

Trimble High School

Athletic Handbook

2020-2021

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Trimble Local School District abides by the Handbook of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Rules and Regulations.

TRIMBLE LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program at the Trimble Local School District is a vital part of the overall school program. As athletes, students have the opportunity to gain skills in leadership, sportsmanship, handling responsibility, and teamwork.

Participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege which is earned by hard work, dedication, practice, and adherence to high standards of scholarship and sportsmanship.

Trimble has a proud tradition of excellent athletic programs and our performance is respected. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of competitiveness, sportsmanship, and ethics and we represent our school and our community with pride.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- Show respect for the opponent at all times
- Show respect for officials
- Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest
- Maintain self control
- Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES IN PROMOTING SPORTSMANSHIP

- Treat opponents with respect
- Exercise self control
- Respect officials-never argue or use gestures that display dislike for a decision
- Wish opponents good luck and congratulate opponents regardless of outcome
- Help parents, fellow students, etc. better understand the rules/strategies of the sport
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school/community

TRIMBLE LOCAL ATHLETIC CONDUCT CODE

When you agree to participate on an athletic team, you have made a commitment not only to your teammates and coach, but also to yourself. As an athlete, you are highly visible and have an obligation to conduct yourself in a manner that will not discredit your team, school, or community.

We have attempted to clarify expectations in this handbook. However, athletes should be aware that all inappropriate behavior or behavior which might prove detrimental to the athletic program may result in a denial of the privilege of participating whether it is specifically covered in this handbook or not. All students

involved in any extracurricular activity (e.g. athlete, trainer, statistician, manager, etc.) are subject to the participation guidelines, policies and the penalties for the violation thereof.

All rules of the Athletic Handbook and the Student Conduct Code, including specific team rules, are in full force even at away contests and during team travel.

Violations of the Minor Conduct Code and team rules not included in 1-3 below will be dealt with by the coach and administration.

Formal disciplinary action will be taken if participants are involved in the following during the sports season:

1. Use, sale, possession, or transportation or furnishing of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Violation of the tobacco policy will result in a referral to the court appointed tobacco cessation class.
2. Participation in crimes or acts against individuals, property or the general public or participation in acts which, by their nature, reflect negatively on or violate the sense of propriety and decency of the school, community, family, and/or individual.
3. School behavior that results in out of school suspension or violations of the Major Conduct Code.

These three provisions apply on or off school property, during school or non-school time.

These guidelines should be considered as minimum standards of behavior. Additional rules may be imposed by individual coaches with the approval of the athletic director and building principal. Such rules/policies should be given to the students in writing at the beginning of the season.

The season start date will be determined by the coach and athletic director in conjunction with the OHSAA. Special camps, conditioning opportunities, required practices, etc. may be considered part of the student-athletes "season" and the Athletic Conduct Code may be enforced.

DENIAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATION

If it is determined that a student has violated provisions 1, 2, or 3 above, he/she will receive the appropriate school consequences in addition to being denied participation in extracurricular activities in accordance with the following guidelines:

- **1st violation**-Denial of the privilege of participating in a minimum of one contest up to and including the remainder of the season.*
- **2nd violation**-Denial of the privilege of participating in a minimum of two (2) contests up to and including the remainder of the season and/or school year.*
- **3rd violation**-Denial of the privilege of participating in a minimum of three (3) contests up to and including the remainder of the school year and/or the next season.*

*Depends on seriousness of the violation and the frequency of violations. This process will start over at the beginning of each school year.

Violations that occur at the end of the season may result in consequences that affect awards earned or contest play in the following season/year.

In the case of any type of suspension, the athlete may travel with the team or practice with the team.

Any athlete who is suspended out of school will be denied participation in a minimum of one game, performance, or event. The denial of participation will

ordinarily be the first game, performance, or event during/immediately following the suspension. Students will not participate in any game or practice during an out of school suspension.

Deliberately missing a contest is considered a violation of the athletic conduct code. Deliberately missing the last contest of the year may result in the denial of awards and a denial of participation that extends into the next sports season.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

In the case of a suspected violation, the appropriate school official (coach or athletic director) shall notify the student using the "Notice of Intended Denial" Form (copies to student and official) and the student is entitled to an informal hearing with the person processing the Intended Denial.

If, after the informal hearing, the Denial proceeds, the appropriate school official will process the Denial of the Privilege of Participation Form with copies to the student, parent (if the student is under 18 and gives permission), coach, athletic director, and principal and the Due Process procedure is explained to the student.

Any student who is denied participation in any athletic activity has the right to appeal that denial to an appeals board consisting of the athletic director, a coach, and the building principal. Appeal forms are available from the athletic director. If the athletic director is the coach involved in the denial, another staff member will replace the athletic director on the board. The appeal should be made in writing within two (2) school days of the denial and the student remains ineligible throughout the appeal process.

The appeals board will review each appeal on its individual merit and can make one of three recommendations to the building principal: accept the decision "as is", reject the action, or modify the terms of the action.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR FRESHMEN

Incoming freshmen must have passed a minimum of 5 courses in which enrolled in the previous grading period of eighth grade in order to be eligible for the first grading period of high school. This complies with OHSAA bylaw 4-4-4.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

To be eligible to participate in athletics, students must meet certain eligibility guidelines. Students in grades 7-8 must have passed at least 5 of the subjects taken during the preceding grading period.

Students in grades 9-12 must have passed at least the equivalent of five 1 credit courses during the preceding grading period as outlined by the OHSAA. Students must also meet any other OHSAA requirements. Eligibility/ineligibility changes should be made on the 5th school day of the new grading period.

Incompletes will be counted as failing grades for purposes of eligibility determination unless the Incompletes are the result of illness or injury. Students who meet minimum eligibility but have one or more Incomplete that is not the result of illness or injury are ineligible to practice or participate until the incomplete work has been completed or arrangements to complete the work have been approved by the principal, coach, and teacher.

Tutoring or examinations to complete the preceding grading period requirements are permissible provided that privilege is accorded to every student and

the inability to complete required work on time is due to illness or accident verified by a physician.

Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.

The Athletic Director will formulate a list of those students who are academically ineligible to participate in extracurriculars at the end of each grading period. Each coach is responsible for knowing the eligibility status of his/her own athletes.

ATTENDANCE

A student who is suspended out of school may not attend or participate in any game or practice during the duration of the suspension.

To participate in a contest or practice, the student must be at school by the end of first period on the day of the activity and remain at school until the end of the school day. Exceptions may be made for dental/medical appointments, funerals, etc. and must be cleared with the athletic director or principal in advance.

If an athlete needs to be absent from practice or a game, he/she must notify his/her coach prior to the event.

Any athlete that has an excessive amount of tardiness to school, or an excessive amount of appointments during the school day may be denied participation at the AD's or building principal's discretion.

TRANSPORTATION

Only official coaches, assistants, and members of teams will be transported to contests using school transportation.

Athletes are expected to travel by school transportation to and from contests unless released in accordance with the following alternative transportation procedures:

1. Athletes leaving a contest with a parent/guardian must have their parent/guardian sign the coach's team roster release form before leaving the contest.
2. Athletes leaving a contest with an adult other than a parent or coach must obtain written permission well in advance of the contest from the athletic director or principal and parent. Forms are available in the office. Ordinarily, athletes will not be given permission to ride with drivers under 26 years old. If an athlete violates this provision, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action. When returning from a contest, the athlete will be permitted to depart the bus at their home only if it is on the route traveled. An overnight trip will be treated as a field trip and the coach must have approval from the school principal and permission slips from the parents of the athletes.

TEAM TRANSFER

After the first required practice (not conditioning/open gym) of the season, an athlete will not be permitted to leave or quit the team to join another sport or team during the same season.

An athlete that wishes to participate in multiple sports during the same season must declare one sport his/her primary sport. The primary sport should then be the sport that the athlete attends most frequently for practices and contests. The

secondary sports coach will have the final say in the athlete's amount of participation at contests. An athlete will not be permitted to leave or quit the primary sport to join the secondary sport.

REQUIRED FORMS

Any athlete that has an injury that requires medical attention must have a doctor's release or permission form signed that will release the school and school district for any further injury that may occur. An athlete that does not present proper paperwork will be denied participation in practice and contests.

Physical

A physical examination form must be completed and on file with the athletic director before an athlete is permitted to practice or participate. The dates of physical examinations will be announced through local media and any person missing the physical examinations scheduled by the school will be responsible for obtaining the physical independently.

Emergency Medical Form

The Emergency Medical Form must be completed, signed, and on file in the junior high or high school office before an athlete is permitted to practice or participate. The coach will take a copy to each contest.

Handbook Agreement

One athletic handbook will be given to each student annually and athletes and their parents are expected to read the handbook and sign and return the agreement found at the end of the handbook prior to participation. In addition, coaches may expect athletes to follow additional rules/regulation specific to the sport.

Insurance Information Form

Athletes will receive and are expected to return with parent signature an Insurance Information Form indicating whether or not the family has medical insurance which will cover the athlete. If athletes are not covered by family insurance, parents/guardians may purchase athletic insurance. Contact the athletic director for more information. The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) provides the Liability, Lifetime Medical Plan for catastrophic injuries (those whose expenses exceed \$25,000). This would provide lifetime medical benefits, as well as unlimited payments for rehabilitation, occupational therapy, etc. The \$1.00 per student participation fee is paid by the Board.

CONCUSSION REGULATIONS

House Bill 143, effective April 26, 2013, imposes new requirements for the prevention and detection of concussions and head injuries. Each school year, students must submit a form signed by the student's parent/guardian stating the family has received a concussion and head injury information sheet required by R.C. 3707.52. A completed form must be submitted each school year for each sport in which the student practices or competes. The District may not permit a student to practice or compete until this form is submitted. R.C. 3313.539(B).

H.B. 143 also creates new requirements for the detection and prevention of head injuries. If a student practicing for, or competing in, an interscholastic athletic event exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having a concussion or head injury, the student must be removed by the coach or referee. R.C. 3313.539(D)(1) and (2). The student may not return to practice or competition that same day, and cannot

participate until both: (a) the student's condition is assessed by a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized by the board of education; and (b) the student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed provider. R.C. 3313.539(E).

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has updated its concussion regulations, effective April 26, 2013. A copy of OHSAA's regulations can be found at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussions/ConcussionRegulations.pdf>

COMPLAINTS OR GRIEVANCES

Coaches are trained, dedicated professionals who devote extraordinary amounts of time and energy in developing the skills, talents, and attitudes of our athletes. Usually the coach alone knows all the factors and dimensions of a situation. Frequently the coach must make important decisions and judgments instantaneously and under pressure. These dedicated individuals deserve the support and encouragement of the entire school community. Petty complaints, second-guessing, interfering with the authority of the coach, etc. have no place in high school athletics.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Should an athlete or parent have a grievance or serious complaint or problem, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Discuss the matter with the immediate coach, but NEVER during or immediately after a contest. Once the students have left, a meeting may be set up to confer with the head coach of that sport.
2. Confer jointly with the athletic director and the coach.
3. Appeal for a final resolution from the building principal. BYLAW 3-1-1 of the OHSAA Handbook states: "The principal of the school shall be held primarily responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics involving the school."

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our athletic program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child's program. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Contact information for the coach, including a cell phone number and a timeframe when they can best be reached.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach initially within one week of the issue.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As children become involved in the athletic programs within the Trimble Local School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times a discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child, both mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the THS Athletic Director at 767-3434. He/she will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to speak with a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

MEDICATION

Aspirin and any other medications to be taken during practice or a game should be given to the coach in advance with written instructions for dispensing signed by a doctor.

INJURIES, ILLNESSES, AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

During the season, the athlete/parents must notify the head coach of all injuries or illnesses-NO EXCEPTIONS. In the case of injury, the team doctor (coach or trainer if doctor is unavailable) will make the final decision on whether the athlete will participate. Parents or guardians are responsible for notifying the coach of any known illness, injury, disease, physical complication, or abnormality that was not detected during the physical.

LOCKER ROOMS

Team members should expect to help keep the locker rooms clean and neat and will be liable for any damages that occur. The head coach of each sport is fully responsible for the conduct of the team in the locker room. Horseplay, vandalism, or profanity will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for supervising the locker room until ALL team members have left the area following practices and contests, both home and away.

EQUIPMENT/INVENTORY

Players shall be responsible for their own equipment and must report any damage to the coach at once. Players are expected to return uniforms, etc. promptly at the end of the season.

Any athlete that fails to turn in their equipment upon completion of the sports season may result in denial of future participation in the next sports season or the next season within the same sport. Also, failure to return equipment may result in the athlete being required to purchase the equipment or other disciplinary action taken by the building principal.

CONDUCT AT CONTESTS

Coaches and players are expected to dress and behave appropriately at contests, home and away. Behavior regarded as inappropriate during the school day is also inappropriate at contests.

AWARDS

All letter winners will be given a sports pin. A varsity letter will be awarded the first season an athlete earns one. No additional letters will be given. For students' jackets, chevrons may be purchased from your jacket dealer and placed on your jacket sleeve.

The head coach makes the final decision in granting all recognition and awards. Athletes should attend the awards ceremony to receive their awards.

Students who believe they qualify for a varsity "T" jacket should contact the athletic director to arrange purchase.

TVC ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

The purpose of the All-Academic TVC Team is to reward the student athlete in grades 10-12 for outstanding performance in the classroom. The following criteria is to be used to select members of the all-academic team: the athlete must have earned a varsity letter during the current school year in cheerleading or a sport in which all league awards have been presented and have a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale.

9160-PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages members of the community to attend athletic and other public events held by the schools in the District. Due to the need to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the District during the conduct of such events, the Board **authorizes the Superintendent** to bar the attendance of or remove any person whose conduct may constitute a disruption at a school event. School administrators are expected to call law enforcement officials if a person violates posted regulations or does not leave school property when reasonably requested. In accordance with Board Policy 7440 and AG 7440B, administrators may use metal detectors and other devices to protect the safety and well-being of participants and visitors.

Spectator Behavior at Trimble Local Athletic Events:

The Trimble Local Board of Education and Administration ask that all spectators at our events show good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior. We consider inappropriate behavior to include but not be limited to the following: showing disrespect and/or being disruptive toward players, coaches, officials, and or other fans, using profanity, issuing threats, partaking in physical altercations.

The board authorizes the superintendent to impose the following sanctions on any spectator who has to be addressed for inappropriate behavior at an event:

1st Offense – Verbal Warning

2nd Offense – Written warning from the superintendent

3rd Offense – Removal from the event and suspension from all Trimble Local events for two (2) weeks

4th Offense – Suspension from all Trimble Local events for the remainder of the season

5th Offense – Suspension for a calendar year from all Trimble Local events

6th Offense – Two (2) year suspension from all Trimble Local events

The board reserves the right to issue a lifetime or multi year ban for serious offenses

Any spectator who is removed from an athletic contest by security, officials or a school administrator could be subject to beginning at the 3rd offense step above

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Steps in the above progression can be skipped at the discretion of the **Superintendent**

This handbook is also available online at trimble.k12.oh.us

