2026-2027

ANTWERP STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Antwerp Local Schools

Welcome

Antwerp administration and coaches would like to welcome you to this year's athletic seasons. The policies, procedures, rules, and regulations identified in the handbook have been established to provide a safe and productive learning environment for our athletes. They are a result of a concerted effort among coaches and administration.

Many opportunities are available to you as an athlete at Antwerp Middle/High School. The coaches and administration will provide you with a productive athletic experience to help you grow as an athlete and develop quality leadership skills needed in our global society. Antwerp places great value in the development of its student-athletes. The school provides the background and the discipline to assist students to achieve their goals and enable them to grow into productive adult citizens.

Antwerp student-athletes become a part of an established tradition of excellence. This tradition has led many successful student-athletes to rewarding and fulfilling lives. Dedication and work ethic to academic and athletic education are key characteristics of success, which will lead to confidence and self-respect. Self-respect will translate into appreciation for all members of the Antwerp Local School community.

As a student-athlete at Antwerp, it is extremely important that you read and familiarize yourself with the handbook. The administration and coaches wish you the best of luck this school year. The administration and coaches will put forth their best efforts to help you reach your full potential.

Administration

Superintendent - Dr. Martin Miller
Principal - Ms. Jessie Arnold
Athletic Director - Mr. Drew Altimus

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ANTWERP ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The emphasis in each sport will be to develop a successful varsity sports program. Each sport will be viewed as one program presided over by the Varsity Head Coach. The Varsity Head Coach will be involved with the program at all levels and be responsible for the performance of the entire program.

In all sports, student athletes will be taught one system from seventh grade through the varsity level. The Varsity Head Coach will determine the offensive, defensive, and fundamental skills and training methods to be taught to the entire program. In addition, the Varsity Head Coach will be responsible for recommending quality coaches at all levels to the athletic director and building principal.

The first step toward a successful varsity program begins with Middle School Athletics. Middle School Athletics will not be a continuation of the youth sports' philosophy of "everyone plays". Beginning with seventh grade, student-athletes will be gradually immersed in the world of competitive athletics, and with each successive level of play, will be introduced to an increased level of competition.

*****PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT!*****

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The objectives of athletics are within the larger goals of the entire school program. We believe that athletics must make a positive contribution to the individual's mental, physical, and social growth toward adulthood. The following items represent the specific objectives for the girls and boys that make-up the Antwerp Athletic Program:

1. To develop a sense of Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship to the letter and spirit of the rules
2. To develop capacities of Leadership.
3. To realize the value of Hard Work. The participant's experience in a planned athletic program is nurtured on the fundamental principle that hard work is the key to success. It does not guarantee the athlete that s/he will succeed if they work hard, but rather, the athlete learns that hard work is an integral part of realizing any objective
4. To develop a Positive approach to winning. Playing to win is probably the most important prerequisite to gaining the benefits from athletics. By playing to win, the athlete uses all the valuable resources that each participant is trying to develop through athletics. Playing to win does not mean that benefits cannot result unless one wins. The positive approach does mean, however that every task is approached with the thought of providing maximum effort will result in a victory.
5. To develop an "Appreciation" for individual excellence. To make the maximum contribution to a team, school, job, or profession requires the individual to deliver his/her full potential. Sports places a premium on the athlete always being prepared to do his/her best.
6. Surrounding these objectives are a number of "by-products" that exemplify the athletic program:
    a. Athletics are fun. Fun arising from comradeship, anticipation, excitement of a contest, and the enthusiasm that surrounds a team working toward a common goal.
    b. Athletics presents an opportunity to excel.
    c. Athletes are a strong influence on the younger girls and boys in our community. The athlete contributes to the character growth of this group.
    d. Through athletics a girl or boy can recognize that each individual has limitations and through effort they can increase their abilities.
    e. The athletic program affects the morale of the entire school. The contagious enthusiasm and spirit of sports permeates all activities.
    f. Interscholastic competition affords the opportunity to meet girls and boys from all types of homes and community backgrounds. It will help to broaden perspective.
7. Athletics present, to the participants, a planned program whereby each person can develop strong and healthy mind and body. The privilege of participating on an athletic team, therefore, entails certain responsibilities on the part of the athlete:
    a. The athlete should maintain a satisfactory classroom record. Satisfactory, in this case does not mean merely passing, but working at one's best ability.
    b. The athlete should develop a standard of social conduct similar to the "adherence of rules" and sportsmanlike spirit of sports so that each person is a credit to his/her school and community.
    c. The athletes respect their bodies and therefore respect the training rules that are formulated to get them into top physical condition. They recognize that the training rules are a year-around obligation if they are to represent themselves and their teams in the best light.
8. The school has a responsibility to the girls and boys who are representatives of the athletic program. The athlete can expect the school:
    a. To enthusiastically foster school spirit and athletic support by recognizing the contributions made by the athletic teams to the total school program.
    b. To willingly provide, within its' means, the best facilities and equipment available.
    c. To adopt and maintain hiring procedures that will provide the best instruction and coaching. This will help the athlete not only grow into a better participant, but also into a mature adult.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

1. To afford an opportunity for participation for all students who desire to participate.
2. To allow the participant to reach his/her full potential.
3. To create an atmosphere that will promote a positive social attitude.
4. To provide an opportunity to extend student interest beyond classroom experiences, within and outside the community.
5. To provide an opportunity to develop skills and attitude that can be employed in daily life.

SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETICS

1. FALL SPORTS
    a. Cross Country
    b. Football
    c. Golf
    d. Volleyball

2. WINTER SPORTS
    a. Basketball
    b. Wrestling

3. SPRING SPORTS
    a. Baseball
    b. Softball
    c. Track

*Cheerleading in the fall for Football, winter for Boys' Basketball and competition cheer

ATHLETES SPORTMANSHIP CODE

1. I will participate because I want to and not because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper since fighting and disrespectful behavior can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. I will respect my opponent.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player. (know & understand my role on the team)
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends, and giving my best effort are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by my teammates and opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given up their time to be there for me.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC POLICY

LOCAL BOARD POLICY:

1. QUARTERLY

    a. The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) that are consistent with State and Federal law and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

    b. Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. (Note: Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards along with those participating via state law that permits home educated and non-public school students to participate at the public schools in the district of residence of the parents).

    c. Those athletes who are taking NOVA (Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy) will have eligibility checks. If the student is taking a yearlong course, s/he must have successfully completed at least 25% of the course by the end of each grading period. If the student is taking a semester course, s/he must have successfully completed 50% of the course by the end of each grading period. The letter grade is looked at for mid-quarterly and grading period eligibility.

*Note: "Grading period" is defined as your school's Board-adopted calendar, which consists of nine-week sessions.

2. MID-QUARTERLY

    a. Students receiving two or more failing grades will be ineligible to participate the following week. Students receiving two or more cumulative failing grades are ineligible until eligibility grade requirements are met.

    b. A mid-quarterly check of the student's academic achievement will be conducted by the Athletic Director. The AD will be responsible for notifying the Principal, affected student and his/her parents. Any NOVA courses being taken will be included in the mid-quarterly academic check. The student must have at least the minimum percentage of the course complete and academic grade.

**Students declared ineligible, who believe extenuating circumstances do exist, may appeal to the building principal.

**IN ALL CASES, THE MINIMUM OHSAA STANDARDS MUST BE MET*

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The objective of the OHSAA is to promote wholesome athletics in the schools of Ohio. In carrying out this objective, the Association regulates, supervises, and administers interscholastic athletic competition among its member schools to the end that the interscholastic program will be an integral factor in the total educational program of the school.

The Antwerp Local School District is a member of the OHSAA. The membership permits all girls' and boys' teams to enter and participate in OHSAA tournament play.

A current copy of the OHSAA Handbook will be kept in the offices of the Middle/High School Principal and Athletic Director. Coaches should check this book to find the answer to any interscholastic sport questions.

OHSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility

a. Each student shall meet all requirements in this bylaw to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition. Notwithstanding any provision of this Bylaw 4 to the contrary, if a student has met all of the substantive eligibility requirements of this Bylaw 4 but is declared ineligible due solely to an administrative error on the part of the school/ school personnel, the Executive Director's office may, in its absolute and sole discretion, restore eligibility to that student (prospectively and retroactively), provided it can be shown that the student's actions or failure to act did not contribute in any way to the administrative error that caused the declaration of ineligibility in the first place. Notwithstanding the restoration of eligibility, the school may be subject to additional penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

Note: The authority to correct administrative errors is limited to correcting student eligibility issues as codified within Bylaw 4 – Student Eligibility. Students who have not met the high school or middle school scholarship requirement are not "substantively eligible"; and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the "due solely to an administrative error" category. Therefore, this Bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

EXCEPTION: A student who only participates in a single contest during a regular season is not required to meet all the requirements of Bylaw 4 but only if the following criteria are met:

1 - The participation happens one time during the regular season; and
2 - The student is a manager/student assistant or has an intellectual or physical disability; and
3 - The student would not likely otherwise participate in a meaningful way or have an impact on the outcome of a contest; and
4 - The opposing coach and/or officials are made aware of the student's participation before the student enters the contest and the playing time is agreed to by both coaches.

The intent of this exception is to specifically reward and/or recognize a student manager or a student with an intellectual or physical disability for his/her special contributions to a team even if they fail to meet certain criteria within Bylaw 4.

b. If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.), or if an attempt is made to establish eligibility for a student by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.

c. A student who is determined to be ineligible in accordance with Bylaw 4, or who is ineligible in accordance with any policy, rule or regulation as set forth in the General/Specific Sports Regulations, shall be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports contests, shall not be dressed in full uniform for any such contests and shall not participate in pre-game warmups during the student's period of ineligibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall remain within the discretion of the student's school administrators as to whether the student may continue to practice with the team, assist the coaches/managers with pre-game warmup drills, sit on the team bench/sidelines (jersey only), travel with the team and/or take part in other team functions during this period of ineligibility.

d. A student is a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a squad member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage.

2. Residence:

a. The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In addition, school districts with multiple high schools may establish attendance zones within those districts. In determining one's residence for purposes of these bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day.

Note: It shall not be considered a "bona fide" change of residence as prescribed in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, or Bylaw 4-7-4 (1) if the parents of a transfer student vacate the residence prior to one year from the date that the student's transfer is approved, and the student remains in the school into which the transfer was approved.

b. A student whose parents, (biological or adoptive), reside outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics in a member school. (See Bylaw 4-8-1 for eligibility requirements for international students).

Note: Students affected by this out of state residence bylaw may still be affected by all other eligibility standards in Bylaw 4 including the transfer provisions in 4-7 and the international provisions in 4-8.

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director's office may declare a student who is the subject of a custody or guardianship order issued by a court of proper jurisdiction conferring custody/guardianship upon a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who resides in Ohio, if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director's office, the Executive Director's office determines that the purpose of this change in custody was not for athletic reasons, but purely for the best interest of the student in terms of the student's mental, physical and educational well-being. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office.

The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the formal requirement of a court order for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a primary relative as outlined above who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.

Note: Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio but within the United States or any of its territories, or if the parents move outside the state of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Executive Director's office of said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Executive Director's office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence

in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 2: The Executive Director's office may grant eligibility to a student who makes a bona fide move into Ohio with his/her legal custodian/guardian, and it can be shown that, pursuant to a court order, the individual has had legal custody/guardianship of the student for a minimum of one year. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office.

Note: Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio but within the United States or any of its territories, or if the parents move outside the state of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Executive Director's office of said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Executive Director's office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception #2 and have been under the custody/guardianship of the individual who is now an Ohio resident for less than two years, must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 3: If a student's parents move outside the state of Ohio at any time after the student has been enrolled and attending a minimum of 15 days at the beginning of the student's 11th grade school year, the student may be declared eligible for the remainder of the student's high school career at the high school he/she was attending at the time of the parents' move, provided: a) the student's enrollment at that high school has been continuous following the parents' move, and b) the student meets all other eligibility requirements of these Bylaws.

EXCEPTION 4: A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

EXCEPTION 5: A student whose parent(s) has been continuously employed for a minimum of three years as a fulltime, licensed or classified employee in an Ohio school district or system, may be declared eligible in an Ohio school in that district or system where the parent is employed. Once eligibility is established at the member school/district, the student shall remain eligible under this exception for as long as he or she maintains continuous enrollment in that school. The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 6: A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled by the beginning of the fourth grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in that school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the student's educational program.

Note: The OHSAA does require that the superintendent of the non-public school system provide the Executive Director's Office with a list of any elementary schools under the system's jurisdiction that are located both inside and outside of Ohio.

The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 7: A student who resides within the boundaries of a public school district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state's school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state. **The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.**

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 8: A student who is enrolled in a member school that provides housing for the student and accepts the role of the parent in loco parentis. The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 9: A student who has been enrolled in an Ohio school pursuant to the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunities for Military Children may be declared eligible at a member school upon submission of a special power of attorney, relative to the custody or guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law. **The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.**

EXCEPTION 10: A student who is a citizen of the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics in the event that the student's parents are deported from the United States as long as the student maintains continuous enrollment in an Ohio school. **The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents.**

EXCEPTION 11: A student may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parent(s) are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States or any of its territories. **The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents.**

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 12: A student who is a United States citizen, and whose parent(s) are non-citizens living outside the United States or any of its territories, may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

1) The student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
2) The student has not previously participated in any other visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other state within the United States or any of its territories, or attended any other high school in the United States or any of its territories. The period of participation in another visitor exchange program or the period of attendance at another high school in the United States or any of its territories shall count against the one-year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
3) There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.
4) The member school at which the student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate form(s) to the Executive Director's office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Executive Director's office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied, including the scholarship and age requirements.

The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

Note: A student may travel freely back and forth between the United States or any of its territories and the home country with the proper U.S. passport. Thus, a student could have attended high school in the United States or any of its territories previously without being part of any International Exchange Program. It is the responsibility of the school administration to verify that the student in these circumstances meets all the requirements of eligibility expressed above.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

3. Transfer Students

Note: Students who change high schools (transfer) are reminded that they must meet all eligibility standards found in Bylaw 4. This includes meeting the out of state residency bylaw 4-6-2, which requires a student to have a parent residing in Ohio or to meet one of the exceptions to that residency bylaw.

a. The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 who are transferring high schools whether the schools are public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school system or district.

b. A student is considered to have transferred whenever a.) enrollment is changed from one school to another school and the student attends a new school, or b.) enrollment is changed from one school to become home schooled or vice versa, or c.) the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest in an OHSAA recognized sport with a school-sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled and attending, or d) the participation opportunities afforded a student pursuant to state law change. Notwithstanding (c) and (d) above, if a non-enrolled student's participation is pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 (Ohio non-public school students) or 3313.537 (Ohio community/STEM school students), the non-enrolled student's participation opportunity shall transfer back to the non-public school or Community/STEM school in which the student is enrolled without transfer consequences. If the non-public school or Community/STEM school ever sponsors the sport/sports in which the non-enrolled student wishes to participate, the student's participation opportunity shall also be transferred back to the school of attendance

without consequence. Furthermore, any in-season changes in the participation opportunities that may be afforded by state law shall be subject to Bylaw 4-7-3.

If a student transfers at any time after commencing the ninth-grade year, the student shall be ineligible for all OHSAA tournaments in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels AFTER the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. The transfer consequence shall remain in effect until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, at which time the student is no longer considered a transfer student. For purposes of the transfer bylaws, a student will be considered as having commenced the ninth grade year by either attending five or more days of school as a ninth grader or by establishing eligibility at a school by having participated in a contest. Furthermore, the term "participated in a contest" for purposes of the transfer bylaw means to have played at least one play in a scrimmage, preview/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/ tournament game or contest.

A student who did not participate in an OHSAA recognized sport in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer is not subject to the consequence of this transfer bylaw.

Notwithstanding the above, if a student transfers during the season of a sport in which he or she has participated in a regular season contest, and if Bylaw 4-7-3 requires that the student is ineligible for participation in the remainder of the contests in that sports season, the student shall remain ineligible for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity). Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the start of the sport season during the next school year. unless an exception can be met to restore eligibility for the next sport season. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.

Note 1: ORC 3313.5312 (Ohio home educated students) has been intentionally left out of the exclusions of subpart (b) addressing students participating in programs where they are not enrolled. Once a home-educated student participates with a school sponsored squad of a school in which the student is not enrolled, the student's eligibility is established at that school. Participating on any other schools' sponsored squad will be considered a transfer for which the balance of this bylaw and its exception would be applicable.

Note 2: The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, is authorized to make certain equitable adjustments to the period of REGULAR SEASON ineligibility in cases when a student, through no fault of the athlete, is subject to documented, extenuating circumstances which prevent him/her from competing during all or part of the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests in a sport. However, no such approval shall ever permit a student-athlete a participation opportunity in the OHSAA postseason tournament of a sport in which they are ineligible. If such an adjustment is granted, 1) the student must be physically attending the school at the start of the season for such an adjustment to be considered and 2) the student will only be eligible for those contests outlined in the Executive Director's Office's approval, which will never exceed 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests regardless of whether the student participates in those contests. It is the sole responsibility of the school to which the student transfers to ensure a student granted such an adjustment participates only during the appropriate contests outlined in the Executive Director's Office's approval.

Maximum Allowable Contests in All OHSAA-recognized Sports and Formula for Determining Eligibility under the 50% Transfer Consequence

Sport	Maximum # of Contests as per the OHSAA Board of Directors Policy	Transfer Student BECOMES INELIGIBLE AT VARSITY:
Baseball	27 Games	Game 15
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	22 Games	Game 12
Cross Country (Boys and Girls	16 Meets	Meet 9
Football	10 Games	Game 6
Golf (Boys and Girls)	20 Matches	Match 11
Softball	27 Games	Game 15
Track and Field (Boys/Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Volleyball	22 Matches	Match 12
Wrestling	20 Points/16 Points (for those schools that do not field teams – 6 or fewer weight classes)	Point 11/9

If it is determined that one or more of the exceptions that follow represents an event which creates the need to transfer, i.e., creates a cause and effect relationship, then one of more of the following exceptions may apply:

EXCEPTION 1: If a student is compelled to transfer to another high school as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or stepparents) from one public school district into another public school district, whether from outside the state of Ohio or within Ohio, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons.

1) the public high school in which the new residence is physically located (or any school to which the student is placed and enrolled in a multiple high school district) or;
2) any non-public high school if family's new residences is at least 15 miles from their former residence, as determined by the most direct route when using google maps or other such navigational system, or;
3) any high school, public or non-public, if the new residence into which the family has moved is more than 80 miles from the residence from which the family moved, as determined by the most direct route when using google maps or other such navigational system.

The requirement that "both parents" make the move may be waived by the Executive Director's Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. In addition, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may extend conditional eligibility for up to 90 days immediately following the date of the student's transfer in cases where parents are making a bona fide move into a residence that is more than 80 miles from their former residence, and there are extenuating circumstances that are presented which prevent one of the parents from making the move immediately. This 90-day conditional provision may be extended for up to 90 more days ONLY in the case of medical or military obligations that prevent one of the parents from making the move at the same time as the other parent.

If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student's biological or adoptive parents.

An *Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence* in the form requested by the Executive Director's Office, must be submitted along with any request for the application of this exception. Please refer to Bylaw 4-1-2 concerning eligibility established via falsified information.

Note 1: Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student's parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student in order to maintain eligibility at the school into which the student's transfer has been approved. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one-year period.

Note 2: If, as a result of a bona fide change of residence of the student's parents, a student transfers and is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school where he or she is not enrolled, in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1 exceptions #4 and/or 6, the Executive Director's Office may apply this exception 1 to restore full eligibility in regard to transfer/ change of participation opportunity provided the student's participation is in accordance with OHSAA business rules and in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-3.

EXCEPTION 2: If, as a result of a legal change of custody as between a student's parents, who live in two different school districts, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to the other school district where the other parent resides, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. If custody/guardianship of a student is changed to a non-parent which custody/ guardianship change is the result of the death or incarceration of the prior custodian, the intervention of child protective services, social services or similar state agency, and the new custodian/guardian lives in a different school district than the previous custodian/ guardian, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sports/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian/guardian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school.

The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the requirement of a court-ordered legal change of custody for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a parent who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.

By operation of statute, both parents in a Shared Parenting Plan are the residential and custodial parents of the child at all times under such Plan. Therefore, so long as a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect, there can be no "change of custody" as contemplated by this Exception 2. However, in the event a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect but a change in the designation of "residential parent" has been made by the court within that plan, the student who is the subject to the Shared Parenting Plan may apply one time to the Executive Director's Office for a one-time exception to the transfer bylaw under this provision.

Exception 2 permits the choice of the public high school located in the residential school district of the new legal custodian or new residential parent, or any non-public school.

EXCEPTION 3: If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its entire high school educational program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible at that high school insofar as transfer is concerned. Likewise, if the bona fide residence of the student's parents is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Executive Director's office can rule the student eligible. This exception shall be available to any student whose high school has closed as long as that high school was an OHSAA member school prior to the 2012-13 school year.

Note 1: For school closings in a multiple high school district, see Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding intra-district transfers.

Note 2: This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" such as a community school or a non-chartered non-public high school or an out of state high school.

EXCEPTION 4: A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Executive Director at a school in the district where the student resides. The Executive Director is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception. **Note**: Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for self-support under this exception.

EXCEPTION 5: A student may return to non-public education and have his/her eligibility restored at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office provided the following conditions are met:

1) the student had been continuously enrolled in the same system of non-public education (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of International Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) beginning in the 4th grade and continuing consecutively through the entire eighth grade and;
2) the student has not attended more than one other high school during the course of their high school enrollment and;
3) the student returns to the same system of non-public education prior to the start of the student's junior year and;
4) the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Director's Office that the transfer is not occurring/not taking place for athletic reasons.

Furthermore, if the student commences attendance at any high school within the same system of non-public education then breaks enrollment for a period of time at a school located outside the same system of non-public education, this exception will only be available for use back to the same high school at which the student was previously enrolled, provided the aforementioned criteria are all met.

EXCEPTION 6: The Executive Director shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for a student who has been enrolled in the district in accordance with ORC §§ 3313.64 (F)(6) or 3313.64 (F)(7). The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 7: If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A)(2) which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district in accordance with the ORC, and as a result of this documented harassment, intimidation or bullying the student is compelled to transfer, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided:

1) The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been substantially followed and complied with; and
2) The District provides the Executive Director's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and
3) The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:
    a. A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s);
    b. An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s);

c. A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;
d. A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
e. All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);
f. A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.

4) The District provides the Executive Director's Office with all of the above-referenced records.
5) In concurrence with ORC §3313.666 (A)(2), this exception cannot be used for any isolated incidents or alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying, nor can this exception be used in cases where there has been no contemporaneous reporting of the alleged bullying, harassment or intimidation.

EXCEPTION 8: A student who has transferred to another high school to take advantage of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program may be ruled eligible upon approval of the the Executive Director's Office. Such a student who transfers under this provision and who subsequently drops out of the Diploma Program shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11-Penalties.

EXCEPTION 9: If, as a result of a transfer/transfer of participation opportunity to a public high school located in the public school district within which the student's residential parent/legal custodian has resided for a minimum of one year, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more of the sport/sport seasons. This exception may be used regardless of whether the student is transferring from a public or nonpublic school but cannot be applied to transfer to and from high schools within a multiple high school district/system. (See Bylaws 4-7- 4, 4-7-6 and 4-7-7 for the transfer rules which apply to intra-district or system transfers; See Note 1 below for transfers into a multiple high school district.) This Exception may be used only once during a student's four years of high school eligibility.

Note 1: For transfers covered under this Exception into a multiple high school district, the Executive Director's authority to waive all or part of the period of ineligibility shall be applicable at only the member high school located in the parent's residential attendance zone or, if there are no defined attendance zones, at the member high school that is closest to the parent's residence unless the district superintendent makes a specific request, based upon objective educational criteria, for application of this Exception at another high school within the district. Such a request should accompany the Exception 9 application.

Note 2: Exception 9 cannot be used to transfer from the public high school of the district in which one residential parent/ legal custodian resides to the public high school of the district in which the other residential parent/legal custodian resides in a split-family situation. Conversely, a non-public student whose parents live in two different public school districts may have the option under this bylaw to transfer to the public high school in either public school district in which the student's parents reside provided the student has never established eligibility at a public school in a district in which a custodial parent resides.

Note 3: If, as a result of a transfer/change of participation opportunity in accordance with exception 9, a student is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school where he or she is not enrolled in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1 exceptions 4 and/or 6, the Executive Director's Office may apply this exception 9 to restore full eligibility in regard to transfer/change of participation opportunity provided the student's participation is in accordance with OHSAA business rules and in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-3. Application of this exception as a non-enrolled student shall constitute the student's one time use of this exception.

EXCEPTION 10: A student who has been enrolled in and attending a member school in a school district that, through formal action by the school district's Board of Education, has elected to effectively cease with its sponsorship of its entire interscholastic athletic programs, may transfer to any other school district/system and have his/her eligibility restored upon application to the

Executive Director's Office. Furthermore, if the school district formally elects, through Board of Education action, to resume its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic programs, a student who transferred under the provisions of this Exception may transfer back to the member school from which she/he transferred under this provision provided this transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of the sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs occurred. In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Executive Director's Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the formal actions taken by the Board of Education in either the cessation and/or resumption of its sponsorship of these programs. For purposes of this Exception, "formal action" shall mean more than the mere threat of cessation of sponsorship, and resolutions that are contingent upon a future event or happening will not be regarded as "formal action" until such contingency has been met. No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 11: If a student has experienced a death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, legal custodian, sibling) with whom the student was residing at the time of death, and because of this loss it becomes necessary for the student to transfer, if the transfer occurs within a reasonable time after the death, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons. In order to assist the Executive Director's Office in determining whether the transfer was necessary as a result of the death of the family member, the Superintendent of the school district from which the student transferred must certify to the Executive Director's Office that the transfer was necessary to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being. Absent such certification from the Superintendent, the Executive Director's Office may not apply this exception.

EXCEPTION 12 – A student returning from a domestic exchange program with whom the member school has partnered to the same high school the student attended immediately before entering into this domestic exchange program may be declared eligible insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned if all of the following conditions have been met:

1) The domestic exchange program exists primarily for academic and educational learning experiences; and
2) The student receives credits that apply toward the student's graduation in the Ohio member school for the student's work in the domestic exchange program; and
3) In the event that student did participate in interscholastic athletics while enrolled in this domestic exchange program, the student's athletic participation was secondary to his/her academic and educational reasons for participation in the program; and
4) The domestic exchange program has, in its curriculum guide, a structured beginning and ending to the program itself; and The Executive Director's Office in its sole discretion may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility upon submission of the appropriate documentation for this exception.

EXCEPTION 13 – If, as a result of the conduct of an adult associated with the school, a student is compelled to transfer in order to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided ALL of the following criteria are met:

1) there is documented evidence the adult conduct was directed specifically towards the student; and
2) the adult conduct is of such a nature as to trigger a criminal investigation or an event which is otherwise a "reportable" event that would require a mandatory reporter to report to the proper legal authorities; and
3) the student suffered/suffers physical harm and/or severe emotional distress that required/requires medical treatment and/or mental health treatment, which was contemporaneously documented at the time of the event; and

4) there is no evidence the transfer is due to the student/family's displeasure with a former coach's training tactics and/or the student's playing time.

For purposes of this bylaw, "conduct" may include behavior of a physical nature as well as verbal and/or written expressions, gestures and interactions. The conduct referred to herein may also include interactions via social media or other forms of electronic communications.

This exception will not be applied where there has been no documented evidence of a criminal investigation or a "reportable" event as outlined in criteria (b), nor will this exception be applied for a student who simply alleges displeasure with a former coach's training tactics.

c. If a transfer, as defined in Bylaw 4-7-2, takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in a **regular season interscholastic contest** in a sport, the student shall be ineligible in that sport for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity). Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the start of the sport season during the next school year, unless an exception can be met to restore eligibility for the next sport season. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.

An in-season transferring student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to restore full athletic eligibility EXCEPT if one of the following circumstances occurs:

1) The parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district, the student is approved for transfer eligibility under the requirements of Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by mapquest.com, or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route.
2) As a result of a change in placement in which Children's Services or a similar government agency is involved, the student may be approved for transfer eligibility provided the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by mapquest.com, or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route.

For purposes of this bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the last date the school into which the student transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity) participates in a contest (regular season or postseason.

Note: In addition, if a student's participation opportunity changes during the sport season in which the student has already participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport at a school where they are not enrolled (pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 or 3313.537), the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season at the new school into which the student is now entitled a participation opportunity. A student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to circumvent this bylaw if the student is not transferring schools. If the student is transferring schools, then the same exceptions as outlined above apply.

d. The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public system or public school district may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only by using one of the following exceptions.

EXCEPTION 1: If, as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or stepparents) from one attendance zone into another attendance zone in a

multiple high school district/system, the student is compelled to transfer to another district/system high school, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that "both parents" make the move may be waived by the Executive Director's Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married.

If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student's biological or adoptive parents.

An affidavit of bona fide residence in the form requested by the Executive Director's Office shall be submitted along with any request for application of this exception.

Note: Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student's parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student in order to maintain eligibility at the school into which the student's transfer has been approved. The school district/ system will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one-year period. Exception one permits the choice of the public high school in the parents' new attendance zone only.

EXCEPTION 2: If, as a result of a legal change of custody as between a student's parents, who live in two different attendance zones within the multiple high school district/system, the student is compelled to transfer from one district/ system high school to another district/system high school, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. If custody/guardianship of a student is changed to a non-parent, who lives in a different attendance zone than the previous custodian, which custody/guardianship change is a result of the death or incarceration of the prior custodian, the intervention of child protective services, social services or a similar agency, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/ sport seasons. A re-designation of residential parent within a Shared Parenting Plan will not comply with this exception.

EXCEPTION 3: A member school in the district/system closes, or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement. This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" or a non-chartered non-public high school.

EXCEPTION 4: The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school.

EXCEPTION 5: The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons. (Note: This exception will not apply to transfers from one poor performing school to another poor performing school.)

NOTE: The OHSAA uses the Ohio Department of Education's List of Priority Schools as of the date the transfer request is received in the Executive Director's Office to denote academically poor-performing schools.

EXCEPTION 6: If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A)(2) which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district/system in accordance with the ORC, and as a result of this documented harassment, intimidation or bullying, the student is compelled to transfer, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided;

1) The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been substantially followed and complied with; and
2) The District provides the Executive Director's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and
3) The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:
    a. A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s)
    b. An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s);
    c. A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;
    d. A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
    e. All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);
    f. A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.
4) The District provides the Executive Director's Office with all of the above-referenced records.
5) In concurrence with ORC§3313.666 (A)(2), this exception cannot be used for any isolated incidents or alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying, nor can this exception be used in cases where there has been no contemporaneous reporting of the alleged bullying harassment or intimidation. The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.

e. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-7-2 and 4-7-4, if a student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Director's office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Executive Director's office may declare such transferring student eligible upon application to the Executive Director's office. The OHSAA uses the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) List of Priority Schools, or other such ODE publication denoting poor performing schools, as of the date the transfer request is received in the Executive Director's Office, to denote academically poor performing schools.

    Note 1: The student shall be entitled to one transfer only under the provisions set forth in this bylaw. In addition, this bylaw shall not be used to establish eligibility at another high school if the student transfers into and then back out of the poor performing school in an attempt to circumvent the transfer bylaw, nor can it be used to transfer between poor performing schools.

    Note 2: If a student has used this bylaw to transfer out of a poor performing school at any time during his or her high school career, the student shall not be permitted to transfer back to the same poor performing school and regain transfer eligibility.

f. If a student transfers between high schools within the same public school district, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office provided the following conditions have been met:
    1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the school district as a result of redistricting or a specific change of program the details of which shall be clearly stipulated in writing to the Executive Director's office; and
    2) The reassignment takes place after the conclusion of the previous school year and prior to the beginning of the current school year; and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the current school year; 51 BYLAWS and
    3) The District petitions the Executive Director's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year; and

4) The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.
5) This bylaw will have no application for seniors who are requesting a "specific change of academic program." This transfer option is available one time only during the student's high school career. A student who subsequently withdraws from the academic program to which he or she has been assigned shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11.

Note: Students who are transferring to take advantage of the IB Diploma Program shall have junior standing and be fully enrolled in the IB Diploma Program.

g. If a student transfers to a high school located within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) from another high school within that same system, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office provided the following conditions have been met:
   1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent or other administrative authority of that school system as a result of a specific change of academic program the details of which shall be clearly stipulated in writing to the Executive Director's office; or a material change in economic circumstances so as to create a hardship; or a material change in transportation circumstances so as to create a hardship; and
   2) The reassignment takes place after the conclusion of the previous school year and prior to the beginning of the current school year; and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the current school year; and
   3) The superintendent or other administrative authority of the system petitions the Executive Director's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student verifying in detail the specific reason for the transfer in accordance with item #1 and certifying that the transfer is not for athletic reasons no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year; and
   4) The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.
   5) This bylaw will have no application for seniors who are requesting a "specific change of academic program." This transfer option is available one time only during the student's high school career. A student who subsequently withdraws from the academic program to which he or she has been assigned shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11.

   Note: Students who are transferring to take advantage of the IB Diploma Program shall have junior standing and be fully enrolled in the IB Diploma Program. Note: This exception will have no application for seniors who are requesting a "specific change of academic program."

4. **Semesters of Enrollment**: After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted eight semesters of athletic eligibility.
   a. Semesters are taken in order of attendance once eligibility has been established
   b. Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not
   c. Those athletes with disabilities may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director or Principal

5. **Age Limitation**:
   a. Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.

   EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which

caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director's office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director's office, the Executive Director's office determines that:

1) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
2) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
3) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
4) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

b. If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director's office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director's office, the Executive Director's office determines that:

1) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
2) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
3) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
4) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student's teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student's eighth grade year with the 7th & 8th grade school, the Executive Director's office may declare the student eligible notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director's office, the following criteria can be met:

1) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
2) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes of her/his grade level; and
3) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
4) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

c. An 8th grade student may, at the student's option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. The student who chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level. A student opting to commence her/his eligibility at the high school level shall have no more than eight semesters of high school eligibility taken in order of attendance in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3.

Note: This means that a student's senior year of eligibility will be affected if the student chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight. Furthermore, if the student does not opt to become eligible at the high school level, she/he shall be ineligible on account of her/his age at the 7th-8th grade level of interscholastic competition.

d. In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State

Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth.

e. Family Bibles, physician's statements, parents' affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

6. <u>Enrollment and Attendance</u>

a. For purposes of this section and the interpretations there under:
   1) A student cannot attend a school without being officially enrolled;
   2) A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school at any given time, and
   3) Once a student is enrolled and attending a new school, the OHSAA shall consider the student withdrawn from the former school.

Note: Not withstanding these exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1, all high school students must also comply with the transfer Bylaw 4-7.

7. **<u>Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction</u>**

a. Non-Interscholastic Participation Definitions

1) **Definition of a Non-Interscholastic Program or Team** – A non-interscholastic program, also known as a non-interscholastic team, is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is not under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school does not sponsor (one that is Board of Education- or other governing board-approved), supervise or have financial responsibility for that non-interscholastic program or team.

The non-interscholastic program or team, in which participation occurs outside the school season, may be composed of participants in grades 7 through 12 and may be operated within or outside the OHSAA member school facility. Admission may be charged, and fees or expenses may be collected for training and/or competitions sponsored by that non-interscholastic program or team. It is not necessary for a coach to be present or for instruction to be given for a program or team to be considered a non-interscholastic program or team.

Examples of or names associated with non-interscholastic programs or teams are: church, intramural, rec (recreation), YMCA, CYO, AAU, USAVB, USSF, USA Swimming, all-star, club, non-interscholastic or any combination of players involved in team play.

Note: See Sports Regulation 7.3.1.a) for the number of team members (50 percent) permitted on the non-interscholastic team who came from the same school or who participated in that sport as a team member at another school in the preceding season. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire non-interscholastic team that would practice together or participate together in the entirety of a non-interscholastic event. "Rotating players" from the same interscholastic team is not permitted in the 50 percent player limitation.

2) **Definition of a School Program or Team** – A school (interscholastic) program or team is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school sponsors (one that is Board of Education- or other governing board-approved), supervises or has financial responsibility for that program or team. See Bylaw 3 for administrative responsibilities as they relate to a school program or team.

Member schools may sponsor more than one varsity or sub-varsity team for interscholastic competition, but each team must have its own schedule and may not exceed the contest limitations for that sport.

Note: See the specific sport regulations for participation limits for individuals. 7.1.3)

3) **Definition of a School Contest** – An "interscholastic athletic contest," as used throughout the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA, is defined as a sports event which takes place during the defined sports season in which student-athletes representing at least one school are engaged in sports-related activities with students representing at least one or more schools or non-interscholastic programs. This includes, but is not limited to, scheduled contests/meets/matches, previews, scrimmages, jamborees, electronic contests, invitational contests, and alumni games. Practices involving two or more schools shall also count as a contest unless those squads share the same board-approved coach. See Bylaw 9 regarding contests requiring special attention.

   For purposes of this definition, "defined sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the last date the school participates in a regular or postseason contest.

4) **Definition of a Member of an Interscholastic Team/Team Member (Bylaw 4-1-4)** – A student is a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a squad member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage.

5) **Definition of Coaching** – Coaching is providing instruction or being present with a team or individual during contests, tryouts, training and practices. If a school coach, whether paid, volunteer or designated, is approved for his/her coaching position by a Board of Education or similar governing board prior to June 1, the coach is accountable to all OHSAA rules and regulations beginning June 1. For additional regulations on school coaches, see Bylaw 6

b. Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season

1) **Team Sports** – A member of an interscholastic team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of interscholastic team or group training or practices (including open gyms/fields) with a non-interscholastic team in that same sport during the interscholastic team's season.

   Note: This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-interscholastic program or team.

2) **Individual Sports** – A member of an interscholastic team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling may not participate in an athletic contest with a non-interscholastic team or in non-interscholastic competition in that same sport during the interscholastic team's season.

   However, athletes in these individual sports ARE permitted to participate with a non-interscholastic program in a tryout or a practice(s) during the school season.

c. Regulations Permitting Students to Participate on Non-Interscholastic Teams Outside of the Interscholastic Team's Season

1) **Team Sports** (Other Than Football) – A member of a school program or team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may participate with a non-interscholastic program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the interscholastic team's season under the following condition:

The number of team members on the non-interscholastic team who are enrolled at the same school and participated in that sport at that same school in the preceding season, or team members on the non-interscholastic team who participated in that sport at another **school** in the preceding season and transferred or matriculated to the same school, is limited to the number of team members outlines below. Rotating players from the same team is not permitted within the player limitation.

Note: Students who did NOT play for an interscholastic team the previous year do not count in the team limitation of that sport.

The team limit is as follows:

Limitation on Sport	**Number of team members**
Baseball	6
Basketball	6
Softball	6
Volleyball	3

Notes:

a. The team limit is not in effect for the sports of basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball from June 1 through July 31 when the non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are participating.
b. The team limit is not in effect for the sports of baseball, lacrosse and softball as soon as a team member has completed his/her interscholastic team's season through July 31 when the non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are enrolled and participating.
c. If the non-interscholastic team is being coached by a school coach, whether paid, volunteer or designated, the team limitation shall remain in effect at all times (with the exception of the 10-day rule as outlined in GSR 7.5).
d. For purposes of this regulation, team members who matriculate to the same school do not count toward the team limitation for that school until they are enrolled and attending that school.
e. For purposes of this regulation, "rotating players" is defined as utilizing a member of a school program who was not on the original roster of the non-interscholastic team in place of another member of the same school program due to an absence or injury.
f. A member of an interscholastic team may continue to participate with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the tournament but no later than Labor Day.
g. Graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester are exempt from the team limitation once their school season in the same sport has been completed.
h. These regulations do not apply if the "members" of the non-interscholastic squad are all siblings (by blood or adoption) and no other player from the same interscholastic squad is a participant on behalf of the non-interscholastic squad.
i. Students from interscholastic teams shall not be required to attend the coaching/instruction. A paid or unpaid school(interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic team is contingent upon this participation.
j. If a student-athlete quits or is dropped from an interscholastic team and joins a non-interscholastic team during the interscholastic team's season, he/she may not rejoin that interscholastic team for the remainder of the season

2) **Individual Sports** – A member of an interscholastic team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling may

participate with a non-interscholastic program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school's season with no restriction when coached by either a school coach or a non-interscholastic coach.

Notes: Students from interscholastic teams shall not be required to attend the coaching/instruction. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.

If a student-athlete quits or is dropped from an interscholastic team and joins a non-interscholastic team during the interscholastic team's season, he/she may not rejoin that interscholastic team for the remainder of the season.

8. **NCAA Eligibility Rules:**
    a. It is the coach's responsibility to direct a player and his/her guardians that are looking to participate in a collegiate sport, to the athletic director or guidance counselor. There will be a booklet of NCAA rules in both guidance and athletic offices.

ANTWERP LOCAL GENERAL ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:

It is the policy of Antwerp Local Schools that physical examinations for interscholastic sports shall be the responsibility of the parents and shall select the doctor of their choice. (Note: OHSAA By-Law 3, Section 4 – Physical Examination Forms). Physical forms may be picked up in the athletic director's office.

No student will be allowed to begin official practice without a valid physical on file in the athletic director's office. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY!!

1. PHYSICALS
    a. Must be OHSAA prescribed physical exam
    b. Must be completed before participation
    c. Physician, participant and parent/guardian must sign the physical card
    d. Coach/Supervisors' responsibility to see that NO participation occurs until the student's completed/signed physical is filed with the A.D.

2. EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS
    a. All students must have this form on file in the middle/high school office
    b. Coaches/Supervisors will also have a copy of each participant's from with the team/group at ALL times.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION:

A concussion in a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. A concussion can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, ***all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.*** In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You can't see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms or concussion, or if you notice the symptoms of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

1. **SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING**:
    a. Headaches
    b. Pressure in Head
    c. Nausea or Vomiting
    d. Neck Pain
    e. Balance Problems or Dizziness
    f. Blurred, Double or Fuzzy Vision
    g. Sensitivity to Light or Noise
    h. Feeling Sluggish or Slowed Down
    i. Feeling Foggy or Groggy
    j. Drowsiness
    k. Change in Sleep Patterns
    l. Amnesia
    m. Don't Feel Right
    n. Fatigue or Low Energy
    o. Sadness
    p. Nervousness or Anxiety
    q. More Emotional
    r. Confusion
    s. Concentration or Memory Problems
    t. Repeating the Same Question/Comment

2. **SIGNS OF A CONCUSSION OBSERVED BY TEAMMATES, PARENTS OR COACHES**
    a. Appears Dazed
    b. Vacant Facial Expression

c. Confused About Assignment
d. Forgets Plays
e. Is Unsure of Game, Score, or Opponent
f. Moves Clumsily or Displays Poor Coordination
g. Answers Questions Slowly
h. Slurred Speech
i. Shows Behavior or Personality Changes
j. Can't Recall Events Prior to Hit or After Hit
k. Seizures or Convulsions
l. Any Changes in Typical Behavior or Personality
m. Loses Consciousness

3. WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THE ATHLETE KEEPS PLAYING WITH A CONCUSSION

a. Athletes with signs and symptoms of concussion shall be removed from play immediately. Continuation of play, with signs and symptoms of a concussion, leaves the young athlete vulnerable to greater injury. There is increased risk of significant damage from a concussion, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete safety.

4. IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS SUFFERED A CONCUSSION

a. Any athlete that is suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think your child may have a concussion. Remember, it is better to miss one game than to miss the whole season. When in doubt, the athlete sits out.
b. For current and up-to-date information on concussions, you can go to http://www.cdc.gov/concussioninyouthsports/

ABSENCE POLICIES:

Students must be in attendance by the beginning of 2nd period of a school day and remain in school for the remainder of that school day in order to be eligible to participate in a practice, competition, or performance. All time missed prior to the beginning of second period must be an excused absence. Students not in attendance after 2nd period are ineligible to participate in a practice, competition or performance that school day. Exceptions: Dentist/Doctor/College Visit/Court/Funeral or excused absence in advance by the principal/athletic director.

Students ineligible to participate in a practice, competition, or performance may attend such events, but are not permitted to take part in the actual skills, drills, rehearsals, conditioning, etc.

All extracurricular participants have a responsibility to their fellow teammates or group members, and coaches/supervisors to be at all practices, games and performances. This is consistent with the goals of responsibility, selflessness and teamwork that are critical in extracurricular programs. Athletes must remember that participation is a privilege, and the head coach or supervisor will make the decision as to who plays according to what is best for the team.

Students who miss practices or games for no justifiable reason can Expect Participation Privileges to be Denied.

PARTICIPATION:

Participants are guaranteed due process rights as listed in the Discipline Code. Coaches/Supervisors will devise consequences to be met that are within reason and within the parameters of their activity.

The extracurricular activity staff realize that there may be justifiable conflicts that arise between activities and family responsibilities, class, work, and other duties. A schedule will be distributed before or at the start of the regular season. EVERY ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID CONFLICT. If a conflict is not avoidable, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Participant notifies the coach/supervisor as soon as s/he is aware of the conflict.
2. Every attempt should be made to resolve the conflict through special arrangements by the participant, coach/supervisor, A.D., principal, teacher, parents, or other persons involved.
3. Participant must still expect to face consequences according to team/group rules.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE:

Student athletes will be governed by the comprehensive Athletic Department rules contained in the Code of Conduct, plus specific guidelines developed by the head coaches of the particular sports. These specific guidelines will be presented to the athlete, in writing, on/by the first official day of practice. The guidelines will be signed by the parents and participants and returned to the head coach/supervisor.

Violation of one or more of the guidelines may result in dismissal from the athletic squad/team. Prior to dismissal from the squad/team, the head coach must inform the principal, athletic director, athlete and the athlete's parents of the intended action.

HAZING POLICY:

All staff should be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, and events which might include hazing. To that end, the program should verify that this policy is communicated to all staff and participants and that all hazing incidents are immediately reported to the Head Coach. It is then the Coaches responsibility to report the issue to the Athletic Director.

Hazing is defined as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the Board shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

UNIFORM CARE:

Those student who participate in activities where uniforms are distributed, will be financially responsible for the care and upkeep of that uniform. Uniforms are property of the athletic department and are only to be worn by the participants during the activity. Uniforms are NOT to be worn around town or in school (may be worn on the day of the contest with A.D. approval and attire doesn't violate the dress code).

Students who fail to turn any portion of their assigned uniform or equipment, at the conclusion of the season, will be denied participation in all other sports until their obligation is met. Uniforms are to be kept safely at home and kept under lock and key if brought to school.

UNDER NO CONDITION SHOULD ANY ATHLETE ALLOW ANOTHER PERSON TO WEAR HIS/HER UNIFORM. Athletes should be proud to wear their uniform and not willing to let others wear what they have not earned.

TRANSPORTATION:

All participating school personnel (coaches/supervisors, participants, statisticians, managers, etc.) MUST be transported, by school authorized transportation, both to and from events/activities/games/performances. A parent may make special arrangements to transport their athlete home in the case of an appointment or special circumstances, after their athletic event.

**NOTE: No student, regardless of age, will be permitted to drive participants to and from events, even if s/he has parental permission.

All requests for team buses or use of school van must be made through the athletic director, who will arrange transportation through the superintendent's office.

OPEN GYM:

The head coach will work with the athletic director and other head coaches to follow the OHSAA rules concerning the use of open gyms. There is not to be any instruction during an open gym. If there is instruction during this time, the coach must adhere to the number of athletes allowed in the building.

A coach will not ask an athlete to participate in an open gym when that athlete is currently in a season. An agreement could be made between coaches.

**Open Gyms are NOT MANDATORY

POLICY ON QUITTING A SPORT:

Any athlete who quits a sport will not be eligible to begin training for the next season's sport until the original season is over.

- CLAUSE A: We will allow a short grace period for an athlete to determine his/her desire. Definition: Once official practice begins, an athlete choosing not to continue with the sport anytime up to picture day will not be considered "quitting a team". Dropping from a team after picture day, will be considered "quitting the team."
- CLAUSE B: An agreement can be reached between the head coaches of two different sports, within the same season, to allow an athlete to switch sports after pictures have been taken.
- Example: An athlete may be permitted to quit football and join golf during the same season as long as both coaches agree. (Athletic Director has final say in the matter)

Reinstating an athlete that quits: If an athlete has a change of heart and decides to rejoin the team, the following steps must take place:

1. Meet with the head coach
    a. The head coach will lay out a plan for the athlete to follow, in order to be considered for reinstatement.
2. Meet with the athletic director
3. Meet with the building principal
4. Meet with the team

PLAYER EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT :

Any players ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the *remainder of that day*. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all 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 or disqualification. When ejection or disqualification of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball or basketball, the two contest suspension doesn't apply.

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

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student 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 contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

VACATIONS:

Each coach will explain his/her rule concerning vacations during his/her respective season (season begins on the official OHSAA start date). Athletes can go on vacation any time during the summer months without punishment from the coach.

CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SPORTS/ACTIVITIES:

ATHLETICS:

1. The Antwerp coaching staff and athletic administration strongly encourage participation of Antwerp students in as many interscholastic sports as possible. We believe the students will benefit most from varied athletic experiences, and that the spirit of competition is preferable to specialization in one sport. Students will not be

asked nor be required to practice at a sport other than those currently in season. The student will not be encouraged to work at one sport while participating in another. However, when no school sports are in season (summer), coaches will establish OHSAA approved training/instructional programs and encourage, not demand participation.

2. Coaches will always take great care to avoid pressuring an athlete from two different sports in the same season. While a coach is certainly free to ask an athlete to consider switching sports, s/he will not pressure the athlete by continually discussing it with him/her or by asking parents/friends to influence the athlete. This obviously doesn't apply to students who aren't participating in any sport during the season in question.
3. Coaches who are approached by an athlete, who is considering switching sports, should immediately contact the other head coach to discuss the situation.
4. Dual Participation in Sports: Athletes are encouraged from competing in more than one sport during any athletic season. Athletes wishing to participate in more than one sport must declare the team sports their first priority. Team sport is defined as a sport that requires a set number of participants on the floor or field in order for a group to participate. They may not miss any activity in their priority sport in order to attend any activity in the secondary sport. Coaches must discuss and arrange all conditions with the athlete/parent/A.D.
5. Conflicts between athletic and non-athletic activities are always inevitable. Coach and supervisor must discuss the possible conflicts before they occur for smoothness in each activity. Again, if the situation boils down to either/or for the participant, s/he must select his/her primary sport.

PARTICIPANTS LEAVING THE PLAYING AREA:

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the "playing area" in which a contest is being conducted and enter the "spectator area" of the facility to engage in any type of conflict – verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the "playing area" and enters the "spectator area" of the facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athlete's privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what "safeguards" have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. are not to be used by athletes to vent/express their negative comments that would be detrimental to the team.

INSURANCE:

Student-Athlete/Participant Insurance: All students of Antwerp Local School must file proof of insurance with the athletic office at the beginning of the school year. Parents must either enroll their athlete in the school's insurance or sign a waiver with proof of their own insurance.

When participating in athletics, students must file one or the other with the athletic department. Coaches will assist the A.D. in obtaining the proper forms from the participants. Should an injury occur to an athlete that is enrolled in the school's insurance program, school officials will assist the student in filling out and submitting the forms

INJURIES:

Antwerp Athletic Department has an agreement with Parkview (Fort Wayne, IN). A licensed Parkview Athletic Trainer will visit our student athletes during the school day. S/He will assess the injury and give recommendations to either treat or rehab the injury or will make a recommendation to visit a doctor at Parkview.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC AWARD POLICY:

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL
    a. Middle School students who are members of an interscholastic athletic team and who successfully completes the season will be presented with an Athletic Department certificate of participation. If a student completes a combination of five sports, s/he will earn a Middle School letter. If a student completes all six seasons, s/he will receive an engraved plaque.

2. HIGH SCHOOL (Individual Awards)
    a. 1st Sport as a Freshmen
        i. Numerals, reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate

    b. 2nd Sport as a Freshmen
        i. Reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate

    c. 3rd Sport as a Freshmen
        i. Reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate

    d. 1st Sport Reserve Award
        i. Reserve patch & certificate

    e. 2nd Sport Reserve Award
        i. Reserve patch & certificate

    f. 3rd Sport Reserve Award
        i. Reserve patch & certificate

    g. 1st Sport Varsity Award
        i. Varsity letter, chevron & certificate

    h. 2nd Sport Varsity Award
        i. Chevron & certificate

    i. 3rd Sport Varsity Award
        i. Chevron & certificate

    j. 4th Year Varsity Award
        i. Engraved plaque, chevron & certificate

    k. Statistician Award
        i. Pin & certificate

    l. Manager's Award
        i. Pin & certificate

    m. Captains
        i. Metal captain's pin

    n. Archer Arrow Award
        i. If a student accumulates five or more varsity letters in his/her athletic career, s/he will receive the "Archer Arrow" patch

    o. Scholar Athlete Award
        i. A junior or senior with a 3.25 cumulative grade point average and has lettered in at least two sports, s/he will receive the "Scholar Athlete" patch

3. HIGH SCHOOL (Team Sports Awards)
    a. Honorary Award:
        i. The athletic department will provide a special recognition certificate plaque for a community member who has greatly contributed time and service to your specific program. The presentation of this award will be discussed with the athletic director

    b. Year-End Awards:
        i. The athletic department provides several special awards in the spring. They are the OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, Sportsmanship Award, Courageous Athlete Award, and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. The Athletic Council will provide nominations and a ballot to determine the award winners. This will be done in April of each school year and the ballots will be tallied by the athletic director.

    c. Gymnasium Team Awards:
        i. The athletic department will provide (the year) on your add-a-year banner if a team wins conference, sectional, district & regional championship. The athletic department will also provide a banner for a top four finish in a team sport. Along with the banner, the athletic department will purchase a team picture to be place in the main gym.

    d. All State Wall:
        i. An individual 8x10 picture will be placed on the All-State Wall if an individual makes first, second, honorable mention or special honorable mention teams. An individual could also make the All-State Wall by competing as an individual at the State Championships

    e. Recognition Ceremony:
        i. The athletic department will sponsor an awards ceremony, which will be held at the conclusion of each season. It will include all sports of that particular season. Holding separate ceremonies is a possibility due to a team still in tournament. Please attend the ceremony and dress appropriately.

SQUAD/GROUP/TEAM SELECTION:

It is the philosophy of Antwerp Local Schools that participation in extracurricular activities is open to as many students as possible. However, due to limitations in space, equipment, participants allowed, participant's needs, and number of coaches/supervisors, it may be necessary to limit the number of participants in a particular activity/sport. When such selections are necessary, the following principles will apply:

1. Criteria for selections will be established by the head coach/supervisor. However, whether or not a student participated in an off-season program will have no bearing on the selection.

2. Criteria used will be explained to all candidates prior to the try-outs, practices, etc.

3. The total number to be selected, positions available (if applicable), and selection date will be posted before the try-outs/selection process begins.

4. Explanation of Selection Procedure
    a. Coach/Supervisor will meet individually with the participants.
    b. Candidates will be told of their selection/rejection and why.
    c. No List will be Posted.

*Students and parents should note that squad/team selection is subjective in nature. As long as the coach/supervisor follows and upholds the above principles, the athletic director will not intervene in the selection process.

*PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT.

ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL DRUG TESTING POLICY

The Antwerp Local School Board of Education Drug Testing Policy was formed because of a concern that alcohol and illicit drugs may be used by Antwerp Local School students. The Antwerp Local School Board of Education desires to implement a policy which will attempt to provide this district with a safe and healthful student program. This policy reflects the Antwerp Local School Board of Education and the community's strong commitment to establish a truly drug and alcohol free school program. Antwerp Local School has selected student athletes and students who, along with consent from their parents, volunteer to be tested, for inclusion in the testing pool. This policy applies to all athletes from grades 9-12.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY SHALL BE:

1. To provide a healthy and safe environment to all students participating in the athletic program.
2. To discourage all students from using drugs and alcohol. Students will assume all responsibility for regulating their personal lives in ways that will result in their becoming healthful members of a team and worthy representatives of the school and community.
3. To provide students with the opportunity to become leaders in the student body for a drug free school.
4. To provide solutions for the student who does use drugs and/or alcohol.
5. To provide the school with positive guidelines and disciplinary policies for violations of the drug free policy.
6. To encourage those students who participate in athletic programs to remain drug free and alcohol free.

The program does not affect the current policies, practices, or rights of the District regarding student drug and/or alcohol possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is established by means other than drug testing through this policy. The drug testing policy is non-punitive.

Students involved in extracurricular activities need to be exemplary in the eyes of the community and other students. The drug testing and education policy is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed. Although students risk the loss of continued participation in extracurricular activities, no student shall be suspended or expelled from school as a result of any certified "positive" test conducted by his/her school under this program.

No student will be penalized academically for testing positive for banned substances. The results of drug tests will not be documented in any student's academic record.

Any student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must first agree to drug testing registration/consent form in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.

DEFINITIONS

1. STUDENT ATHLETE
   Any person participating in the Antwerp Local School athletic program and/or contests under the control and jurisdiction of Antwerp Local School and/or the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

2. EXTRACURRICULAR
   Any activity of a competitive nature that does not involve a grade.

3. ATHLETIC SEASON
   In-season start dates will begin as published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association or sanctioning organization and continue until the completion of awards program for that sport for Antwerp Local School. There are three athletic seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring. Once entered, the student will participate in the drug testing program for 1 year from date of signing consent.

4. RANDOM SELECTION
   A system of selecting athletes for drug and alcohol testing in which each athlete shall have a fair and equitable chance of being selected each time selections are required.

5. ILLEGAL/ILLICIT DRUGS

Any substance included in U.S.C. 802 (6), which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes 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 for in the prescription or by the manufacturer. We may also test for Nicotine and Steroids.

6. ALCOHOL
Any intoxicating liquor, beer, wine, mixed beverage, or malt liquor beverage as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.01. The term "alcoholic beverage" includes any liquid or substance, such as "near beer" which contains alcohol in any proportion or percentage. The term "alcoholic beverage" does not include a substance used for medical purposes in accordance with directions for use provided in a prescription or by the manufacturer and in accordance with school district policy and rules related to the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs, provided the substance is a) authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which shall state the student¹s name and directions for use or b) an over-the-counter medicine.

TYPES OF TESTING

1. TEAM TESTING
At the beginning of each season, all eligible students will submit to urine drug and alcohol testing. This testing will be completed within the first two weeks of the season on a specified date and time. The collection process will take place on school property or at a Board of Education approved testing facility. The Athletic Director is responsible for ensuring that all student athletes and their parent/guardian/custodian properly agree to the INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT prior to testing. Any student moving into the District shall be tested prior to the time he/she joins the team.

2. RANDOM TESTING
In-session random testing shall be done throughout the season. Each season may have up to 20% of its eligible students tested per random selection. A student may be tested more than once per season. In the event of a positive result, the specimen will be sent to a laboratory for confirmation of results and a certified Medical Review Officer will determine the results.

   a. Random selection of student athletes:
   The Athletic Director, under the Principal¹s supervision, will use a system to ensure that students are selected in a random fashion. This system may include computer generated random numbers or names or by pulling numbers from a pool of numbers equal to the number of eligible student athletes.

   b. Scheduling of random testing:
   Random testing will be unannounced. The day and date will be selected by the Athletic Director and confirmed with the building administrator. Random testing may be done weekly.

3. DRUGS FOR WHICH ATHLETES MAY BE TESTED:
LSD, Alcohol, Marijuana, Amphetamines, Methadone, Anabolic Steroids, Methaqualone, Barbiturates, Nicotine (Tobacco), Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Cocaine, Propoyphene (Darvon), or Any substance included in U.S.C. 802 (6), which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes 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 for in the prescription or by the manufacturer.

4. COLLECTION PROCESS (Urine Screens); Other collection procedures may apply.
The student will be notified to report to the collection site. A specimen from the student will be collected as follows and all students must follow this process:

   a. All students will be identified by the Athletic Director or Principal. No exceptions will be allowed.
   b. Drug testing area must be secured during the testing.
   c. Only lab technicians, designated school administrator and students will be witness to the test.

d. Privacy must be kept for all students.

The Athletic Director is responsible for ensuring the Informed Consent Agreement is acknowledged/agreed upon by both parent/guardian/custodian and student. No student is to enter the collection site until consent and proper identification are completed.

When students arrive and cannot give a sample, they will need to start drinking water, pop or juice. After 36 oz. the human body will need to urinate.

No bags, backpacks, purses, cups, containers or drinks will be allowed to enter the collection area. All coats, vests, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves or baggy clothing must be removed before entering the collection site. Only pants and t-shirts or dresses may be worn in the collection area. Any infringement of the rules will result in the student taking the test over.

Students processed by the lab technician who cannot produce a sample will be kept in a secured area to wait until they can test. If they leave this area they will not be allowed to test. They are not to have contact with anyone until after the sample is given.

Students will be asked to hold out their hands and a sanitizer will be put on their hands. The bathroom personnel will add a dye to the toilet.

Students will be asked to urinate directly into the collection cup given to them by the lab personnel. The lab technician will stand outside the stall and listen for normal sounds of urination.

Any and all adulterations of the specimen will be detected and considered the same as a test refusal or 1st time infraction. (The lab checks every sample for adulteration, such as additives you drink or add to urine to change the sample.)

Adulterations: We will treat adulterations and diluted samples as first time offenses. They are not called positives but have the same consequences. Any suspicion of tampering with the sample will be brought to the tester¹s attention. The sample will be screened or sent to the lab for immediate confirmation of tampering.

The sample must be taken in one attempt and be at least 30 ml in size. The student must hand the cup to the lab technician.

Students are not to flush the toilets or urinals. In the event that a student flushes the toilet he or she will be required to give a new sample immediately or the sample will be invalid.

With student watching, the lab technician will recap the sample and hand it to the student who must then return it to the intake technician. In the event that the student does not hand the cup directly to the intake technician, the sample is invalid and a new sample must be taken. If the student leaves the collection area or has contact with anyone, the sample will be invalid and the student will have to give another sample.

This collection procedure is subject to change because of procedural requirements by the testing agency. The School Board reserves the right to change the collection procedure to coincide with the testing guidelines set forth by the testing agency.

When using rapid screens, all non-negative screens will be sent out with a chain of custody to a certified laboratory for confirmation. A Certified Medical Review Officer will verify the positive test.

5. RESULTS OF A POSITIVE TEST
Any positive urine drug test results will be made known to the building administrator, who in turn will notify the parents/guardians/custodians and student.

6. IF A POSITIVE TEST OCCURS:
Refer to the athletic discipline policy.

ANTWERP LOCAL ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE POLICY

The Antwerp Board of Education, administration, faculty/staff and athletic department strongly believes that extracurricular activities help develop and strengthen character in our students. The focus will be to assist them in developing and strengthening the skills necessary to become productive citizens in their post-secondary endeavors. Extracurricular participants have a tremendous responsibility to themselves, fellow participants and school community to be both mentally and physically prepared for competition. Most importantly of them all, serve as a positive representative of the Antwerp Middle/High School.

Ohio law or the policies of the Antwerp Board of Education do not guarantee participation in extracurricular activities. ***It is a privilege given to students, which may be revoked.***

It is the expectation of the Board of Education and Administration all student-athletes adhere to the Student Code of Conduct during and outside school hours. All athletes should familiarize themselves with the Student and Athletic Codes of Conduct. All head coaches/supervisors will publish those specific rules and regulations, which are unique to their respective sport/activity that is not covered by the Code of Conduct. This published set of rules is to be filed with the Athletic Director and Principal. A copy of all rules must be given to each participant by the beginning of the program or season. Each player must take the rules/regulations home to be read and signed by both parent and player/participant.

RULES of the CODE of CONDUCT

The following rules are specific examples of conduct that would violate the Code of Conduct. Conduct that is not covered by specific examples, but that violate the principles of the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary measures.

1. Knowingly possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, anabolic steroids, marijuana, or possessing, using, or transmitting paraphernalia for use of such substances. Intentional misuse/abuse of prescription medicines. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician shall not constitute a violation of this rule).
2. Athletes shall not partake in any degree or be in possession of alcoholic beverages. Athletes shall not use or be in possession of tobacco products at any time. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping.
3. Committing felonies, misdemeanors, acts of delinquency, acts of vandalism, and/or theft.
4. Violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension, or classroom disruptions.
5. Specific **team rules** may be set forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the athletes by the coach at the first meeting or practice of that sport. These written regulations will be on file and approved by the Athletic Director.

**Rules listed above may not encompass all behaviors deemed "actions unbecoming of a student-athlete". It is at the discretion of the Antwerp Administration to discipline student-athletes for behavior they deem inappropriate. If a student-athlete demonstrates any actions deemed impropriate by administration, the athlete will have consequences for his/her actions.

Discipline for Violations of the Code of Conduct, Item 1

First Offense

- Students who commit any violations of this code of conduct item (illegal drugs, controlled substances…) will be denied participation for 50% of that team's season.

Second Offense

- Students who commit any violations of this code of conduct item (illegal drugs, controlled substances…) will be denied participation for 75% of that team's season.

Third Offense

- Dismissal from team. Will be denied participation privileges for all sports for a calendar year.

Discipline for Violations of the Code of Conduct, Items 2-5

First Offense:

- Student athletes who commit any violations of the student code of conduct, for example, drinking/smoking/chewing: Denial of participation for a minimum of 20% of that team's season.

Second Offense:

- Denial of participation for a minimum of 50% of that team's season.

Third Offense:

- Dismissal from team. Will be denied participation privileges for all sports for a calendar year.

SPECTATORS SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

1. I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
4. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
5. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
7. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
8. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

ANTWERP ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB, INC.

The Antwerp Athletic Booster Club is organized and controlled by interested adults of the Antwerp community who wish to enhance the positive image of the High School and the Middle School interscholastic athletic programs. Yearly elected officers direct the organization. Membership is open to all adults and a yearly membership drive is conducted in August and September.

The Booster Club's income is raised through membership drives, program advertisement and sales, football concession stand operation, and fund-raising projects.

The Antwerp Athletic Booster Club allocates its funds for Athletic Department projects each spring. The Athletic Director submits these projects. The project list is a result of consultation between the varsity head coaches and the Athletic Director. The Booster Club considers these items on their merit and the availability of funds.

All coaches are encouraged to be at the Antwerp Athletic Booster Club meetings. The meetings are at the High School, the first Wednesday of each month.

All fundraisers must be cleared through the Athletic Director prior to the event. All funds are to be deposited with the Athletic Booster Club. No check should be written to a coach. Have the check payable to the Athletic Boosters.