

# Oscoda Area Schools



## Athletic Handbook

2016-2017

# Mission Statement

The role of interscholastic athletics at Oscoda Area Schools is to provide educational and team experiences in the framework of competitive athletics. By focusing on educational, team outcomes and student learning, athletics provide avenues for physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth.

## Message to Students and Parents

This booklet is presented to you because of your interest in participating in the interscholastic athletic program at OHS. The primary purpose of the Oscoda Area Schools Athletic Department is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional and moral well-being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing our students for the challenges they will face throughout their lives.

The athletic program is considered an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all eligible students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. The student also agrees to comply with the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume the obligations as the role and expectations demand sacrifices not required of others. The cooperation of parents in the area of good sportsmanship is essential to a successful athletic program. Membership on an athletic team is an honor and a privilege.

This handbook gives valuable information on our philosophy, eligibility, athletic conduct, policies and procedures. By supporting the rules and regulations in this book, parents will play a positive role in the athletic and academic challenges which face their children on the field of play and in the classroom. Ready reference to this information will hopefully allow a smooth and efficient operation of our athletic department.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the athletic office at (989) 739-9121.

Sincerely,

Scott Lueck, Director of Athletics  
Oscoda Area Schools

## MHSAA Rules

1. Age - High school students become ineligible if they reach their nineteenth birthday before September 1 of the current school year.
2. Enrollment - Athletes must be enrolled in high school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day for 1st semester sports or the fourth Friday of February for 2nd semester sports.
3. Semesters of Enrollment - Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the 7th and 8th semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school (exception: MHSAA state tournament games scheduled after a graduation ceremony).
4. Transfer Students - A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers to another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for one full semester unless the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under one of the 15 published exceptions.
5. Physical Examination - Students must have on file, in the athletic office, a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. **ATHLETES MUST HAVE A SPORT PHYSICAL BEFORE TRYING OUT OR PRACTICING FOR ANY SPORT.**
6. Awards & Amateurism - Students cannot receive money or other valuable consideration for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, or officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by the MHSAA Handbook. Students may accept for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award valued under \$25.
7. Limited Team Membership - After practicing or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport in the same season.
8. Academic Records - Effective with the 2012-13 school year, the minimum academic standard for athletic eligibility changes to "66 percent of credit load potential for a full time student", and the period of ineligibility following a deficiency at the end of a term is "the next semester of 60 scheduled school days in schools not operating under a trimester system."
9. All Star Competition - Students shall not compete at any time during the school year in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in all-star contests or national championships, regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause the student to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment.
10. Undue Influence - the use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.

# Oscoda Area Schools Code of Conduct

Representing Oscoda Area Schools in interscholastic athletic competition is regarded as a privilege and not a right. Student athletes are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Separate and apart from a student's performance as an athlete, the student's conduct, sportsmanship, citizenship and training reflects at all times on the athlete, his/her team, our school, and our community.

## Application of the Athletic Code

When a student chooses to participate in athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the Oscoda Area Schools Athletic Code throughout his/her high school athletic career. This includes vacation breaks, summer recess, and off-season times. The participant is always under the Athletic Code from the beginning to the end of their athletic career from the first day of participation in interscholastic athletics and continuing through to their date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later.

## Athletic Code Review Committee

The makeup of the Athletic Review Committee (ARC) is as follows: Building Principal, Athletic Director, athlete's head coach, one head coach of a sport not participated in by the athlete and one non-coaching staff member. In the event that a circumstance arises which is not specifically mentioned in the Athletic Code of Conduct, the committee will be allowed to rule on severity and consequences. They will do so within three days of notification of the issue in question. Request for review must be made in writing to the Athletic Director within five days of discovery of the issue.

The ARC will also serve as a final appeal panel at such times as the parent and/or athlete believe an action taken to restrict participation was not in accordance with the Athletic Code of Conduct.

## Standards of Conduct

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Oscoda Area Schools Athletic Code and subject the athlete to discipline as outlined in the "Penalties" section of the Athletic Code:

1. Hazing is a very serious act and will not be tolerated by any member of an Oscoda Area Schools athletic team. Hazing includes any activity expected of someone as initiation

into any type or organization which may humiliate, degrade, or risk emotional or physical harm to them regardless of the victim's willingness to participate.

2. Violation of federal, state, or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses. Conviction of said act is not necessary to establish a violation of Athletic Code, but will be determined through an independent school investigation and may result in a penalty as provided below.
3. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming to an athlete and a representative of the Oscoda Area Schools athletic teams including but not limited to: profanity, gross gestures, cheating, stealing, vandalism, and insubordination.
4. Violation of the Student Conduct Code as set forth in the school's student handbook which results in a school suspension.
5. Violation of any team conduct, grooming, or training policies as may be established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.
6. Elastic Clause - The Athletic Director or Building Principal reserve the right to determine if other behaviors are detrimental and/or disruptive to extra-curricular expectations. Behaviors associated with this clause will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
7. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale or being under the influence of those substances listed in items A-G below.

- A. Tobacco products in any form;
- B. Alcoholic beverages in any form;
- C. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as 'controlled substances' pursuant to federal and/or state statute;
- D. Steroids, human growth hormones or other performance enhancing drugs;
- E. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive or performance enhancing, i.e. "look-alike" drugs;
- F. Misused prescription drugs;
- G. Misused non-prescription drugs or inhalants;

\*Note: It shall not be a violation for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drugs when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed practitioner for which the proper paperwork has been completed with the school office and follows Board Policy. An athlete should notify the coach if he or she is taking a prescription medicine which could alter the athlete's behavior or affect the athlete's ability to participate in physical activity.

- H. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, manufacture or sale of devices designed for and/or associated with the use of controlled substances.

## **Penalties**

All violations will be cumulative during a student's high school athletic career. Accumulation will begin the first day of an athlete trying out for any team and will continue throughout their entire high school career.

1. Conduct Offenses: Violation of Conduct Standards 1-6 above, on or off the athletic field or court
  - a. The Athletic Review Committee (ARC) will determine if the offense is considered "gross misconduct". If considered to be "gross misconduct", the consequence will be 25% of the athlete's season up to permanent expulsion from athletics.
  - b. If the ARC determines the offense to be less than "gross misconduct" then the appropriate consequence will be determined by the ARC.
  - c. In the event that the Athletic Code or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances.
2. Substance Abuse Offenses: Violation of Standard of Conduct 7 above.
  - a. First Violation - The student athlete will experience a minimum loss of participation in 25% of the next scheduled contests as determined by the Athletic Director. Percentage is based on the number of competitions scheduled on the first day of practice. Suspensions will be rounded to nearest number of complete games. Athletes will not have to be suspended for part of a game. Suspensions can carry over to a new season and new school year. Loss of participation may be reduced to 10% if the student completes a drug assessment program by a licensed agency and participates in their recommendations. Students or parents are responsible for the cost of the assessment program. Satisfaction of the treatment requirements must be verified in writing by the licensed agency. Any cost incurred during this process is the responsibility of the athlete and not Oscoda Area Schools.
  - b. Second Violation - The student athlete will be banned from participation in 50% of all athletic competitions.
  - c. Third Violation - The student athlete will be banned from participation in 100% of all athletic activities for one calendar year.

Self Disclosure - An athlete who voluntarily discloses to a school employee, school official, coach or an administrator a need for assistance for alcohol or substance abuse prior to any reports, charges, or complaints under the Athletic Code shall be required to follow the chemical assessment/treatment procedures outlined above. Under such circumstances, the athlete will not be charged with a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, unless it is determined that the athlete has used this self-disclosure opportunity primarily to avoid a penalty under the Athletic

Code. This self-disclosure exemption is available to an athlete only once during his/her high school career.

If a student chooses to quit the team rather than accept the consequence, said consequence shall carry over until the student completes a season in good standing. The Athletic Director has the ability to make discretionary decisions if major or significant unique situations are identified.

Oscoda High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation at that student's most recently attended school. A student who transfers to Oscoda Area Schools after being suspended from participation in athletics by the previously attended school, shall remain ineligible at Oscoda for not less than the period imposed by the previous attended school district. Students ineligible to participate under the transfer rule will not be subject to additional consequences if their suspension would have ended during the time they are ineligible under the transfer rule.

### **Due Process**

The Oscoda Area Schools athletic staff strives to treat all students with dignity and fairness. When an athlete is disciplined (as defined below), the following procedure will operate to assure fair and reasonable treatment to all parties concerned. Discipline shall be defined as the suspension or removal of a student from an athletic team for any reason.

This procedure is limited to discipline as defined above. Where a violation of school policies results in the suspension or expulsion from school, the procedure contained in the buildings student handbook will apply.

1. Where an athlete has been disciplined, the student or his/her parents may submit a formal written complaint to the Athletic Director.
2. Within one (1) calendar week of receipt of the complaint, the Athletic Director shall arrange a hearing in which the athlete, the parent, the coach and the building principal or his/her designee shall be present. At the conclusion of the hearing, the designated administrator shall issue his/her findings and recommendations.
3. If the athlete or parent wishes to appeal the athletic director's findings, they may do so to the building principal.
4. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Principal may, at his/her discretion, convene a hearing with those persons he/she feels are necessary to properly resolve the matter.
5. Whether or not a hearing is convened by the Principal, he/she shall notify the student or parent of the decision no later than five (5) days from the date of receipt of the appeal.
6. If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Principal's decision, an appeal may be made to the Superintendent or his/her designee, with a decision to be rendered within five (5) days.

7. If not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision the student athlete or parent may then appeal to the Board of Education, which shall respond within ten (10) days of receipt of an appeal.

### **Chain of Command on Complaints**

While the athletic program and athletic staff are working for the common good of all, including the team and the school, we realize that occasionally a disagreement regarding an individual may arise. For the purpose of improving relations between all parties involved, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. If there is a complaint, the first step is to contact the coach to arrange for a time that is convenient to discuss the matter. The parent shall refrain from confronting the coach in public, before or after a contest or practice.
2. If the matter cannot be resolved, the Athletic Director (AD) should be contacted to arrange for a conference for the AD, coach and parent to meet. If after this meeting, the matter is not resolved, the parent shall contact the AD to establish a meeting. If the AD and parent cannot resolve the matter, the parent shall then contact the Principal. The Principal may convene a meeting with the coach, parent and AD. The student shall not be involved in the meeting unless requested by the Principal. Should the matter not be resolved, the parent may contact the superintendent to request a meeting.
3. Coaches, parents, and the administration shall not discuss other players or family members. Conferences shall focus on the complaint and a remedy to the problem that is most agreeable to all parties involved. Playing time shall be the established policy set by the Oscoda Area Schools Board of Education policy #2431B.
4. Administrative officials or Board Members might be contacted by parents and members of the community about a concern regarding a player or coach. However, they shall inquire as to whether or not the issue has been addressed with the coach first. When appropriate, they shall then direct the inquiring person to contact the AD, Principal and Superintendent. Any written correspondence should be passed on to the appropriate personnel, giving them an opportunity to respond. Anonymous notes, letters and phone calls will not typically receive the attention of official action unless the school officials believe the safety or well-being of a student athlete is in jeopardy.

### **Student Athlete Grievance Procedure**

In a situation where there has been no apparent infraction or disciplinary action applied, but an athlete wishes to discuss a concern or complaint, the procedure below is to be followed in sequence:

1. Direct communication with the coach.
2. Direct communication with the athletic director.



3. Director communication with the principal.
4. Direct communication with the superintendent.

## Policies and Procedures

### Academic Eligibility

In addition to the MHSAA Eligibility Rules, the following rules will also apply for all student athletes grades 7-12:

- A. Students are to be passing a minimum of 6 of 7 classes (high school) or 4 of 5 classes (middle school) at all times. This will be monitored weekly and based upon a student's cumulative grade to that point in the marking period.
- B. Students who are failing two or more classes at the time of any eligibility check will be ineligible for participation in games or contests until they are deemed eligible through a following eligibility check.
- C. Eligibility will be determined by a grade report pulled each Friday afternoon. Students determined to be ineligible will not be able to participate beginning the following Monday and lasting for a period of seven days.
- D. The athlete is expected to continue practicing with the team.
- E. The athlete is expected to be at games/contests but is not allowed to dress in their athletic uniform.
- F. Ineligible athletes may travel with the team for away games UNLESS the team leaves before the end of the school day.
- G. Any athlete who remains on the ineligibility list for three consecutive weeks for the same class, and is not showing academic progress, will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. Academic progress will be determined by the Athletic Director.
- H. Coaches are asked to encourage their athletes to attend all workshops provided by the school.
- I. A further requirement of academic eligibility is that the student athlete must be on pace to graduate with their respective class. "On pace" will defined as a minimum of 5.5 credits at the end of 9th grade, a minimum of 11 credits at the end of 10th grade and a minimum of 16.5 credits at the end of 11th grade. ***This policy will go into effect for all students beginning with the 2016-17 school year.***

### Previous Academic Credit Record

MHSAA Regulation 1, Section 7 (A)

No student shall compete in any athletic contest or scrimmage who does not have to his or her credit in the official records of the school to be represented, at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full time student for the last semester/trimester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grade 9-12, inclusive. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his or her record in 8th grade.

## **Attendance**

1. In School - It is mandatory that Athletes are to be in full attendance on the day of a contest or practice. "Excused Absences," as stated in the student handbook, may be allowed with the approval of the athletic director and the coach. Students that know they will miss school due to an upcoming appointment should notify the coach before the date of absence. A pre-arranged absence form may be required.
2. Coaches may request a daily attendance report of their team members prior to practice or competition to ensure that the attendance policy is enforced.
3. Coaches will be notified by the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director or a building secretary when a student is absent from school.
4. At practice - Athletes are required to attend all regularly scheduled practices. If it is impossible for an athlete to attend a practice due to injury or illness, it is mandatory that the absence not only be reported to the office as per student handbook requirements, but the absence must also be reported to the coach. Unexcused absences are unacceptable and can lead to consequences including loss of playing time and/or dismissal from the team. Students that are suspended from school may not attend practices or games during their suspension period.
5. Sunday and Holiday Practices - Oscoda Area Schools recognize that Sundays and Holidays should remain a day free of student activities and teams are encouraged to not practice on Sundays and Holidays. Because many games are now scheduled on Mondays, practices sometimes occur. No team shall practice on Sunday and Holidays if they do not have a scheduled event the next day. Practices that do take place on Sunday (and never before 1:00pm) and Holidays are not mandatory and no player will be disciplined for not attending.
6. Vacation Practices - When practices are scheduled during vacations (Christmas Break and Spring Break) students should notify the coach when they will not be in attendance. Practice schedules for these periods will be discussed at the pre-season parent meetings. Practices that do take place during vacations are not mandatory and no player will be disciplined for not attending.
7. Inclement Weather Day Practices - No practices will be held before 3:00 PM when school is cancelled due to poor road conditions caused by inclement weather. Practices scheduled after 3:00 PM can only be done so through consultation with the Athletic Director. Practices may be held during the normal school day when school is cancelled due to extreme cold. Scheduling shall be done through the athletic director. Practices that do take place on Inclement Weather days are not mandatory and no player will be disciplined for not attending.

## **End of Season Awards**

1. Only members of a team who finish the season in good standing will be awarded certificates and or chenille letters for participation.

2. Team members who are dismissed or who quit will not be eligible to receive an award.
3. All team obligations such as returning all uniforms and equipment and paying all outstanding obligations must be done prior to receiving awards.
4. Requirements for earning varsity letter awards will be handed out at the beginning of season team meeting. These requirements will also be on file in the athletic directors office.
5. Seniors who have a 3.0 cumulative GPA and who have earned a varsity letter during their 4 years of high school, will be honored at a “Breakfast of Champions” sponsored by the Oscoda Athletic Boosters.
6. A violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may jeopardize receiving an athletic award.

### **Equipment, Facilities and Uniforms**

1. Athletes will be held responsible for all sports equipment issued to them. Any athlete who does not return their equipment will be charged replacement fee in an amount to be determined by the Athletic Director.
2. If the coach is not able to collect a uniform, the student's' name will be turned in to the Athletic Director and the school office. The parent/guardian will be sent a bill for the cost of replacement and the student will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the fee has been paid or the uniform/equipment turned in.
3. Game uniform, practice gear, warm-ups or any other clothing issued to the athlete should not be worn at any time other than athletic contests, practices, or at school the day of the event unless otherwise designated by the coach.
4. All school facilities, including but not limited to, playing fields/courts, locker rooms, and training facilities should be treated with respect. Athletes are responsible for keeping the areas clean and neat. No food or drink containers should be left behind. All clothing items should remain in the locker room or locked lockers.
5. Athletic Locks - Athletic Locks are available upon request to the coach and/or Athletic Director. Items stolen from the locker room are very hard to recover. Athletes are encouraged to lock all items left in the locker room.

### **Hygiene, Appearance and Attire**

Student athletes represent their school and their team and therefore must look, act, and play in a respectable manner at all times. The following are reasonable standards:

1. Players are encouraged to shower after practices and games. Facilities are maintained to help prevent the spread of infections and diseases that may be transmitted throughout the course of athletic participation.
2. School owned practice clothes and uniforms must be washed on a regular basis and properly cared for by the athlete.
3. The coach has the authority to set the appearance for game day. This may include wearing jerseys and/or dress clothes. All players are expected to dress in accordance with the coach's specifications and should dress in a way that reflects the unity of a team.

4. Players may not wear earrings or other jewelry while competing in their sport unless approved by the MHSAA and coach.
5. At practice, students are to wear proper attire. While the practice clothing may not always adhere to the daily dress code policies, modesty is expected and all clothing shall not be excessively revealing or worn inappropriately. For example: Females must wear appropriate tops over sport bras.
6. Players/Athletes should be clean, neat and well-groomed at all times.

### **Injuries**

Sport related injuries should always be brought to the attention of the coach and on occasion to the Athletic Director. The athletic department has a form related to sports injuries and the coaches will fill out the form as required. If an athlete suffers an injury that requires medical attention they must follow the recommendations of the discharge orders.

### **Setting and Amending the Team Roster**

At the beginning of each season all coaches will submit a roster to the athletic office. The following protocols shall be followed:

1. A student becomes a team member the day the coach submits a roster to the athletic office.
2. The roster shall include the grade of the athlete and the jersey number when appropriate.
3. Coaches shall have a tryout process in place, including dates, and this process will be discussed with the athletes prior to the tryout period.
4. The varsity coach will have the final say on cuts.
5. Varsity coaches that choose to amend their roster during the season may do so in consultation with the assistant coaches, parents, and Athletic Director. The process for amending rosters during the season shall be explained at the pre-season parent meeting and this process will be on file in the athletic office.
6. Players moved up for postseason play will be at the discretion of the varsity coach. A list will be provided in a timely manner to the athletic office.
7. Athletes cut from a team shall have the opportunity to join another team during that season.

### **Multi-sport Participation**

Oscoda High School does have a process in place for students wishing to participate in two sports during the same season. Students wishing to be a multi-sport athlete shall contact the athletic office to begin the process. Determination of eligibility for playing two sports will be done so by the Athletic Director in consultation with the coaches and parents.

### **Parent/Coach Communications**

Communications you should expect from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach

2. Expectations of the coach
3. Expectations the coach has for your athlete as well as all the players on the squad
4. Locations and times of all practices and contests
5. Team requirements, e.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season-conditioning
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from Parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification to the coach of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns with regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations
4. Specific concerns regarding pre-existing health conditions of the athlete

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and/or physically
2. Areas in which your child needs to improve
3. Ways to help your child improve
4. Concerns about the coach's behavior
5. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing Time
2. Team Strategy
3. Other Student Athletes

### **Pay for Participation Fee**

Oscoda Area Schools maintains a pay to participate fee of \$25 per athlete per season with a maximum of \$50 per athlete per year. This fee was established by the Board of Education to offset the cost of a comprehensive athletic program. All fees must be paid in full prior to athletic participation. Non-funded sports do not have a participation fee associated with OAS.

### **Playing Time**

Playing Time is defined as the amount of time an athlete participates in contests versus an opponent. Athletes and parents should keep in mind that playing time is affected by MANY factors. All factors aside playing time will be based on the ability of the player and the confidence the coach has in the players to perform at their best level. Factors other than ability are noted and coaches will constantly and consistently evaluate players on all factors and determine playing time appropriately.

It is inappropriate for a parent to question playing time with a coach without first gaining a realistic understanding of an athlete's ability and role on the team. This can be done so in communication with the coach. Because of the emotional tie between a parent and the treatment of their child this can sometimes be a difficult task. Coaches are concerned with the success and achievement of the team and their discretion should be respected.

There is a pyramid effect to consider in terms of playing time. At the lowest levels all athletes will have a relatively similar amount of playing time and participation will take precedent over achievement. However, as competition progresses into the middle school level stakeholders should understand that playing time is earned and the better players will get more of the playing time. On occasion, some players may not play in every game, but playing time throughout the week should be expected. Eventually as an athlete progresses to the high school level the best players will get most of the playing time and achievement will trump participation.

### **Physicals**

A student will not be allowed to participate in any athletic practice, tryout, or contest who does not have a valid Sports Physical on file with the Oscoda High School Athletic Office. This must certify that the athlete has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. Physical exams for athletes are the responsibility of the parents and must be signed by a medical doctor after April 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous school year as set forth by the rules of Michigan High School Athletic Association.

### **Preseason Meeting**

Each sport will host a preseason meeting with the parents and players. Although these meetings are not mandatory for the parents it is good practice to attend these meetings to gather information about the upcoming season. Topics discussed will include, but are not limited to:

- Team Rules
- Team Goals
- Expectations of Athletes
- Practice Schedules
- Game Schedules
- Training Rules
- Requirements for receiving awards
- Pay for Participation Fee and other school paperwork
- Fundraising
- Roster Amendments

### **Sportsmanship**

Student/Athletes should always represent their school with class, respect, dignity, integrity, good sportsmanship and compassion for their fellow competitors. The following rules are in effect every day, in school or out. Always remember it is a privilege to be involved in the sporting program and therefore represent the school and the community.

As per Board Policy #2431, each Student-Athlete is expected to:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school, district, and community.

2. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the administration and the coaching staff.
3. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the student and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
4. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better to do this than the participating athlete who can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the sport.
5. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, and making any kind of derogatory remarks to the opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
6. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
7. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
8. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote athletes and the sport. Treating them with respect, even if the athlete disagrees with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of the athlete and the team in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.
9. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.

### **Transportation**

The athletic director and transportation director will schedule all transportation times at the beginning of each season with copies being made available to all coaches and athletes.

The following protocols will be expected:

1. A coach must accompany the team to and from all contests.
2. Athletes are expected to ride to and from the event on school-provided transportation.
3. Parents seeking exception to the above rule must sign their child out with their coach prior to departure.
4. Athletes will only be released to their parent or legal guardian.
5. Athletes wishing to ride home with an adult other than their parents or guardians must submit a request to the athletic office prior to departure. Approved requests will be signed by an administrator of OHS.
6. OAS does not provide transportation for weekend events; they are considered self-transport events and athletes will be responsible for their transportation to and from those events.