



PARENT & STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Perry High School
Perry Middle School

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Introduction

The athletic program at Perry High School and Perry Middle School is an integral part of the overall education program in the Perry Local Schools. As with the academic program, we offer levels of competition and strive to be as competitive as possible in those programs while maintaining a caring and positive posture toward students.

In addition to instilling a winning attitude and providing our athletes the desire to gain a competitive edge, we also want to stress the importance of good sportsmanship by all parties involved. It is our belief that through diligent perseverance, hard work, and sacrifice, both on the part of coaches and the athletes, we can be competitive and successful in our endeavors on and off the playing fields.

This handbook is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in our interscholastic athletics program, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We are proud of our athletic tradition at Perry and are pleased of your interest in the Athletic Program. As students elect to participate, there are many questions which both you and your son/daughter may have regarding the Athletic Program. The purpose of this handbook is to answer as many questions about the policies and philosophy of the athletic department as possible. Our intent is to keep students and parents as informed as possible in order to assist in making the athletic experience a positive one for our student-athletes. We are hopeful that this handbook will be of assistance to you as your child participates in the Athletic Program within the Perry Local Schools.

GO PIRATES!

TJ Rockwell
Athletic Director
Perry High School

Administration and Key Phone Numbers

PHS ADMINISTRATION (440-259-9300)

Todd Porcello, Principal	Ext. 9399
Scott Niedzwiecki, Assistant Principal	Ext. 9398
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PHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Kaitlyn Jonozzo (L-Z)	Ext. 9384
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Bob Knisely, Principal	Ext. 9599
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ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT (440-259-9400)

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Amy Stavar, PMS Assistant AD/Faculty Mgr.	Ext. 9567
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Ohio High School Athletic Association	www.ohsaa.org

Team Schedules and to check for Cancellations go to: www.arbiterlive.com

Follow us on Facebook: Perry High School - Lake County

Follow us on Twitter: perry_pirates

High School Varsity Head Coaches

Baseball

John Grdina

Boys Basketball

Al Iacofano

Boys Cross Country

Bill Sarvis

Football

Matt Rosati

Boys Golf

John Grdina

**Boys Swimming &
Diving**

Jason DeAngelis

Boys Soccer

Adam Wilson

Boys Tennis

Bob Walker

Boys Track & Field

Layne Richards

Wrestling

Dave Rowan

Girls Basketball

Roy Infalvi, Jr.

Girls Cross Country

Bill Sarvis

Cheerleading

Channon Horsfall

Girls Golf

Dave Kahoun

Softball

Joe Medlen

**Girls Swimming &
Diving**

Jason DeAngelis

Girls Soccer

Rich Stavar

Girls Tennis

Bob Walker

Girls Track & Field

Layne Richards

Volleyball

Brooke Mako

Philosophy

Participation in the Perry Schools extra-curricular activities is both an honor and a privilege. The Perry Schools believe that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-participants.

Perry Schools have the following beliefs/expectations regarding athletics:

- * Physical and emotional growth of student participants is the most important goal of participation. Athletics provide an opportunity to experience important life lessons:
 - The opportunity to see that many limitations, both physical and mental, can be conquered.
 - The ability to accept limitations, which cannot be overcome.
 - The joys of teamwork as well as individual accomplishments.
 - The ability to accept both victory and defeat gracefully.
- * Interscholastic athletics can make the educational experience richer and more rewarding and therefore all students are encouraged to participate. That said, academic achievement is a prerequisite to participation.
- * Substance abuse can cause significant health problem for adolescents and may also affect the development of skills which are necessary for participation.
- * Adherence to certain behavior and academic standards enhances a student-athlete's quality of life.
- * ALL teams will "win with honor and lose with class."
- * Good Sportsmanship is expected at all times.

In order to gain the right to participate in any extracurricular activity, a student must understand and abide by the "**Athletic Code of Conduct.**" The student-athlete's intent to abide by this code shall be evidenced in an agreement, which shall be signed by the student-athlete and their parent(s) or guardian. This policy operates in conjunction with the Student Code of Conduct, so that, these provisions are part of that code, and all student-athletes participating in extracurricular activities are subject to all provisions.

Goals & Objectives

1. To Be Successful

Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel!

2. Sportsmanship

To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.

3. To Improve

Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a student-athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skill involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.

4. Enjoy Athletics

It is necessary for us to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

5. To Develop Desirable Personal Health Habits

To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits.

Athletic Program Operations

Keeping in mind that the head coaches are hired to coach and oversee the entire program and that their philosophy and style permeate the program, the head coaches shall work with all coaches in the total sport program to develop a style of play and direction of the program. The head coaches must set those parameters within the broader scope of the school district's philosophy and goals as well as the OHSAA goals and objectives.

The policies of the Perry Locals Schools and the OHSAA are established yearly. However, the expectations/standards of the coach(s) are enforced on a seasonal basis and may or may not be included in official Perry Schools or OHSAA policy documents. Nevertheless, the athlete is expected to fully comply with a coach(s) expectations/standards with regard to but not limited to: practices, contests, dress/appearance, language, curfew, proper conduct, care of equipment, respectful behavior, transportation, and locker room demeanor.

The head coaches shall work with the Athletic Director and building Principals in setting parameters for the program. Specifics of each sport are not addressed in this philosophy because they may change from one sport to another and from one head coach to another.

The participation in an athletic program is a privilege, which the Perry Local Schools affords its young people. Although the department recognizes the value of athletic participation, the department does adhere to the belief that the structure or the interscholastic athletic program is triangular in shape. At the base of the triangle is the physical education/intramural program where everyone who wants to participate can participate. The next step is middle school interscholastic athletics. At this level, there is not universal participation. This is still a learning experience and there is more participation than at the next level of the triangle. At each successive step in the triangle, there are greater demands placed upon each student-athlete, yet greater rewards as well. At the varsity level, there is no guarantee of playing time; however, each individual athlete who is part of the team should be made to feel as an integral part of the team.

In building this triangle, the coaching staff for each sport, with the approval of the building administration, does determine the size of it. While it is true that not every member of the team receives equal playing time, and some may receive very limited playing time, the coaching staff needs to develop each individual athlete as much as possible.

The athletes, as team members, must also understand that they are part of a team and have a responsibility to work diligently and to sacrifice personal glory for team success and team goals.

High School Program Offerings

FALL SPORTS:

Cheerleading
 Cross-Country/Boys
 Cross-Country/Girls
 Football
 Golf/Boys
 Golf/Girls
 Soccer/Boys
 Soccer/Girls
 Tennis/Girls
 Volleyball/Girls

ABBREV.

CL
 BXC
 GXC
 FB
 BG
 GG
 BSOC
 GSOC
 GT
 GVB

TEAMS:

Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity, Freshman
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity, Freshman

WINTER SPORTS:

Basketball/Boys
 Basketball/Girls
 Cheerleading
 Gymnastics
 Swimming/Boys
 Swimming/Girls
 Wrestling

BBK
 GBK
 CL
 GY
 BSW
 GSW
 WR

Varsity, Junior-Varsity, Freshman
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity, Freshman
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Offered through Lake Erie Gymnastics
 Varsity
 Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity

SPRING SPORTS:

Baseball
 Softball
 Tennis/Boys
 Track/Boys
 Track/Girls

BB
 SB
 BT
 BTR
 GTR

Varsity, Junior-Varsity, Freshman
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity
 Varsity, Junior-Varsity

Middle School Program Offerings

FALL SPORTS:

Cheerleading
 Cross Country/Boys
 Cross Country/Girls
 Football
 Soccer/ Boys
 Soccer/Girls
 Girls Tennis
 Volleyball/Girls

ABBREV.

CL
 BXC
 GXC
 FB
 BSO
 GSO
 GT
 GVB

TEAMS

7th and 8th
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 7th and 8th
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 7th and 8th

WINTER SPORTS:

Basketball/Boys
 Basketball/Girls
 Cheerleading
 Wrestling

BBK
 GBK
 CL
 WR

7th and 8th
 7th and 8th
 7th and 8th
 One combined team (7th & 8th)

SPRING SPORTS:

Boys Tennis
 Track/Boys
 Track/Girls

BT
 BTR
 GTR

One combined team (7th & 8th)
 One combined team (7th & 8th)
 One combined team (7th & 8th)

The Athletic Code of Conduct

The provisions outlined in this policy **shall be in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year**. This includes sports which commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the end of the school year. Violations are cumulative throughout the athlete's six years of high school and middle school participation (grades 7-12). Disciplinary actions may also carry over from one season to another.

Denial of Participation and Due Process

1. The athlete must have been given previous notice of the expectations of the Athletic Code of Conduct and rules and regulations specific to the sport/activity.
2. When an athlete is in suspected violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, a meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director will be held to investigate the alleged misconduct.

PLEASE NOTE: Results of related meetings by school administration may be used to determine if there has also been a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

3. The meeting and investigation will be coordinated by the Athletic Director and/or Building Administration. At the meeting, the athlete and parents will have the opportunity to discuss the circumstances concerning the incident. Due Process will be followed according to the Perry Local School Policy and Ohio Law.
4. The Athletic Director will determine if there has been a violation of the Code of Conduct and will give the student-athlete and parent/guardian written and/or verbal notification of the decision and penalty assessment (if applicable).
5. The athlete or parent has the right to appeal the decision of the Athletic Director to the building Principal. Any appeal must be requested in writing within five (5) calendar days of the decision notification. The appeal should state the exact reason the decision is being appealed. The Principal may direct this appeal to the Perry Local Schools Athletic Council for a review of this decision. The recommended penalty assessment will begin immediately upon written or verbal notification to the athlete and parent/guardian and will continue throughout the appeal process, unless specified by the building Principal.

Expectations and Consequences

An athlete represents not only himself/herself but also the Perry Local Schools and Perry Community. Since participation is a privilege, it is important that students and parents/guardians be aware of the rules and expectations. A violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may result in the denial of the privilege to participate in a sport/activity. The following expectations are designed to improve the quality of interscholastic athletic competition for each athlete and his/her team. Because of the adverse effects of tobacco, drugs

and alcohol, if an athlete is found in violation of the regulation concerning such, the Athletic Director's recommendations for penalty assessment should follow the guidelines as listed. An athlete always has the right to due process.

During the denial of participation period, the athlete may be required to practice and sit/stand behind the team bench dressed in appropriate street clothes during contests unless otherwise specified by the coach and/or Athletic Director. All training rules and requirements of the sport (team rules) will continue to be followed.

The **minimum discipline/correction** against the offender, in addition to those in the Rules and Regulations within the adopted Student Code of Conduct, will be the following:

Use or Possession of Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Criminal Policy

The Perry Local Schools' Student Alcohol and Drug Use Policy and this Parent and Student Athletic Handbook, coincides by stating that no student shall possess, use, exchange, conceal, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, E-cigarettes, vape pens, vaporizers, Juul pods, illegal or look-alike drugs or look-alike substances or drug paraphernalia. Included in this prohibition are any substances represented as controlled.

Perry Local Schools are committed to assisting students who exhibit behaviors and attitudes commonly associated with alcohol and other drug use. Faculty, staff, advisors, coaches, and administrators will actively investigate reported alcohol and other drug use by students involved in extracurricular, co-curricular activities, and athletics.

No student-athlete shall be involved in any illegal act or involvement in activities that are in direct violation of the Ohio Revised Code (i.e. disorderly conduct, domestic violence, theft, trespassing, disturbing the peace, etc.). Should these reports be confirmed, the extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic code of conduct will be up held.

SELF REFERRAL POLICY FOR POSSESSION OR USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND/OR TOBACCO

When a student refers himself/herself, or parent/guardian refers the student to a coach and/or appropriate school official of their first offense, there will be no penalties as set forth in Section A below, provided the family completes an assessment by an alcohol-drug professional who is certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Service. The athlete must submit to appropriate drug testing and provide the Athletic Director with documentation of the test and a statement as to whether the student passed the test. Drug test will take place once a month for six consecutive months. All tests must be taken at the same time of the month.

Failing the test or failure to fully and timely comply with the assessment and/or any recommendations arising out of the assessment and/or the failure to submit to the drug testing/documentation requirements set forth above shall result in the imposition of the appropriate sanctions as set forth in Section A below. The entire cost of the assessment, any testing/documentation and any after care treatments/counseling is the sole responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

THIS SELF REFERRAL OPTION SHALL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR USE A TOTAL OF ONE TIME FOR THEIR FIRST OFFENSE DURING THE STUDENT'S ENROLLMENT IN THE PERRY LOCAL SCHOOLS. PARENTS/ GUARDIANS MAY CHOOSE TO FORGO THIS OPTION AND HAVE THE SAME CONSEQUENCES IMPOSED AS A NON SELF REPORTED OFFENSE

THIS SELF REFERRAL OPTION MAY NOT BE USED TO AVOID THE IMPOSITION OF THE PENALTIES SET FORTH IN SECTIONS A, B OR C BELOW IF A STUDENT HAS ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING POSSIBLY VIOLATED THE DRUG, ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO POLICY BEFORE THE SELF REFERRAL.

A. FIRST OFFENSE

After confirmation by any Perry School staff member or Law Enforcement Authority, the student shall lose eligibility to participate for **30%** of the scheduled events in which the student/team participates. Should an incident occur late in the season wherein 30% of the events are not available for said consequence, then the penalty shall carry over into the next season/school year. **If the student is playing more than one sport per season, the student will lose eligibility to participate in 30% of all regular season contests for each sport that he/she is involved in. Upon approval from the administration, a student will continue conditioning or practicing with the team after his/her offense, but shall not be eligible to participate in any contests, games or matches.** During the denial of participation period, the athlete will be required to practice and sit/stand behind the team bench dressed in appropriate street clothes during contests unless otherwise specified by the coach and/or Athletic Director. All training rules and requirements of the sport (team rules) will continue to be followed.

B. SECOND OFFENSE

The participant/athlete will not participate in an extracurricular, co-curricular, or athletic activity for the remainder of the year (365 days), and will forfeit all awards and recognition for the activity season. However, there is an opportunity to reduce this penalty **IF** the student receives professional assistance (at their own financial expense). With proof of professional assistance, the participant/athlete will be ineligible for 60% of the scheduled events in which the student/team participates. The participant/athlete will need to demonstrate that they remain drug free for one year from the date of the original suspension. Again, if the infraction occurs in the last week of the sport season or if the student is not yet in his or her sport season, the time will carry over into the athlete's next scheduled game season.

C. THIRD OFFENSE

The participant or athlete will not be permitted to attend or participate in the particular activity or sport for the remainder of his or her scholastic eligibility at Perry Middle School or High School. (The three offenses need not occur during the same year and the three offenses accumulate from year to year starting in grade 7 and ending in grade 12.) Every effort will be made to assist the student at this point. A participant/athlete denied participation for the remainder of his or her eligibility, who has received treatment and has proven he or she has abstained from use for at least six months, may ask for reinstatement from the building Principal.

In addition to the consequences noted, the athlete's role on the team can change. For example: reduced playing time, leadership roles or titles may be taken away, disqualification from post-season awards or letters.

Drug or Alcohol Sale or Distribution

First Offense

An athlete found in violation may be denied participation for one calendar year from the date of the violation.

Second Offense

An athlete found in violation a second time may be denied participation permanently.

NOTE: The Athletic Director will maintain records of violations, penalty assessments and other pertinent information for the athlete's six (6) years of middle/high school participation.

NOTE: THE SELF REFERRAL OPTION SET FORTH ABOVE APPLIES SOLELY TO POSSESSION AND/OR USE AND IS NOT AVAILABLE IF THE ALLEGATIONS INVOLVE THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

Parties (With Illegal Substances Present – Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs)

Attendance at events/parties where drugs and/or alcohol are possessed and/ or consumed illegally is **unacceptable. Athletes should exit the premises immediately.** Failure to exit the premises may result in disciplinary action. Each coach/advisor will address this with his/her team. Disciplinary action for this infraction may include (but is not limited to) loss of playing time and may result in denial of participation for the athlete.

NOTE: THE SELF REFERRAL OPTION SET FORTH ABOVE APPLIES SOLELY TO POSSESSION AND/OR USE AND IS NOT AVAILABLE IF THE ALLEGATIONS INVOLVE ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS/PARTIES WHERE DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL ARE POSSESSED OR CONSUMED ILLEGALLY.

Student-Athlete Conduct Policy

As a prospective student-athlete, you are expected to accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing Perry High School and the community of Perry while participating in athletics. School and athletic personnel expect you to treat opponents with respect, respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by contest rules, display no behavior that could incite fans or other participants in the contest or which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances, including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin; cooperate with officials, your coaches and other participants to ensure a fair contest, and live up to the Perry High School Athletic Code of Conduct.

Reasonable Conduct

The Perry High School Athletic Department recognizes that the safety and welfare of individual athletes and teams are a priority. Therefore, athletes will not engage in any acts of criminal activity such as, but not limited to vandalism, assault and battery, hazing, theft or other disruptive behavior. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics that will earn them honor and respect that participation and competition that the athletics program affords. Any conduct that

results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect/insubordination, immorality/lying to school officials, gang related activities, fighting, violations of law, or conduct endangering others that tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program will not be tolerated.

Athletes are also expected to behave appropriately during school and extracurricular activities at both home and away contests. Detrimental actions include, but are not limited to insubordination, fighting, sexual misconduct, negative/apathetic attitude, unsportsmanlike conduct, and inappropriate language or gestures. Any student referred to the office for a school rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in athletics for a period determined by an administrator.

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity, the type of misconduct, and an athlete's previous record of conduct, each situation will be considered individually. The coach and/or Athletic Director, will determine appropriate consequences, which may include denial of participation or dismissal from the team. In all cases, the athlete will have the right to due process and a written record of the incident will be filed with the Athletic Director.

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the athlete shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport for 10% of **regular season/tournament contests**. If the ejection 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 a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the **second time** in a 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. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the O.H.S.A.A. Tournament Regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decision of contest officials is final. These expectations carry their own set of consequences and when not specifically listed, the coach will set and enforce consequences appropriate to the sport and conduct.

Removal from a Team or Quitting

A student-athlete who quits or is removed from a team after the team's first official contest, will not be permitted to try out for another sport during the same season or prepare for another sport, until the sport the athlete quit or was removed from has concluded, unless extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director, will make a decision that is in the best interest of the student-athlete and sports program. A student-athlete cut from one sport may join another sport during the same season.

Practice/Contest Attendance

The athlete is expected to attend all team activities as designated by the coach and/or advisor unless excused prior to the absence. Unexcused absences may result in disciplinary action including (but not limited to) loss of playing time or suspension from the team. The coach/advisor will keep records of attendance and inform the parent and Athletic Director when the athlete's absences result in denial of participation.

Practice shall only be "Mandatory" beginning with the Ohio High School Athletic Association's 1st Day of Practice. These dates are published in the O.H.S.A.A. Handbook.

School Attendance

The athlete must be present for at least 1/2 of the school day (11:00 a.m.) of a practice or contest in order to be eligible to participate in any team activity. Medical appointments, funerals or other emergencies may be excused, if approved by the Athletic Director. If an athlete is absent from school on Friday or the day before a school vacation, he/she may participate in a weekend or vacation contest with parental permission.

Participation on Independent Teams

If during the school year, and while a member of a school team or squad, the student participates in an organized team's game/contest who is engaged in the same sport, he/she shall be **ineligible** for any further participation in that sport for the remainder of the season (OHSAA rule).

Equipment Policy

The participant must return school equipment in the condition it was received, within 3 school days of the last contest. Participants must reimburse the Perry Schools replacement cost of lost or damaged equipment prior to receiving any athletic awards or diplomas. A participant must fulfill obligations from previous season before he/she will be permitted to begin participation in any other athletic activities.

Transportation

All students shall travel to and from events by school-sponsored transportation. Exception: student may return from events with their parents with the permission of the particular coach/advisor. Written parental permission must be submitted **prior** to the event or parent must personally contact the coach/advisor at an event in order to have the student return with the parent. School personnel will not release any student to anyone other than the parents. The Athletic Director will handle extenuating circumstances. Parents should contact the Athletic Director well in advance of the event if there are any questions or need for other arrangements involving transportation to or from scheduled school events.

Under no circumstances can students ride with anyone other than their parent/guardian unless written permission is given to the coach **in advance**. On-line transportation forms are available on FinalForms. The form should be turned into the coach 24 hours in advance of a contest. It is mandatory that this form is signed before the athlete is allowed to leave with the parent.

Athletes that miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.

All regular school bus rules will be followed.

Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

An individual student, who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular Board approved activities, including multiple sports within the same season, will undoubtedly be in a position of conflict of obligation. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts. Students and parents have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict. It means notifying the coach and /or faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When conflicts do arise, the coaches and/or sponsors involved will get together and work out a solution so the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, then the Principal and Athletic Director will have to make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The relative contribution the student can make.
3. How long each event has been scheduled.
4. Talk with parents.

In-season athletes (O.H.S.A.A. sponsored sports) shall be **strongly discouraged** from attending an open gym (field, court, etc.) by both in-season and out of season coaches. The OHSAA rules and guidelines on off-season conditioning programs will be followed. For more information, visit the OHSAA website: www.ohsaa.org, and search "Out of Season Training Guidelines."

Vacation Policy

Vacations by athletic team members during a sports season are discouraged. However, in the event an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

1. Be accompanied by his/her parents or guardians while on vacation.
2. Prior to the vacation, contact the Athletic Director and head coach to set up a meeting to discuss vacation plans.
3. Be willing to assume the consequences of suspension from game(s) and/or status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, 3rd sting, etc.

Perry Athletic Code of Conduct Contract

I have read and understand the Perry Schools Athletic Code of Conduct and Parent and Student Athletic Handbook. I also realize that each coach will distribute written expectations specific to the sport that are also guidelines for participation. By this signature, I also agree that I will be subject to its regulations.

The Athletic Code of Conduct and Parent and Student Athletic Handbook, as well as expectations of the coach are in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, for the duration of the school year.

This contract must be signed and returned to the Athletic Director before an athlete may participate in any team activity.

Form should be completed and Signed in FinalForms.
You do not need to turn into Athletic Office!

(Participant's Signature)

(Date)

(Parent's or Guardian's Signature)

(Date)

(Address)

(City)

(Zip Code)

(Phone Number)

Please list your legal residence. You must also notify the school if you have a change of address. Failure to do so could result in ineligibility for the athlete and/or his/her team.

Hazing, Pre-Season Meetings and Open Gyms/Open Fields

Hazing

It is the policy of the Perry Local Schools that hazing activities of *any* type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing. ***To be clear, our teacher-coaches should intentionally instruct and address issues of hazing in a proactive manner. Choosing to ignore (“don’t ask, don’t tell”) hazing and hazing-like situations is not an option.***

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

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio law.

Pre-Season Meetings

In coordination with the Athletic Director, every head coach (grades 7-12) will schedule a pre-season meeting each sport season. Areas which will be covered at this meeting include (but are not limited to) safety concerns and warnings, eligibility and lettering requirements, discipline and team rules, practice schedules, administrative (paperwork) details, and the general goals and objectives the coaching staff seeks with the student-athletes and their parents. As there will be necessary paperwork shared with parents, attendance at these meetings is required by each student-athlete’s parent(s) or guardian.

Further, the OHSAA mandates that all student-athletes (grades 7-12) and parents attend a pre-season information meeting prior to the start of each sport season in which the respective student-athlete participates.

Open Gyms—Open Fields

Coaches may open facilities for unstructured free play provided the activity is supervised by a Perry Local school employee and does not conflict with an in-season facility use. The supervisor may designate the sport to be played, but may not limit participation to a select group of students. However, in-season athletes (O.H.S.A.A. sponsored sports) shall be **strongly discouraged** from attending an open gym (field, court, etc.) by both in-season and out of season coaches. Lastly, requiring student-athletes to attend such sessions or implying that a student-athlete’s selection to an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at the open session is prohibited. The OHSAA policy on open gyms will be followed. For more information on open gym policies and 4-on-1 athlete training please refer to the OHSAA website: www.ohsaa.org, search “Open Gym Policies.”

Summer Camps, Squad Selection and Personnel Recommendations

Summer Camps

Head coaches are encouraged to provide summer/camp experiences for their athletes. The coach may utilize Perry Local Schools facilities for summer instruction, with rental fees waived provided all Board-approved criteria are met. Summer Camps should be utilized by the coach as an opportunity to reach the younger levels of his/her program and as a potential fundraiser for the current high school team. When conducted as a fundraiser, players (high school aged) can volunteer their time and skill to help raise money while at the same time impacting the program in a positive way by interacting with younger athletes. The Athletic Director will assist coaches wishing to conduct summer camps by coordinating dates and facilities. Consideration of each coach's camp schedule and target group will be given to minimize athlete and facility conflict.

Coaches who involve their athletes and teams in summer leagues or other training options at outside venues assume all responsibilities and costs for such activities. The OHSAA policy on summer camps will be followed. For more information go to OHSAA website: www.ohsaa.org, search "Summer Camps."

Squad Selection

The assigned coach shall select the squad based upon the sport program's selection criteria. When "cuts" for selection are necessary, coaches should provide ample opportunity for each candidate to appropriately represent their skills; this typically requires a minimum of two days and a maximum of 4 days of tryouts. Final selection of team members rests solely with each head coach. Coaches that select or "cut" to finalize squad rosters are expected to meet with individual student-athletes to discuss options for improvement and general assessment of skills. No "Cut Lists" are to be posted by coaches in notifying squad members of their status.

Personnel Recommendations

The assessment and evaluation of each Perry athletic coach and sport program is an on-going process. The general sequence in the assessment and recommendation process is as follows:

1. The Athletic Director and head coach will have a pre-season conference to establish goals and parameters for the sport program and coach.
2. The Athletic Director and head coach will meet periodically throughout the sport season to review the goals and parameters of the program.
3. The Athletic Director and head coach will complete their evaluation within four weeks of the conclusion of the season. The head coach's evaluation of assistant coaches is due within two weeks following the conclusion of the season. Uniforms and equipment will also be turned in at this time.
4. The Athletic Director and Principal will be responsible for all contract recommendations to the superintendent.

Eligibility

PERRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Adopted 5/99 (Revised 6/2018)

- A) The eligibility policy will cover all extracurricular activities, both athletic and non-athletic grades 7-12.
- B) Students must be annually scheduled for a minimum of 5 credits- High School and 5 core subject- Middle School.
- C) Students shall maintain continuous extracurricular eligibility by having a 2.0 GPA each grading period.
- D) Students at Perry High School are also ineligible for the next nine weeks, if they have any failing ("F") grades in any nine week grading period. Students at Perry Middle School with more than one failing grade ("F") in any nine week grading period will be declared ineligible. For either school, this applies even if the nine week GPA is 2.0 or above with failing ("F") grades. Thus, any "F" grade at the High School and more than one "F" at the Middle School will automatically mean ineligibility for the next grading period. (See school calendar for grade reporting dates.)
- E) All scheduled courses, which issue letter grades, will be used to calculate nine weeks GPA's.
- F) Students declared ineligible can continue to practice at the discretion of the athletic director however, the student can never be involved in an interscholastic activity or any function requiring a performance and/or travel. Teachers are encouraged to report lack of academic improvement and/or behavioral problems to coach/advisors of ineligible students. Coaches are to take into consideration the continued practicing of ineligible students who are not working to improve grades or behaving appropriately in their classes.

Counselors, Building Administration, and Coaches can also initiate and require study table assignment during any grading period with parental contact and approval.

- G) All incompletes will be treated as F's until the work is made up, a letter grade is established and the GPA is re-calculated. Upon recalculation any GPA below a 2.0 will result in the student being declared ineligible for the remaining grading period.

- H) Students and parents will be notified in writing of any ineligibility or probationary status effecting extracurricular eligibility.
- I) Eligibility status from one school year to the next will be determined by the GPA at the end of the previous year's last grading period. Students in the eighth grade entering the high school will be following the middle school policy their last grading period (revised 6/10).
- J) Students enrolled in College Credit Plus (CCP) option courses are required to submit letter grades signed and verified by the college instructor within one week of the close of each nine-weeks. Course letter grades not reported will be considered as incomplete. At the end of the week, all non-reported grades will be calculated as an F for GPA purposes. All grade reporting is the student's responsibility. All written college grade reports are to be submitted to the secretary of the Perry Athletic Center, office of the Director of Athletics.
- K) The Director of Athletics of the H.S. and M.S. will be responsible to check and report eligibilities each grading period to the students, parents, and staff. The Guidance Office of each school will submit interim reports noting failing grades in order to establish a probationary status list.
- L) This revised policy will become effective based on a student-athlete's grades from the first interim report filed the 1st nine weeks of the current school year.

Residence

You may attend any public or nonpublic high school in which you are accepted when you enter a high school from a 7th-8th grade school.

Eligibility at that school is then established by:

1. Participating in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season game) prior to the first day of school, or
2. Attending the first day of school at any member school.
 - If there is a change of custody, you must live in the same school district as you're legal guardian.
 - If your parent or legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the exceptions to the regulation is met. There are four (4) exceptions to this regulation. You and your parents should arrange a meeting with your Principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.
 - The OHSAA frequently updates their policies in regards to students who attend Charter schools or are home schooled. If you are a student attending a Charter or home school you must contact the Perry Athletic Director in order to confirm eligibility.
 - If additional questions remain on the regulations on residence, school principals or athletic administrators should contact the OHSAA.

Transfer Students

Once eligibility has been established at a member school, those who transfer to a different school will be ineligible for athletics for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

- There are seven (7) exceptions to this regulation. To see if you qualify for an exception, you and your parents should arrange a meeting with your Principal or athletic administrator and review The OHSAA Transfer Bylaw brochure prior to transferring schools.
- If additional questions remain on the regulations on transfers, school principals or athletic administrators should contact the OHSAA.

Semesters of Enrollment

After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility.

- The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established.
- Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.
- Those with a disability may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the Principal or athletic administrator to review the exception.

Age Limitation

High school students (grades 9-12) who turn 20 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year, are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

Seventh and eighth-grade students who turn 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year are ineligible for 7th-8th grade athletics but are eligible to participate in high school athletics.

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

Awards

You may receive awards as a result of athletic participation in interscholastic athletics from any source. However, the value cannot be more than \$200 per award.

Amateur Status

You will lose your amateur status and forfeit your eligibility if you:

- Compete for money or other monetary compensation.
- Receive any award, equipment or prize of monetary value greater than \$200 per item.
- Capitalize on your athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value.
- Sign a professional playing contract in the sport in which you had participated.
- Sign with a professional agent (Ohio law).
- Fail to return equipment or uniforms issued by a school or non-school team or organization when the season for that sport is over.

Recruiting

You will be declared ineligible if you are recruited by a person or group of persons to change schools. This may also affect the eligibility of the school team.

Athletic Awards Policy

Varsity Letter Requirements

The varsity award shall be presented to an athlete who satisfied the participation requirements as established by each coach for the sport they are participating. Coaches will relate and review prior to the start of your sport the lettering policies for that sport. Generally, an athlete must participate in at least half of the varsity contests/quarters to be considered for a varsity letter.

- 1) Season is defined as that period of time from the first practice to the awards program.
- 2) Junior varsity and freshman awards are given based on the recommendation of the coach. To be eligible athletes must complete the season.
- 3) Manager's award will parallel the regular awards system if they manage for the entire season.

Award criteria that pertain to all sports

- 1) An athlete who moves from one level of competition to another will letter at the level of the highest competition, provided the athlete has met combined requirements.
- 2) A coach will have the prerogative to letter a senior who has not met the seasonal requirements for lettering.
- 3) Injury Rule: Any athlete who is a starter or plays regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter, if in the coach's judgment, he would have met the lettering requirements.
- 4) In a sport where state tournament play is sponsored, athletes may letter if they have become a starter and play 75% of the quarters, innings, matches, or score team points in individual competition in tournament play regardless of other lettering criteria.
- 5) Complete the season in good standing with the school and coach.

Awards

- 1) Varsity awards
 - a) 1st year award: Chenille award letter with cloth insignia signifying the sport and certificate. (Note: Should the athlete letter in another sport, he/she will not receive a second chenille letter.)
 - b) 2nd year award: service bar and certificate
 - c) 3rd year award: service bar, certificate and award plaque indicating the recipient as a three-year varsity letter winner
 - d) 4th year award: service bar, certificate and award plaque indicating the recipient as a four-year varsity letter winner
- 2) Junior varsity awards
 - a) JV letter and certificate (this award can be repeated for each sport and year of JV participation)
- 3) Freshman awards: numerals and certificate

- 4) Non-Varsity letter award: **all members** of a varsity athletic squad who successfully completes a sport, but who has not earned a varsity letter as set forth by their sport coach, are to be awarded a JV award.
- 5) Championship awards: **all members** of a sport that wins a conference, district, regional or state championship will receive a patch indicating the championship(s).

Senior Sportsmanship Award

This award, The OHSAA- Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award, is presented to one senior girl and one senior boy who exemplify the very best in sportsmanship. The award is chosen by vote of the coaching staff.

Chagrin Valley Conference All-Academic Award

Given by the CVC to all SENIOR athletes who letter two (2) years in their particular sport and have a 3.25 cumulative GPA.

All League, All County, and All State Awards

These awards are voted on by coaches from other schools. In some cases (i.e. All State), the media is involved in these selections.

Perry High School Varsity Club

The purpose of the varsity club is to improve relations among the members of the various athletic teams within the school as well as on the interscholastic level. The members of this organization shall consist of all boys/girls who have earned at least one varsity letter in any of the sports offered at Perry High School.

The club shall have as its specific objectives to increase school and team spirit, provide service to the school and community, promote discipline, and to provide material and monetary contributions to the athletic programs.

Reporting of an Injury, Locker Room and Weight Room Regulations

Reporting of Injury

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics must be reported to the Athletic Trainer and coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed by the physician or treatment center. Once athletes are treated by a physician, **the athlete must provide written doctor's permission to return to the activity. All correspondence should be given to the Athletic Trainer.**

Locker Room Regulations

- a) A locker will be provided to all athletes at the beginning of their season. All athletes are responsible for securing their personal belongings in the locker that is assigned to them.
- b) Roughhousing and throwing of objects is not allowed in the locker room. Hazing of other players is not allowed.
- c) All showers must be turned off.
- d) No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
- e) No glass containers are permitted in locker rooms.
- f) All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the school at all times. No metal or hard-plastic spikes or cleats are ever allowed in any other part of the school building.

Weight Room Regulations

- a) Any athlete who uses the weight room must have an OHSAA physical form on file in the athletic office.
- b) Shirts and shoes are required at all times- tank tops are acceptable.
- c) **No one** is to be in the weight room alone.
- d) All students **must** be under supervision of the instructor assigned.
- e) Free-weight lifters **must** work with a partner.
- f) Replace all weights on racks **immediately** following use.
- g) Know your limits! Work with the instructor to determine your limits.
- h) Do the lifts **correctly**. It is better to use lighter weights for correct lifting than heavier weights and run the risk of injury.
- i) Warm-up with proper stretching exercises.
- j) No chewing gum or eating while lifting/ No food or drinks allowed in weight room except water.
- k) No horseplay or profanity.
- l) No abuse of equipment. Any equipment that is broken must be reported immediately.

Required Paperwork and Insurance

Required Athletic Participation Forms

All Student-Athletes (Grades 7-12) must register on FinalForms. FinalForms is an on-line program which will enable you and your student to complete & file all athlete forms (**except the physical form with the physician's signature**) electronically. The **ONLY** form that you are still required filing in the Athletic Department or Middle School Office is the actual OHSAA Physical form that contains the doctor's signature. You and your athlete will complete the physical form electronically and then print and take to the physician's office. The form must then be completed and signed by the doctor, and turned into the school (athletic) office. Once your student's physical is received by the athletic department the athletic secretary will input the expiration date into FinalForms. You will receive automatic notifications when your student's forms need to be updated. **BOTH THE PARENT AND ATHLETE MUST SIGN ALL ELECTRONIC FORMS!** Attached is a Parent Registration guide to get started. There is also a link on the Perry Schools Athletic website at www.perrypirates.org (Forms).

Insurance

The Perry Local School District does not provide any accident or health insurance coverage for student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It will be the responsibility of the parents to maintain an active family accident and health policy while their student is participating in sports. The Athletic Department can provide information on insurance providers if needed.

The O.H.S.A.A. has purchased a lifetime catastrophic insurance plan that will cover any athlete who is injured to the extent of, or more than \$25,000 in medical expenses.

Perry Boosters, Fundraising, and Athletic Council

Boosters

The Perry Pirate Booster Club is a board approved independent organization whose sole purpose is to support and promote interest in all Perry Local Schools sports. The Boosters provide financial assistance to the athletic department and assist in a variety of projects to promote cooperation, spirit, and assistance to the athletic programs.

Athletic Booster Club meetings are held the first Monday of each month except for July. The board of directors or the Athletic Director may call special meetings as necessary. Special projects or requests to the Perry Boosters should be addressed through the Athletic Director; the Athletic Director may then present the request to the Boosters or develop an alternative-funding plan.

Fundraising

With the help of the Boosters, we are attempting to reduce the overall number of fundraisers done by each individual team. This however, does not mean we will be raising less money. The idea is fewer, but larger type of fundraisers where we work together as an Athletic Dept. and create more of a TEAM approach to fundraising. Coaches who have teams with an upcoming special event (out of state trip, etc.) and have a need for additional funds may raise monies via a fund-raiser. The coach must submit a "Fund Raiser Request Form" to the Athletic Director with all appropriate data included at least two weeks prior to the fund-raiser. Upon approval of the Athletic Director and coordination with the Booster Club, the fund-raiser must meet all established criteria and generally be completed within a two-week period of time from the start of the event. At the completion of the fund-raising effort, a full accounting, along with a completed "sales project potential form", will be provided to the Athletic Director and approved by the building Principal. No school employee can handle booster funds. For more information on Perry Schools Bylaws and Policies regarding Student Fund-Raising go to www.neola.com/perryloc-oh/search/policies/po5830.htm.

Athletic Council

The purpose of the Perry Athletic Council is to improve and maintain the line of communication among coaches, faculty, administration, and community. Major policy changes affecting the administration of the Perry Local Schools athletic program may be placed before the Athletic Council to review. The Athletic Council may make recommendations through the Superintendent to the Perry Board of Education for any necessary changes.

The Athletic Council will meet a minimum of two times per academic year: Special meetings can be arranged as necessary. All meetings will be coordinated from the Principal and Athletic Director's offices. Membership to the Athletic Council includes: Two (2) Board of Education Members, Superintendent, High School Principal, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director, and eight (8) Head Coaches. At the beginning of each school year eight head coaches will be appointed by the Athletic Director to serve on athletic council for the year.

Parent & Coach Communication

“Succeeding Together”

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 benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child’s program.

Communication you should expect from your child’s Coach

- ✓ Philosophy of the coach.
- ✓ Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the team.
- ✓ Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- ✓ Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
- ✓ Procedure should your child be injured during participation.

Communication Coaches expect from Parents

- ✓ Concerns expressed directly to the Coach.
- ✓ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- ✓ Specific concern in regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Perry, 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 wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with Coaches

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

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

Issues not appropriate to discuss with Coaches

- ✓ Playing time.
- ✓ Team strategy.
- ✓ Play calling.
- ✓ 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 position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

- ✓ Call to set up an appointment.
- ✓ If the coach cannot be reached, Middle School parents should call Amy Stavar @ 259-9500, Ext. 9567, High School parents should call TJ Rockwell @ 259-9400, Ext. 9451 and they can set up the meeting for you.
- ✓ Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parents 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. TJ Rockwell can be reached at 259-9400, Ext. 9499.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided makes both your child's and your experience with the Perry Athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

The Role of Parents In Interscholastic Athletics

Communicating With Your Children

- Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for consistent positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure; you lost as well as you won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure your child because of your pride. Athletic children need their parents, so you must withdraw. Remember, there is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit out there in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum achievement and enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Additional Tips for Being a Supportive Parent

- ✓ **Be positive.** Being on a team is quite an accomplishment. Don't let playing time dictate the athlete's happiness. Celebrate the fact they are good enough to be on a team.
- ✓ **Be supportive of the coaching staff and child.** Nothing can erode the intricate fabric of teamwork faster than athletes doubting their own and their coaches' capabilities. It can be a cancer that affects performance; confidence and the edge needed to compete.
- ✓ **Be a part of a parent network.** Whether you are part of a booster club or not, very special relationships can be fostered over the careers of our athletes by socializing with their parents. Parents need support too! Be positive with each other.
- ✓ **Booster parents.** Be satisfied with supporting the athletic department without ever thinking that you have to donate to allow your son/daughter to play. Donate to help make the experience for every athlete the best it can possibly be. The support we receive is extremely welcome and appreciated; it provides our athletes with many things that enhance our programs.
- ✓ **Winning and Losing.** To say winning and losing is not important is not true. If it weren't, we wouldn't keep score. The higher the level of play each athlete achieves, the greater the emphasis will be on being competitive. We take a great deal of pride in the traditions of our accomplishments: preparing for that competition is the athlete's ultimate goal. When things are not going well for your son/daughter or for the team, that is when parents need to be most positive and supportive. If we strive toward making our programs consistently competitive, the success will take care of itself.
- ✓ **College scholarships.** Having lofty expectations for our children is normal, healthy, challenging goal. In striving for these expectations, we must be realistic. Not everyone can receive a college scholarship, nor should the number of offers measure your son/daughter's athletic success they receive. Our coaches will help individuals and parents in whatever way they can to find an opportunity for those who wish to pursue collegiate careers.
- ✓ **One final thought, publicly, be positive, privately – be more positive.**