

Our Lady of the Elms

Athletic Handbook

2017-2018



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to act as a guide and resource for student-athletes and to assist with any questions about the athletic program. It is essential that student-athletes be thoroughly familiar with all rules and regulations governing athletic participation at Our Lady of the Elms. Each student-athlete and her parents are required to read and acknowledge receipt of this handbook before each sport season. Participation in the athletic program is considered a privilege. It is important to remember that Our Lady of the Elms High School reserves the right to revoke the privilege if the student-athlete or her parents do not comply with the rules or conduct themselves in an acceptable manner after accepting the rules and regulations outlined.

The organization and administration of the athletic program are the responsibility of the Athletic Director and coaches with the approval and support of the School Principals, the President and the Board of Trustees. Our Lady of Elms is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Therefore, Our Lady of the Elms abides by the rules and regulations outlined by these associations. Adherence to these rules and regulations allows the school to conduct interscholastic events and participate in post-season, state-sponsored tournaments. The policies and rules outlined within this handbook are an adjunct to the policies and rules of OHSAA, CYO and NFHS.

MISSION

Our Lady of the Elms, an independent, Catholic school rooted in the Dominican tradition, educates girls and young women to listen openly, evaluate wisely, speak bravely, lead justly, and serve compassionately.

PHILOSOPHY

In support of the overall mission, athletics play an important part in the education of students at Our Lady of the Elms High School. Education and athletics are synonymous with the development of each individual. Young women learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics; lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team experience in our athletic program. Student-athletes will be provided athletic opportunities that inspire, attract and nurture each student-athlete to extraordinary achievement and excellence every day through participation in a competitive interscholastic sports program. These opportunities allow for academic success enhanced and enriched by athletic programs that foster the development of teamwork, cooperation, social skills and responsibility.

The athletic program helps promote the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. Participation in athletics demands a high level of commitment, dedication, and self-motivation, which will help prepare student-athletes for challenges they will meet outside the school community. Educational Athletics at Our Lady of the Elms focuses on training students in fundamental skills and strategies enabling participants to realize individual and team success and gratification in alignment and in conjunction with all other aspects of the school. In addition, Our Lady of the Elms athletics strive to instill Dominican values, pride in accomplishments, acceptable social behaviors, camaraderie, self-discipline and self-confidence in all student-athletes. It is our goal to provide a lifetime experience and fun for every young woman involved in Our Lady of the Elms athletics.

Students from Our Lady of the Elms involved in athletics have the privilege of representing their school both within and outside the OLE community. Others will judge Our Lady of the Elms by the actions and attitudes displayed by the student-athletes while peers and younger students will see the student-athletes as role models. Student-athletes are expected to bring pride to themselves, their community and their families.

SPORTS OFFERED

Our Lady of the Elms offers the following sports: Basketball (winter), Bowling (winter), Golf (fall), Soccer (fall), Softball (spring), Tennis (fall), Track and Field (spring) and Volleyball (fall). Adding a new sport may be recommended to the Athletic Director when more than 5 students express an interest in a new sport.

GOALS

- To enhance the development of the student-athlete as she works toward her ultimate potential in the areas of health, teamwork, sportsmanship and integrity through dedication, cooperation, hard work and discipline.
- To guide the student-athlete in representing the school and reflecting its mission and the Dominican pillars of prayer, community, preaching and study.
- To help the student-athlete maintain proper perspective throughout her educational and athletic journey and should constantly remind each of what is truly important in life.
- To provide the student-athlete opportunities to cultivate leadership qualities with qualified coaches.

CORE COMPONENTS OF THE OUR LADY OF THE ELMS PANTHER SPORTS PROGRAM

- P** - Participation - Student-athletes will embrace the privilege of participating on a team.
- A** - Achievement - In the classroom and in competition, student-athletes will strive for excellence.
- N** - Never Quit - Student-athletes will persevere through the challenges and adversity that athletics entail.
- T** - Teamwork - Working together to achieve team goals and successes are a necessity for every student-athlete.
- H** - Honor - Every student-athlete has the duty to honor the traditions of the Dominican Sisters of Peace by treating others with respect and dignity.
- E** - Effort - Student-athletes should expect and accept only the best efforts from themselves through focus, hard work, discipline and consistent work habits.
- R** - Responsibility - By joining a team, the student-athlete has undertaken the responsibility of commitment to her teammates and coach and is willing to do what is best for the team.
- S** - Sportsmanship - Sportsmanship is a set of actions demonstrated by the student- athlete who is disciplined enough to maintain enough perspective and poise to show graciousness in winning or losing.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity must permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. At all times, every student-athlete must represent positively Our Lady of the Elms on and off the field/court.

Student-athletes earn their privilege to participate by succeeding academically. To be a member of any Our Lady of the Elms athletic team, the student-athlete must meet the following requirements:

- The student-athletes will maintain a standard of conduct that reflects the mission, values and philosophy of Our Lady of the Elms, herself, her family and the community.
- The student-athlete must meet the OHSAA and CYO rules of eligibility.
- The student-athlete must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Any student-athlete who earns an 'F' at progress report time and/or at the end of the quarter will be placed on academic probation and will be ineligible to practice or play until eligibility is reinstated.
Every two weeks, the high school student will be responsible for having each of her teachers sign an eligibility card through the end of the quarter.
If grades improve at the end of the two week period, the student may resume practice and play.
- Students placed on in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension are ineligible for practice and competition. They will sit the bench dressed in their uniform.
- Eligibility carries over to the next academic quarter. This is administered and monitored by the Athletic Director and coach.

PENALTIES

For any infraction listed above, the Athletic Director and School Principal will impose the appropriate penalty. The head coach may be consulted if he Athletic Director deems necessary.

Expectations of Athletes, Parents and Spectators include but not limited to:

Game attendance is a privilege and all parents and spectators are held to the same high standards as

student-athletes.

Respect the decisions made by the game officials.

Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.

Respect fans, coaches and participants.

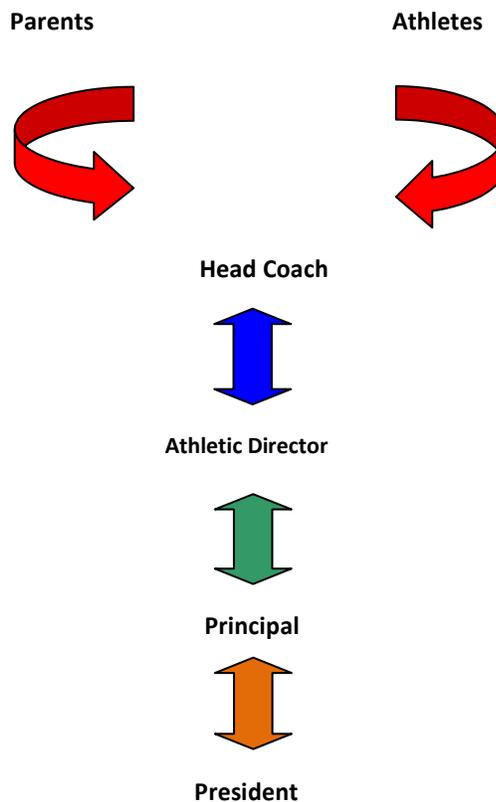
Recognize outstanding team or individual effort and performances.

EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT A STUDENT’S ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE - CHAIN OF COMMAND

Athletes and parents must respect the authority of coaches to resolve any issues that develop. If a student-athlete or their parent has a concern, expressing it at the appropriate time and place is appropriate. Should a concern arise regarding procedures or policies of the Athletic Program, the student-athlete should contact the coach to discuss the situation directly. The student-athlete should contact the athletic director if the initial contact with the coach does not resolve the issue satisfactorily. Below is the Athletic Chain of Command. Student-athletes and/or their parents must refrain from confronting coach’s immediately after games or at practices and wait for at least 24 hours before the contact the coach. Parents and athletes are asked to follow these steps in order until they feel the issue is resolved:

1. Have the athlete speak to the coach. Sometimes the coach is unaware of the athlete’s concerns or feelings.
2. Arrange an appointment to speak with the coach. Coaches will respond within 24 hours.
3. If either parent or coach is not satisfied, contact the Athletic Director for a meeting and follow the Chain of Command. The student-athlete and parent must meet together with the Athletic Director.
4. Keep all oral and written communications professional and respectful to anyone.
5. Use email and social media with discretion. When emotions are involved, direct communication is preferred.

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND



ELIGIBILITY

Academic achievement is first priority at Our Lady of the Elms. To be eligible to participate in athletics students in grades 9-12 must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA. In addition, any student who earns an 'F' at progress report time and/or at the end of the quarter will be placed on academic probation and will be ineligible to practice or play until the grade is improved. Every two weeks the student will be responsible for having each of her teachers sign an eligibility card through the end of the quarter. Eligibility carries over to the next academic year (i.e., an F fourth quarter makes a student ineligible for first quarter of the next school year).

ATHLETIC FORMS

All student-athletes must complete the following forms prior to participating in their first practice of the season:

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAM FORM: The Ohio High School Athletic Association/CYO requires students to complete the Pre-participation Physical Examination before they start to practice a school sport.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM: Each athlete must have on file with her coach an emergency medical authorization form in case and accident requires hospital treatment.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM: All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the "Concussion Information Sheet" which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health. .

TRANSPORTATION RELEASE FORM: If parents choose to have their daughter ride with another parent to or from such event, it is required that the parent read and sign the Transportation Release Form.

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK AGREEMENT: Each student-athlete will agree to the items listed in this Handbook.

All forms are available on the website.

FEES

Fees, determined by the Athletic Director in cooperation with the Business Manager, help defray uniform, equipment, officiating, and transportation costs but do not cover the full expense of sports participation. Fees are due at the start of the season payable to "Our Lady of the Elms" and submitted to the Athletic Director. Fees must be paid by the first practice or payment arrangements made with the Athletic Director and Business Office. Any student-athlete who needs assistance with their fees should contact the Athletic Director.

TEAM FUNDRAISING

Any and all team fundraising must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director. All events and all aspects for the event must be coordinated and formulated with the Athletic Department.

ADMISSION

There is no admission fee for students at varsity home games/matches. There is a cost for students at away games/matches. The OHSAA/CYO sets the minimum rate for admission. Parents and Spectators fees are \$6.00 for high school events and \$3.00 for CYO events.

TEAM SELECTION

Selection of the team is determined by the coaching staff of each team. High school sports are competitive. Try-outs may be conducted for the team. Selection to participate on a team does not guarantee playing time during competition. A student-athlete is expected to honor their commitment to their team and not go out for another sport before their previous season is complete. No student-athlete is cut from a team in grade school.

SELECTION OF CAPTAINS

With the prior approval of the Athletic Director, the process to choose team captains (co-captains) is the responsibility of the head coach. Captains play a vital role on a team and are expected to set a positive example for team members. By attending all practices and games, arriving on time, being the first on the field/court for practices and the last to leave, showing and encouraging team and school spirit and displaying leadership skills at all times. Senior class status does not automatically translate to being selected a captain of any high school team.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Athletic uniforms are the property of Our Lady of the Elms and may be worn only when in competitions representing the school. Team uniforms in the school colors of black and white are distributed before the start of the first game of the season. The following guidelines are expected:

Student-athletes are responsible for the care of their uniforms throughout the season.

Student-athletes may need to purchase undergarments, socks, visors and other items to complete their uniform.

Student-athletes cannot alter the uniform without the consent of the Athletic Director.

During competition, student-athletes may only wear clothing representing Our Lady of the Elms.

School colors of black and white only and no other colors may be worn during competitions.

A student-athlete who fails to return the uniform at the end of the season will be charged a replacement cost; generally twice the cost of the uniform.

TEAM CLOTHING - SPIRIT WEAR

The team captain/s and coaches may recommend to the Athletic Director 30 days before the season begins their desire to purchase spirit shirts, sweatshirts, sweat pants, warm-ups, etc. The Athletic Director must approve any clothing purchased by the team. The student-athlete is responsible for the purchase of spirit wear. All Our Lady of the Elms clothing is black, white and/or grey. Inappropriate clothing cannot be worn at any practice and to or from any competition.

TEAM RULES

Team rules for each specific sport are an integral part of team participation. Each team will have written team rules that are approved by the Athletic Director. Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the rules specific to their sport and/or designated by their coach. Each coach must submit their team rules to the Athletic Director for approval at least 30 days before the first practice. Team rules will be distributed to the parent of each athlete at the Parent's pre-season meeting and to each student-athlete before the first practice. A copy of the rules are kept on file in the Athletic Director and Administration office.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is determined by the coaching staff of each high school team. Because interscholastic high school sports are competitive, selection to participate on a team does not guarantee playing time during competition. Not all student-athletes get the same playing time; the coaching staff must decide which athletes will allow the team its best chance for success. Part of a player's maturation process involves putting one's personal desires aside for the betterment of the team. CYO mandatory playing rules are in effect for all grade school teams.

ATTENDANCE AND PRACTICE TIMES

An athlete is expected to honor her commitment as a student, attending classes and handling school work responsibly. Attendance is required at all practices and competitions. Excused absences from the school day will allow a student-athlete to participate in any athletic practice or competition. Student athletes are asked to make appointments and schedule vacations around practices and game commitments. Refer to the Our Lady of the Elms Student Handbook for additional attendance policies.

EJECTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any student-athlete ejected for an unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all competition for the next two competitions and have no contact with the team within that period. Subsequently, any further ejections, the individual's privilege to participate in athletics will be revoked.

RESIGNING FROM A TEAM

Our Lady of the Elms strongly discourages any student-athlete from choosing not to participate on a team she tries out for. We believe that an educational athletic program has a very positive influence on students and helps to complete their educational experience. If resigning from a team is deemed the only option:

1. Students must obtain permission from the coach and return all equipment.
2. Once the final cut or first competition played, no student may quit a team and then tryout for another sport during the same season.
3. Prior to the final cut or first competition, a student who was cut, may by mutual consent of both coaches, tryout for another team within that same sport season.
4. Whenever a student quits a team, a conference will be held with the coach and the Athletic Director.
5. If a student quits a team after the first competition, team fees will not be refunded. Spirit clothing will remain with the student.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND ATHLETIC TEAM CAMPS

The Athletic Director will determine the policies and procedures for teams who attend team camps or competitions that include overnight trips.

TEAM DINNERS

At the pre-season meeting of the team, an agreed upon schedule and plan for team dinners is discussed and decided upon. When a team chooses to have team dinners, a game scenario for food/drinks schedule must be distributed by the coaches before the first game/match of the season. If money is to be collected by one of the captain's parents for all food/drinks, an agreed upon amount is determined. The cost should be limited to an amount determined or approved by the Athletic Director. The amount will be no more than \$50.00 per family.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior members of the team will be recognized at the last home game of the season. Outdoor sports may choose to have seniors recognized at the second to the last home game due to the possibility of adverse weather. Before each season, coaches of each sport and the Athletic Director will determine the actual date and format of the event. CYO teams will be recognized at Parent's Day as scheduled by CYO.

SENIOR GIFTS AND COACHES GIFTS

In terms of end of season gifts for the seniors and for the coaches, the following guidelines apply:

1. Senior Gifts – not to exceed \$25.00 per senior athlete.
2. Senior recognition day/night – the athletic department is responsible for the flowers and agenda for the day/evening. When parents/teams wish to have food following the day/night, it is their responsibility & should be factored into the team dinners cost.
3. Coaches Gifts – not to exceed a \$100 per coach.

FACILITY EXPECTATIONS

LOCKER ROOMS

Locker rooms may be used for changing purposes, team meetings, etc. However, for supervision and safety, no student-athlete is allowed in the locker rooms at away sites unless there is an adult present. Please maintain a neat locker room. Video-taping or taking pictures are not permitted in the locker room. Student-athletes are encouraged not to bring valuables into the locker rooms.

FITNESS CENTER

Student-athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent Fitness Center to maintain the highest level of fitness, improve strength, agility and conditioning. Open hours for the Fitness Center will vary by sport and will be posted by the Athletic Director. Using the Fitness Center without a qualified fitness instructor on duty is prohibited.

Each student-athlete who wishes to use the Fitness Center must complete the Fitness Center Waiver available from the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Teams who utilize the Our Lady of the Elms Athletic Complex are to leave the bathrooms, storage area and shed organized after each practice and game/meet.

TRANSPORTATION

All high school students participating in interscholastic athletic competitions are required to be transported to and from all competitions in a safe manner. All student-athletes are required to ride the bus to all away games. Bus or van transportation will be scheduled through the Athletic Director. Student-athletes who have driving privileges are also required to have the transportation permission slip on file. Under no circumstances will a student-athlete drive another student-athlete to or from any competition. Student-athletes may never be transported to competitions by a coach. The Transportation Release Form permits parents to transport their daughter to or from any competition ONLY upon completion of the Transportation Release Form. For approval, the form must be submitted to the Athletic Director 24 hours prior to competition. Grade school teams will be transported by their parents or guardians.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

An athlete shall not, at any time, use, sell or possess tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, marijuana, hallucinogens, or other mind-altering substance, anabolic steroids, energy drinks or other performance-enhancing substances, or look-alike drugs. The following penalties will apply:

1st Offense: School disciplinary action; suspension from team/sports participation (games and practices) for a total of 10 school or athletic participation days. Students can watch practice after completion of school suspension. The 10 days of suspension from team/sports/activities, include the school suspension days. If the current sport season ends before the completion of the 10 day team suspension, the remaining suspension days shall be carried forward to the next sport in which the student participates. However, arrangements shall be made for the student to try-out for the next sport.

2nd Offense: Suspension from team/sports participation for 40 calendar days from the date of suspension, not including summer school. If the student participates in a drug treatment program immediately following the second suspension, suspension from athletics and/or activities may be reduced to 30 calendar days from the date of suspension, not including summer school. It should be noted that school policies regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs will be in effect for all athletic events.

HAZING

The Culture for Our Lady of the Elms Athletic Program permeates upon actions that support the mission of the school and the philosophy of the program. Providing an environment that protects and keeps safe each athlete is essential for the success of the program. Our Lady of the Elms does not tolerate any activities having the potential to embarrass, humiliate or injure any student as a condition of participation in any school activity. Perpetrators may be penalized by, but not limited to, removal from the team, suspension from school and/or criminal citation. Hazing should be reported to the Athletic Director. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any activity involving an unreasonable risk of physical or emotional harm such as:

- A punishing physical activity, exposure to elements or sleep deprivation.
- Consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or any other food liquid or other substances.
- Actions of a sexual nature or simulations of actions of a sexual nature.
- Subjection to an extreme level of embarrassment, shame or humiliation.
- Violation of any federal, state or local law.

Additional information regarding hazing can be found in the Parent-Student Handbook.

HARASSMENT & BULLYING

Our Lady of the Elms student-athletes are prohibited from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of other student-athletes, opponents, officials or coaches, including sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, cyberbullying, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption to school activities. Additional information can be found in the Parent-Student Handbook.

SOCIAL MEDIA

When done effectively, social media may be a source of communication for student-athletes. With Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media sources, student-athletes and parents are expected to use social networking sites in a positive, sportsmanlike manner reflecting the mission of the school and the philosophy of the athletic program. Assume nothing posted on social media will be private. Inappropriate posts relating to athletics - including, but not limited to, trash-talking/taunting, profanity, hazing, harassment or bullying will be subject to team and/or school discipline. Only appropriate pictures should be posted, always with the permission of the subjects of the photographs. Social media is not a place to solve team problems. Athletes are prohibited to befriend a member of the faculty or coach of Our Lady of the Elms. Additional information can be found in the Parent-Student Handbook.

SAFETY

The safety and protection of Our Lady of the Elms every student-athlete are the primary focus of every team. Their safety is the primary duty of a coach at every level. The coach must provide a safe environment for student-athletes during all team activities. Coaches must keep the health and safety of their student-athletes as the main focus during practice sessions and when managing game strategy. Head coaches must have knowledge related to fitness and conditioning, general health habits and expertise in their sport area. Student-athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent Fitness Center to maintain their highest level of fitness, improve strength, agility and conditioning. A coach or adult must be present for any student who wishes to use the Fitness Center. The Fitness Center is open 3:00 – 5:00 during weekdays. Each student-athlete who wishes to use the Fitness Center must complete the Fitness Center waiver and submit it to the Athletic Director.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If bad weather causes schools to close early or schools are closed, all extracurricular activities will be canceled. The superintendent can make the only exceptions to this rule. In hot and humid weather, coaches will closely monitor the conditions and determine when to modify or cancel practices and games. At the first sight of lightning, all outdoor practices and/or competitions will stop. The OHSAA lightning policy is in effect.

INJURIES AND INJURY REPORTS

All injuries sustained by student-athletes, coaches, officials, spectator or anyone associated with the school athletic program should be reported to the Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director. An Injury Report Form shall be filled out by the coach for each injury and turned into the athletic office within 24 hours of the injury.

CONCUSSIONS

Every sport has the possibility of injury. The most potentially serious injury is a concussion or multiple concussions. A student-athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. The student shall not be permitted to return until she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the management of concussions and receives the health care provider's written clearance to return to play. OHSAA and CYO requires each student read and complete the Concussion Information Sheet.

INSURANCE

Any student-athlete who is injured while participating in a supervised interscholastic sport must first file through their personal insurance carrier. The school does not provide medical coverage for individual participants in any sport. The OHSAA also provides member schools with catastrophe insurance.

ATHLETIC TRAINER (ATC)

Our Lady of the Elms, in conjunction with Akron General Sports Medicine, provides AT services during high school home competitions. The AT's responsibility is the health and safety of athletes. The student-athlete will be evaluated, treated and rehabilitated by the trainer or referred to a medical professional. The AT has the final word on keeping an injured athlete out of play. All athletes suffering a concussion or heart conditions must be cleared through the AT with a note from a health provider before returning to play. The AT is available to consult with coaches on appropriate training routines, tape/ice athletes and to work with a medical provider in rehab of an injury.

ATHLETIC AWARDS – HIGH SCHOOL OR AS STATED FOR GRADE SCHOOL

PURPOSE

To recognize team and individual accomplishments in sports which are sponsored by Our Lady of the Elms School.

CRITERIA

Awards are presented to each student/athlete who by having regularly participated in team practices and contests has successfully completed the sport season. Therefore, an athlete who has been dismissed from the team for failure to abide by the "Student/Athlete Expectations" or quits before the end of the season will not receive athletic awards and recognition. The Coach of each sport will determine the appropriate awards and the recipients. Recipients will include varsity athletes, junior varsity athletes, managers, scorekeepers, timers, and statisticians. Although the specific criteria for an award may change from year to year, the following items will always be taken into consideration --- ability; effort; attitude; sportsmanship; team contributions; improvement; and attendance at both practices and contests. A Varsity Letter requires participation in at least one half (50%) of the scheduled Varsity contests and regular attendance at practices. With the approval of the Athletic Director, the Head Coach may individualize his/her specific letter criteria. A student-athlete "moved up" from the JV to the Varsity to fill the allotted roster spaces for end of season tournament play will not earn a Varsity Letter unless the requirement of participating in 50% of the regular season Varsity contests has been met. When appropriate, the Coach may enlist the aid of assistant coaches, team captains, and team members when deciding special awards and the recipients. At the discretion of the Coach, awards may be deleted.

FUNDING

All awards will be purchased by the Athletic Director. If a Coach wishes to present awards which are not a part of the Athletic Awards Budget, he/she must confer with the Athletic Director.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

The Coaches and the Athletic Director will resolve any special situations. Special situations include but are not limited to situations such as athlete injury, ties, etc.

RECORDS

During each season the Coach will be responsible for keeping all data pertinent to awards. Following each season, the Coach will be responsible for submitting all awards information to the Athletic Director. All awards information will be maintained in the Athletic Office as a permanent record.

BANQUET AND AWARDS

In recognition of team and individual accomplishments, awards will be presented by coaches at the end of the season awards banquet. Student-athletes will be notified of the date, time and location of the banquet at least three weeks prior to the banquet. Banquets may be held at the high school, a restaurant or an alternative. See Appendix ___ for criteria and types of awards.

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES

"Athletic Participation Certificates" are presented to each athlete who by having regularly participated in team practices and contests has successfully completed the sport season. Therefore, an athlete who has been dismissed from the team for failure to abide by the "Student-Athlete Expectations" or quits before the end of the season will not receive athletic awards nor receive recognition.

SEASONAL VARSITY AWARDS

1st Award = Block Letter and sport specific insert

2nd Award = 2nd Year Certificate (framed) with sport specific insert

3rd Award = Plaque (engraved) and sport specific insert
4th Award = Crystal Elm Flame (engraved) and sport specific insert

Note #1: An athlete may be a member of a Varsity team and not receive a letter. In this case, the athlete will receive a Certificate of Participation or other certificate title chosen by the coach.

Note #2: An athlete will receive only one Block Letter for all sports.

SEASONAL JUNIOR VARSITY AWARDS

1st Award = Certificate of Participation
2nd Award = 2nd Year Certificate (framed)
3rd Award = Plaque (engraved)
4th Award = Trophy (engraved)

CAPTAIN AWARDS

Each High School team captain will receive a captain's pin (CAPT.) – Varsity Captains will receive gold pins and Junior Varsity Captains will receive silver captain's pin (CAPT.)

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

Certificate awarded to students who maintain a 3.0 or above throughout their respective sport season.

SPECIAL AWARDS

THE PANTHER AWARD: The Panther award is awarded to one athlete per season. The recipient will receive a plaque and her name will be engraved on the "Panther Award Plaque" which will hang permanently in the gym lobby. Each High School Varsity Sport will recognize one student-athlete who in the opinion of the Athletic Director best exemplifies the following:

Criteria:

1. **Teamwork:** The athlete is supportive of her teammates. She has a contagious spirit. She is able to not only work to improve her own skills, but she is also able to work to improve the skills of teammates.
2. **Sportsmanship:** She demonstrates good sportsmanship at all times. Whether on or off the field she contributes to not only the sport, but the entire athletic program.
3. **Dedication:** She is "willing to go the extra mile". She demonstrates a good work ethic (perseverance). She goes above and beyond expectations. She demonstrates consistent effort whether during a practice or a contest.
4. **Coachability:** She is a student of the game.

In addition to the Panther Award, coaches may give out the following awards (engraved plaques):

- 1) MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
- 2) TWO AWARDS OF THEIR CHOICE (These awards must be approved by the Athletic Director)

ANNUAL AWARDS

These awards will be presented at the Annual Our Lady of the Elms Award Night.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD (Recipient = graduating Senior)

The highest award given to a graduating senior. The Athlete of the Year Award is given each year to a graduating senior who, in the opinion of the Head Coaches and Athletic Director, best exemplifies the following characteristics:

Criteria:

1. Scholarship - By having maintained a B grade point average through the first semester of her senior year
2. Athletic Skills - The candidate must possess athletic skills of superior quality who have been trained in analysis of such skills. These would include agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time and speed. She must demonstrate a high level of success and skill at her sport(s).
3. Athletic Involvement – The candidate must have earned a minimum of four Varsity letters during the freshmen through senior years. Should attendance be less than the 4 High School years, this minimum requirement shall be 2 Varsity letters each year of attendance.

4. Other Factors: Sportsmanship, Teamwork, and Cooperation-These may be of consequence, but NOT the sole reason for the award.

This award shall be funded by the Elms Athletic Department. In the case of a tie, 2 awards may be given provided every effort has been made to break the tie and thus truly recognize the "Outstanding Athlete". The Athletic Department reserves the right not to give the award in any given year should they feel there is no qualified student.

OHSAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD (Recipient = 1 graduating Senior or as defined by OHSAA)

The award recognizes commitment to academic excellence while participating in interscholastic athletics.

Criteria:

1. It is to be awarded to the two seniors who have a 93% the highest scholastic average at the end of the first semester of their senior year.
2. Each senior must have received a minimum of three varsity letters in one OHSAA sanctioned sport or four varsity letters in a combination of any two or more OHSAA sanctioned events.
3. Must have taken either the SAT or ACT national tests.
4. Must not have received an athletic scholarship (full or partial) in NCAA Division I OR II institutions or have been appointed to any of the US Military Academies.

Presentation: The certificate is to be provided by the OHSAA. The Athletic Department is responsible for appropriately lettering and framing the certificate plaque.

ARCHIE GRIFFIN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD (Recipients = 1 Senior and 1 Middle School)

This award is given to one senior and one middle school athlete. This award is sponsored by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee.

Criteria:

This award recipient shall demonstrate sportsmanship, integrity and ethics in sports as well as in other areas of Our Lady of the Elms School. She is one who is obviously respected by both coaches and peers for her efforts and personal growth in athletics and she exudes a sense of wellness and/or a healthy lifestyle.

Method of Selection: Nominees shall be selected by the Head Coaches (there shall be no ties).

Presentation: The certificate is to be provided by the OHSAA. The Athletic Department is responsible for appropriately lettering and framing the certificate.

COURAGEOUS STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD – ANY HIGH SCHOOL OR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE

This award is presented to any student who has overcome a serious illness, injury, or disability and overcome great adversity in a positive way.

NFHS EXCELLENCE AWARD (Recipients = 1 graduating Senior)

This recipient of this award is a senior student-athlete who has displayed exemplary sportsmanship, ethics, integrity and a positive role model that encourages others to be positive role models.

ROAR OF THE PANTHER AWARD (Recipients = graduating Seniors)

This award is presented to those seniors who participated as multi-sports all four years at the Elms.

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

Please tear off this page, sign below and return to the Athletic Director before the first practice. Do NOT return the entire handbook; it is to be maintained by you for your reference.

I acknowledge that I, _____ (athlete’s name) have read, understand and will abide by the Student-Athlete Handbook and I fully understand what is expected of me.

Student-athlete signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

The rules and regulations in this HANDBOOK are subject to change. These rules and regulations are not all-inclusive. It is the right of the Principal with the Athletic Director’s recommendation to make the final decisions about an issue/incident that may not be specifically stated in these pages or where the handbook grants such discretion.

The rules and regulations in this HANDBOOK do not supersede but may be detailed than the Our Lady of the Elms Parent-Student Handbook.

Approved by the Board of Trustees May 2016.