.
4. The student/athlete will be required to take a drug test at the request of the district or parent, in season or out of season, for one year from the time of the referral..
5. A self-referral may be used only once in a student's career.
6. If self-referral is after the violation, then there is no self-referral and the first violation

penalties will be imposed.

B. First Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Tobacco in Any Form

1. The penalty for a first violation will be prohibition from athletic participation (contests) for a minimum of 50% of the scheduled contests of that sport. Any remaining percentage of the prohibition of participation not served shall be applied toward the next sport in which the athlete participates. Any athlete disciplined for the first violation may practice with his/her team. He/she may travel with the team and sit on the bench. He/she cannot be in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the athlete during the period of prohibited participation.
2. The Athletic Administrator, upon request of the athlete, may reduce the prohibition to a minimum of 20% for violations involving drug, alcohol, e-cigarettes, vaping, juuling or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances and 10% for nicotine, including e-cigarettes, of the athlete's current and/or next occurring season's athletic contests, provided:
  - a) For tobacco and e-cigarette violations, the athlete participates in a professional counseling clinic, workshop, or seminar as approved by the Prevention and Intervention Coordinator. This professional counseling will be at the expense of the athlete and must be completed prior to resuming athletic competition, with evaluation reports sent to the principal or Athletic Administrator. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.)
  - b) For violations involving alcohol, drugs, e-cigarettes, vaping, juuling or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, the athlete agrees to complete a program of counseling as established by the Prevention and Intervention Coordinator. This counseling program will be at the expense of the athlete and must be completed prior to reinstatement, with evaluation reports sent to the principal or Athletic Administrator. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.)
  - c) E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will be treated as a drug violation. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the athlete may complete a drug screen with a PLSD approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the athletic administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance has been discovered, the administrator may reduce

the violation to a smoking or use of tobacco offense.

- d) The athlete agrees to revoke any leadership position, such as, but not limited to, team captain and will not hold any leadership positions on athletic teams for one full calendar year.
- e) The Prevention and Intervention Coordinator will be notified that a referral for evaluation has been made and will be sent to them for possible follow up, as needed.

C. Second Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Tobacco in Any Form

1. Upon confirmation of the second violation, athletic participation (contests) will be prohibited for one full calendar year. Any athlete disciplined for the second violation may practice with his/her team. He/she may travel with the team and sit on the bench. He/she cannot be in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the athlete during the period of prohibition participation.
2. The Athletic Administrator, upon request of the athlete, may reduce the prohibition to a minimum of 50% for violation involving drugs, alcohol, e-cigarettes, vaping, juuling or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances and 25% for nicotine violations, including e-cigarettes, of the athlete's current and/or next occurring season's athletic contests provided:
  - a) For tobacco and e-cigarette violations, the athlete agrees to participate in a professional counseling clinic, workshop, or seminar as approved by the Prevention and Intervention Coordinator. This professional counseling will be at the expense of the athlete and must be completed prior to resuming athletic competition, with evaluation reports sent to the principal/athletic administrator. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.
  - b) For violations involving alcohol, drugs, e-cigarettes, vaping, juuling or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, the athlete is assessed by a certified professional agency and follows the assessment recommendations at his/her expense.. The assessment must be completed prior to resuming athletic competition, with evaluation reports sent to the principal/athletic administrator. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.)
  - c) E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will be treated as a drug

offense. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may complete an approved drug screen with a PLSD approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the school administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance has been discovered, the administrator may reduce the violation to a smoking or use of tobacco offense.

- d) The athlete agrees to revoke any leadership position, such as, but not limited to, team captain and will not hold any leadership positions on athletic teams for one full calendar year.
- e) The Prevention and Intervention Coordinator will be notified that a referral for evaluation has been made and will be sent to them for possible follow up as needed.

#### D. Third Violation – Use or Possession of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Tobacco in Any Form

The student athlete found in violation of the training rules a third time shall be prohibited from athletic participation for the remainder of his/her athletic career. After one calendar year from determination of his/her guilt, an appeal can be made to the appeals board for reinstatement contingent upon substantiated rehabilitation.

#### E. First Violation – Sale, Distribution, or Hosting of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Tobacco in Any Form

The student found in first violation of sale, distribution or hosting of alcohol, illegal drugs, vaping/juuling products, tobacco or e-cigarettes, in any form, will be treated the same as second violation for use or possession. However, if the athlete has not completed the Youth Intervention Program or tobacco workshop, it must be completed at this time. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.)

#### F. Second Violation – Sale, Distribution, or Hosting of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, or Tobacco in Any Form

The student found in second violation of sale, distribution or hosting of alcohol, illegal drugs, vaping/juuling products, tobacco or e-Cigarettes, in any form, will be treated the same as a third violation for use or possession.

#### G. Penalty Definitions for Code of Conduct and Training Rules

1. To calculate the percentage of penalty for prohibition, the number of regular season

contests scheduled will be used for each respective sport.

2. When a penalty results in a prohibition of a partial contest, the fraction will be rounded to the nearest whole contest.

*Example:* 3.49 contests will be 3 contests

3.50 contests will be 4 contests

3. A prohibited athlete who has a carry-over penalty into a succeeding sport must complete the season in good standing in order for the prohibition to be credited to that sport.
4. Any sophomore, junior or senior athlete who is serving a prohibition from participation will not be permitted to serve their prohibition by going out for a sport for the first time.
5. Eighth grade violations with penalty time remaining will carry over into the 9th grade year.

## **Prohibitions**

The superintendent, or other school district administrative personnel, are authorized to prohibit a student from any or all athletics and extracurricular activities for a violation of the athletic code of conduct, the student code of conduct, athletic training rules, OHSAA requirements or any other rules or regulations of the school district, school, coach or advisor that are applied to students, student athletes or students participating in athletics or extracurricular activities.

Prior to any prohibition in athletics, the athlete will be given the opportunity to informally meet with the coach, Athletic Administrator or other school district personnel to challenge the reasons for the prohibition or to otherwise explain his/her actions. Any prohibition will be determined by the Superintendent or other school district administrative personnel. The provision of the informal meeting, or any other due process, is not applicable in the case of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student is removed from the athletic activity for less than one day of athletic activity.

## **Appeals Procedure**

An athlete may appeal a prohibition from athletics to the activities appeal board. The board shall be made up of the assistant principal in charge of appeals and four (4) teachers. The appeal shall require the following:



- A. The written appeal must be presented to the assistant principal within three (3) school days following the date on the notice of prohibition from athletics.
- B. The assistant principal in charge shall mail or otherwise provide a decision, in writing, to the student regarding the appeal.
- C. The decision of the appeal board shall be final and not subject to any further appeal.
- D. During the time any appeal is pending, all penalties in this policy shall be enforced.

## **Attendance**

### ***Policy 2431.01 AG***

Students must be present at least fifty (50) percent of their scheduled school day, in order to participate in that evening's practice or after school event.

Exemptions will be made for students who were approved by the building administrators for a prearranged absence.

- Building Administrators have the discretion to make exceptions to this rule and the final authority for infractions.
- Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided the absence is an excused absence.

## **Individual Sport Rule**

Coaches will establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the respective coaches (with the exception of prohibitions previously addressed).

## **Changing Sports / Same Season**

Once an athlete attends the first five (5) days of practice of a sport (i.e., football), he/she may not quit and try out for another sport (i.e., cross country) that is being conducted simultaneously, unless the two coaches (i.e., head football and head cross country) mutually agree to the change. If an athlete is cut from the squad (i.e., football), he/she may try out for a second sport (i.e., cross country) at the discretion of the coach of the second sport (i.e., cross country).

## **Dual Sports Seasons**

A student may participate in two sports at the high school level (i.e., cross country and golf) during the same season if both coaches (i.e., cross country and golf) agree, and the administration approves, based on whether or not dual participation will result in conflict in the requirements of the two sports. The fee for the second sport is \$140.00. Junior high level students are not permitted to participate in two sports during the same season.

## **Financial Obligations and Equipment**

- A. Uniforms – In several sports, the athlete will be required to purchase his/her game uniform, or a portion of his/her game uniform, which will become his/her property. Those uniforms that belong to the school should not be worn at any time other than the athletic contest unless directed by the coach.
- B. Equipment – All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment/uniforms are to be worn for contests and practice only. All equipment/uniforms not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to a financial penalty.
- C. Only uniforms issued and/or approved by the athletic department will be permitted to be worn for contests.
- D. Participation fees must be paid in order to participate.

## **Vacation Policy**

Vacations during an athlete's season are discouraged. However, if a vacation is unavoidable:

- A. Contact head coach prior to the vacation.
- B. An athlete must practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition (contest day will count as a practice day).
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to your status as a starter, 2nd string, 3rd string, etc.

## **Travel**

- A. Transportation will be provided in accordance to Board regulation: Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities – Transportation Policy 2432.02 AG.
- B. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
- C. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest. If there are extenuating circumstances involved that caused the athlete to miss the bus, the coach may allow the athlete to play only if the athlete's parent/guardian transports him/her to the contest. The final decision is up to the coach.

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

## **Travel Releases**

### Athletes who participate in sports receiving round trip transportation:

Under certain circumstances where it creates an inconvenience to the families, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event in school-authorized transportation as determined by board policy for various activities. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is part of a team in all phases of team activity.

To ride on private transportation:

- A. A travel release form must be requested by the athlete and parent.
- B. Parents must make arrangements with the Athletic Administrator in advance of the trip by having the approved travel release form on file in the Athletic Administrator's office on the day of the trip.
- C. The athlete will be released to the parent(s) or designated adult by the coach upon presentation of a copy of the approved travel release form at the contest.
- D. Athletes will not be allowed to ride home with a student.
- E. In an emergency situation, the head coach may release a student athlete from school transportation requirements, provided the student athlete is released to the parent(s) or designated adult for travel purposes.

## **Conflicts in School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities**

An individual who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position to have a conflict of obligations. Students need to be cautious about participating in too many activities where conflicts might occur.

When conflicts do arise, the coach and sponsor of the activity will get together and try to work out a solution so that the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- A. The relative importance of each event;
- B. The relative contribution the student can make;

C. How long each event has been scheduled;

D. A talk with the parents.

Once the decision has been made and the student follows that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by the coach or faculty sponsor. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligations of both school activities, he/she should withdraw from one.

## **Risk of Injury**

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury which may be the result of athletic participation. Pickerington Local School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

A. Use only state certified coaches

B. Instruct all athletes about the possible dangers of participation in a particular sport

## **Insurance**

Pickerington 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 school 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, Athletic Administrator, or on the district's website. (<http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us>)

## **Tryouts**

A. Once students are enrolled in school, students can try out for the team. However, they will not be permitted to participate in any contest until all enrollment paperwork has been completed, fees have been paid, and all grades and other pertinent records have been received from their previous school.

B. New students that enroll in the district after tryouts, shall be granted a tryout after meeting all OHSAA and district transfer requirements.

C. Should a student be sick or injured prior to or during a try-out period, that student may have a delayed try-out at the discretion of the coach and the Athletic Administrator.

D. Cheerleading Eligibility for Tryouts – Fall tryouts will be the 1<sup>st</sup> official day of the fall athletic season or as determined by the Director of Student of Activities. Winter and competition tryouts will be the 1<sup>st</sup> official day of the winter athletic season or as

determined by the Director of Student Activities.

### **Open Gyms, Fields, Courts, etc.**

- A. All open gyms/fields/courts, etc. must follow the guidelines of the OHSAA.
- B. Multi-sport athletes must complete their current season before any participation is permitted in another school sport.

### **Dress Code**

- A. All OHSAA and National Federation rules and policies must be followed regarding equipment and uniforms for practices and contests.
- B. All student athletes (male and female) must adhere to the school dress code.
- C. Students must wear an appropriate shirt at all times during any school contest, practice, open gym/field/run (no sports bras, spaghetti strapped tops, half or cut-off shirts, etc. unless worn under a proper shirt). Students may not go shirtless in or out of the building, weight room, playing fields, etc. Tank tops are permitted.
- D. Students must wear appropriate athletic shorts/pants while practicing.
- E. Shoes must be worn at all times, especially in the weight room. Sandals and flip-flops are permitted in transit before and after practices/contests.
- F. For sanitary reasons, shirts must be worn in the weight room at all times.

### **Participation on Independent Teams**

Participation by an athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice, contest) while he/she is a member of the school squad in the same sport during the same season is prohibited. Penalty for violations is ineligibility for the remainder of that season. For cheerleading purposes, this is defined as competition cheerleading on a school team vs. outside team.

- A. The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited, as follows: soccer-5; baseball/softball-4; volleyball-3; basketball-2. Football squad members are prohibited from non-interscholastic participation. This rule is not in effect from June 1-July 31.
- B. An athlete may have contact with the school coaching staff in an interscholastic program for 10 days from June 1-July 31. In addition, interscholastic coaches in the team sports

of baseball, basketball, cross-country, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer, softball, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling may provide individual instruction as defined as no more than four individuals present at one time in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.

- C. Penalty for violation of out-of-season regulations (except a senior) is ineligibility for the remainder of the season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the penalty is ineligibility for all sports for the remainder of the school year.

## **Age**

- A. High school students (9-12) must be under the age of 19 prior to August 1st of the school year.
- B. Junior high school students (7-8) must be under the age of 15 prior to August 1st of the school year.

## **Residence**

- A. A student establishes residency when the parent or legal guardian of the student resides within the school district attendance boundaries and the student lives in the household.
- B. Refer to OHSAA Bylaws 4-6-1 to 4-6-3 for the complete residency rule.
- C. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of all contests in which the non-resident participated.
- D. A change in custody must be approved by the commissioner of the OHSAA to remain eligible.
- E. Those students who attend a private school, are home schooled or attend online/charter schools and are residents of Pickerington, will be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.
  - 1. Their address will determine at what school they can participate.
  - 2. They will need to register with the Welcome Center and all required paperwork will be forwarded to the Director of Student Activities. The Athletic Administrator of the building will be notified once permission has been granted.
  - 3. The following documentation will be required before they can participate
    - a. Proof of residence – lease or mortgage

- b. Immunization records
  - c. Custodial paperwork
  - d. Academic records
  - e. Birth certificate
- F. Non-resident students who attend a private school, are home schooled or attend online/charter schools will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities.  
Policy 5113.01 AG

## **Transfers**

- A. All *inter-district* transfer students are governed by OHSAA Bylaws 4-7-1 to 4-7-8. Please refer to these Bylaws for complete transfer rule.
- B. A transferring student must be ruled eligible by OHSAA rules.
- C. PLSD Intra-District Transfer Rule – If an athlete moves to the “other” school’s attendance area he/she must transfer eligibility or apply for open enrollment to the school from which they have moved. Policy 5113.01 AG

## **Varsity Letter Requirements**

- A. Criteria That Pertains To All Sports:
  1. An athlete must complete the season in good standing with the school and coach.
  2. An athlete who moves from one level of competition to another will letter at the level of highest competition provided meeting combined requirements.
  3. A coach will have the prerogative to letter a senior who has not met the seasonal requirements for lettering.
  4. Injury rule – Any athlete who is a starter or plays regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coach’s judgment, he/she would have met the lettering requirements.
  5. In a sport where OHSAA tournament play is sponsored, an athlete may letter if he/she becomes a starter and plays 75% of the quarters, innings, matches, or scores team points in individual competition in tournament play regardless of other lettering criteria.
- B. Baseball / Softball
 

A player needs to participate in one-half of all innings played, or pinch-hit or pinch-run in three-fourths of all games played, or be a pitcher with at least four starts or six appearances in games, and/or win one tournament game.

### C. Basketball (Boys & Girls)

1. Athletes must participate in 50% of the quarters of the regularly scheduled games.
2. Athletes brought up to the varsity squad for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

### D. Cheerleading

Cheerleader's awards will parallel the regular athletic system for all athletic teams.

1. Competition Squad – All varsity competition squad members will receive the appropriate award provided the following:
  - a. The athlete completes one year of varsity competition;
  - b. Completes the cheerleading season in good standing with the school and coaches; and
  - c. Attends a minimum of 75% of practices, competitions, and contests.
2. Sideline Cheer – All varsity squad members will receive the appropriate award provided the following:
  - a. The athlete completes any two seasons of fall (football) and/or basketball (winter) at the varsity level;
  - b. Completes the cheerleading season in good standing with the school and coaches; and
  - c. Attends a minimum of 75% of practices and contests.

### E. Cross Country

1. An athlete must attain the time indicated below at a meet during the season on a legitimate 5000m course. If the length of the course is questionable, the coach will have the final decision as to its legitimacy.
  - a. Boys – a time of 17:59 or better
  - b. Girls – a time of 22:59 or better
  - c. **-OR-** Run on the Varsity Seven in at least 50% of the races in a season.

### F. Football



1. An athlete must play in at least one-half of the total number of regular season quarters.
2. A player must play two consecutive plays to receive credit for a quarter.
3. An athlete in a key position (i.e., punter, kick-off specialist, return man, extra-point kicker) must play in 50% of the regular season contests.

#### G. Golf

A player must earn a point total to one-half the number of matches played in a given season. As an example, if the team plays in eighteen matches during the season, a player must earn nine points to letter. Players will earn one point for playing in a nine-hole match and will earn two points if they play in an eighteen-hole tournament or invitational.

#### H. Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)

1. An athlete must participate in 50% of the halves of the regular scheduled games.
2. Athletes brought up to varsity squad for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

#### I. Soccer (Boys & Girls)

1. An athlete must participate in 50% of the halves of the regular scheduled games.
2. Athletes brought up to varsity squad for tournament play only WILL NOT be awarded a varsity letter unless previously earned.

#### J. Special Olympics (For Lettering Purposes)

*Fall* – Team Bowling / Swimming

*Winter* – Basketball / Individual Bowling

*Spring* – Track / Volleyball

1. Basketball – an athlete must participate in 50% of the games.
2. Team Bowling / Swimming / Individual Bowling / Track / Volleyball –
  - a. An athlete must participate in the state tournament.

- b. A letter can only be earned by those athletes who are Pickerington Local School District students at the high school level.

K. Swimming (Boys & Girls)

- 1. An athlete must score an average of three points per dual meet during the season.
- 2. Athletes must compete in a minimum of 80% of dual meets.
- 3. Players must have 80% attendance for workouts.

L. Tennis (Boys & Girls)

Earn as many points as there are matches - one point given for playing in a match and one point given if you win the match.

M. Track (Boys & Girls)

An athlete must meet one of the following:

- 1. Average one point per meet;
- 2. Score in the OCC meet or meet with 8 teams (excludes relays);
- 3. Meet one of the following standards during regular scheduled meet on varsity schedule:

<b>Boys</b>		<b>Girls</b>	
<u>event</u>	<u>/ standard</u>	<u>event</u>	<u>/ standard</u>
110 hurdles	- 16.5	100 hurdles	- 18.5
100	- 11.5	100	- 13.9
1600	- 4:50	1600	- 6:29
400	- 53.0	400	- 72.5
300 hurdles	- 44.0	300 hurdles	- 55.0
800	- 2:08	800	- 2:51
3200	- 10:40	3200	- 14:15
200	- 23.4	200	- 29.0
pole vault	- 10'	pole vault	- 7'6"
high jump	- 5'10"	high jump	- 4'8"
long jump	- 19'0"	long jump	- 13'6"
shot put	- 43'	shot put	- 27'
discus	- 115'	discus	- 80'

N. Volleyball (Boys & Girls)

An athlete must participate in 50% of the games played.

O. Wrestling

An athlete must score a combined total of 30 team points and team points saved during the season in varsity competition. In tournaments, points for advancement, quality of match and placement shall be awarded according to the National Federation Rule Book. One-half of the points scored in Divisions II or III varsity competition shall count towards the varsity letter.

P. Statisticians

All students who have been selected to compile statistics for a sports team must do so satisfactorily for the entire season.

Q. Managers

Any student who manages at both practice and contests satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport. To earn a varsity jacket, he/she must be a manager in two sports on the varsity level or earn two awards in the same sport, one of which must be at the varsity level.

R. Student Aide (Athletic Training)

Any student who assists the Certified Athletic Trainer at no less than half the total hours of pre-practice and practice time and no less than half the total hours of pre-competition and competition time for a single sport.

A student must assist the Certified Athletic Trainer for a minimum of two sports seasons in the same school year or the same sport for two years.

An athlete who participated in a minimum of one sport season and finished the sport season in good standing must assist the Certified Athletic Trainer for a minimum of one sports season in the same year.

## **Awards**

Any award for participation in interscholastic athletics which may be accepted by the student from any source shall consist of those items which do not exceed \$200.00 in value.

A. Varsity

1st year awards: 7" chenille award letter and Chevron which indicates one year of lettering and certificate (Note: should the athlete letter in another sport, he/she will not receive a second chenille letter.)

2nd year award: Chevron and certificate

3rd year award: Chevron and certificate

4th year award: Chevron and certificate with a 6" sport plaque indicating the recipient as a four-year varsity letter winner.

Championship Award: Letter winners of a varsity team that wins a league, district, regional or state championship will receive a chenille emblem of that sport which will indicate the championship.

#### B. Individual Varsity Awards

Football: most valuable, back of the year, lineman of the year, most improved, top offensive player, top defensive player

Basketball: most valuable player, outstanding defensive player, most rebounds in a season, most improved player, best free throw percentage

Wrestling: most valuable wrestler, most improved wrestler, most take downs, most fall

Soccer: most valuable player, most sportsmanlike player, most improved player, best offense, best defense

Cross Country, Volleyball, Golf, Tennis, Baseball, Swimming, Softball, Track: most valuable player, most improved player, other awards as determined by the assistant athletic supervisor upon recommendation of the coach

#### C. Non-Letter Varsity

All members of a varsity athletic squad who successfully complete an athletic season for a particular sport, but who have not earned ample points for a varsity letter, are to be awarded a varsity participation certificate.

#### D. Non-Varsity

All members of junior high athletic squads who successfully complete an athletic season for a particular sport are to be awarded an award certificate and patch. Second year junior high award will be a second certificate and patch.

#### E. Scholar Athlete Awards

##### 1. Marcus Hanna (Central) / Donald E. Heft (North) Senior Scholar Award

This award is presented each year at senior assembly to the senior girl and senior boy who maintain a high scholastic average along with athletic excellence. The recipients are nominated by coaches and reviewed by the principal and the assistant athletic supervisor.

2. All other awards are distributed by a vote of the coaches.

#### F. Athletic Achievement

The Pickerington Athletic Department will honor athletes or teams that have distinguished themselves athletically while attending either high school or college, etc. The procedure for recognition of outstanding achievement in athletics will be outlined in one of the three following ways:

##### 1. Wall of Champions

A team that wins a league, district, regional or state championship will have a 16 x 20 team picture displayed noting the championship won.

##### 2. Wall of Honor

Individual athletes who achieve recognition for athletic accomplishment while in high school will have an 8 x 10 color picture displayed with a record of their accomplishments.

The criteria for selecting athletes for this honor shall be:

- a. The athlete must be an acceptable school citizen and a credit to the community.
- b. The athlete must maintain an acceptable and positive image to the school to continue to be honored on the wall.
- c. The athlete must be a contributing member of a Pickerington High School

Central/North athletic team.

Failure to maintain these three criteria will result in removal.

- d. An athlete who is selected for All-State honors will be given automatic nomination by the athletic board if he/she:
  - Finishes in the top 8 in the state meet in wrestling, track and field, or swimming/diving;
  - Is in the state quarter finals of the state cross country meet;
  - Is selected by AP newspapers or by coaches' vote to All-State first or second teams in the team sports of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, golf, softball or baseball;
  - Is selected to play in a statewide All-Star game;
  - Cheerleading – must achieve 3 out of the following 5 criteria:
    - finishes in the top ten at a state equivalent individual competition;
    - finishes in the top five in regional individual competition;
    - qualifies for national championship;
    - recognized as an OCC all-star;
    - competes and places in the top ten in a national competition.
- e. Athletes can also earn a place on the wall by having a distinguished career as an all-around athlete by earning a minimum of eight varsity letters.
- f. Athletes can be considered for placement on the wall with a nomination of the coach for gaining recognition for outstanding athletic accomplishment.
- g. Nominees for this award may be considered at any time during their high school career by the athletic board at its regular meeting. The board must approve all nominees for this honor by a 2/3 vote of those in attendance.

### 3. Hall of Fame

The ultimate honor to be bestowed upon a Pickerington athlete or coach shall be election into the Hall of Fame. Nominations will be accepted each year and a committee will meet each spring to begin consideration of candidates for the following year. Recognition of his/her accomplishments shall be displayed in an appropriate area as determined by the building administration.

Criteria for Nomination:

Individual or Team

- a) A candidate shall not be considered for the Hall of Fame until five (5) years after graduation from Pickerington High School Central/North.
- b) An athlete who accomplishes are above and beyond the normal standards of obtaining recognition for themselves and the school.

For example:

- Establishing individual school, state or national records or championships
- Establishing team school, state, or national records
- Individual State Champion or member of State Championship Team
- Team State Champion
- Selection to All-State team honors or qualifying as an individual in state meets
- An athlete not so honored for high school achievements, but who participates in college and gains honors at this level or beyond, may be considered for the Hall of Fame

#### Coach

- a) A candidate shall not be considered for the Hall of Fame until five (5) years after coaching from Pickerington High School Central/North.
- b) A coach whose accomplishments are above and beyond the normal standards of obtaining recognition for themselves and the school.

For example:

- Establishing school, state or national records
- Coached an individual State Champion
- Coached a team State Champion
- Coached a league, district and regional champion

#### Honorary

- a) An individual who has contributed to the success of Pickerington athletics over a period of years may be considered as a candidate to the Hall of Fame.

After selection into the Hall of Fame, the new members will be inducted the following year at a time determined by the building administration. Each honoree will be presented a Hall of Fame plaque during the induction ceremony.

## G. Signing Ceremonies

### *Procedure*

1. Head Coach verifies scholarship offer
2. Receives copy of paperwork for signing
3. Notifies Athletic Department of signees

### *Athletic Department*

1. Secure room for ceremony
2. Notify all local media of date, time and location of ceremony
3. Notify parents of date, time and location of ceremony
4. Prepare Room – sign, PA, etc.

### *Criteria*

Any athlete receiving an athletic scholarship from a university's athletic department:

1. Must be a member of Pickerington Local School District's recognized school team(s)
2. Criteria is met if the student receives an athletic scholarship in a sport that PLSD does not offer i.e.: gymnastics.
3. An appointment to a Service Academy for athletic purposes.
4. Division III athletes, along with all other athletes going to college to play, will be invited to a recognition ceremony at the end of the school year. This will be coordinated through the Athletic Department.

There will be as many as five (5) ceremonies a year based on time frames established by NCAA.

Ceremonies will be held at 3:00 p.m.

*Board of Education adopted: June 29, 2000*

*Revisions: 6/11/01, 7/8/02, 6/30/03, 7/28/03, 5/28/04, 5/31/05, 6/12/06, 7/6/09, 6/14/10, 7/5/11, 7/23/12, 4/29/13, 4/15/14, 6/10/14, 3/6/15, 4/7/15, 6/8/15, 4/11/16, 7/10/17, 3/5/18, 3/23/18, 6/25/18, 3/21/19, 4/2/19, 4/11/19*