

**WHEELERSBURG
HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**



2019-20

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Message to Student Athletes and their Parents

You are receiving this handbook because you have indicated a desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program offered at Wheelersburg High School. We are very pleased that you have made this decision, and we hope that your experiences will be positive as well as educational. Participation in athletics is both a privilege and an honor. It gives all students the opportunity to learn leadership skills, to gain self-confidence, self-discipline, organizational skills, decision-making skills, while also encouraging them to set goals. These skills can be learned whether you are the superstar or the last person picked for the team. These skills are learned everyday and in every practice by all those who are willing to work toward them. This is why we encourage every student to participate in every activity possible.

Once you have decided to participate, there are many questions that both you and your parents may have regarding the athletic program. In order to assist in making the athletic experience a more positive one, this handbook has been assembled to answer questions about the guidelines and philosophy of the athletic department. We hope that this will be of assistance, and we encourage you to use it as a reference throughout the year. If you or your parents have any additional questions, please feel free to contact any of our head coaches or the athletic director.

School Information

Wheelersburg High School
800 Pirate Drive
Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694

Main Office – Phone: 740-574-2527
Fax: 740-574-6178
Principal: Chris Porter
Athletic Director: Jarod Shaw

High School Athletic Teams

Fall:

Boys Cross Country
Football
Golf
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer

Girls Cross Country
Volleyball
Girls Tennis
Cheerleading

Winter:

Girls Basketball
Girls Swimming
Cheerleading

Boys Basketball
Boys Swimming

Spring:

Baseball
Boys Track
Boys Tennis

Softball
Girls Track

Mission

The mission of Wheelersburg Local Schools is to ensure the highest quality education to prepare all students for their futures through an innovative and diverse learning environment.

We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities, including extracurricular athletics, is vital to the educational development of our students.

Within this context, it is the purpose of the Wheelersburg High School athletic department to foster and promote:

The idea of competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship while achieving the team goals of success and participation.

The development of self-confidence, self-discipline, organizational skills, decision-making skills, and goal orientation.

The concept of an integral relationship between a sound mind and a sound body leading to a lifetime appreciation of physical fitness and good health habits.

A positive feeling of school loyalty and pride which can be shared with other participants, students, parents, and the community.

The development of self-esteem and self-concept. Regardless of the role students play on a team, they should complete their experience in athletics feeling good about themselves.

Finally, the interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations and also according to the Ohio High School Athletic Association constitution and bylaws.

Athlete's Code

When a student becomes a Wheelersburg student athlete and accepts the school colors and uniform, that student also accepts the responsibilities that come with that decision. As a member of the athletic program, the athletes have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition they are challenged to uphold.

To compete for Wheelersburg High School means those athletes may have to say “no” to certain activities. When athletes wear the orange and black, they assume responsibilities to themselves, their community, their school, their coach, their team, and their family.

It is a privilege to be a member of a team, a privilege that can only be earned when one abides by the rules of the school and the team. As a Wheelersburg Pirate, you must agree to place the team and team goals above your own goals, to place the needs of the team above your own needs. You should be willing to work diligently every day in practice for the betterment of the team regardless of your role on that team.

Academic Participation Policy

OHSAA academic requirements mean that a student must pass the equivalent of five credits each grading period. Eligibility will be gained or lost every grading period. In order for students to be eligible for fall sports they must pass five credits during the last grading period of the previous school year. **Semester, summer school, and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.**

Attendance Regulations

Any student participating in an athletic program must be present at least one half of the school day in which a contest or practice is scheduled. If the student is not present the athlete will not be permitted to practice or participate that day. Exceptional situations may be appealed to the athletic director or principal.

Cancellation of Contests/Practices Due to Weather

If Wheelersburg Schools are closed due to inclement weather, a decision on the status of games will be made by the high school principal and athletic director as soon as possible. Once a decision has been made, the head coach of each team will contact team members concerning the status of contests and practices.

Conflicts with Other Activities

The Wheelersburg Athletic Department encourages students to get involved in as many school activities as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible for students to participate in all the activities they may want to. Each coach will determine the criteria necessary for a student to remain a member of the team. Students will be made aware of these criteria prior to the teams' selection. Hopefully students will not put themselves in a position where conflicts arise between activities; however, if they do, it will be the student's responsibility to decide which activity they will participate in, even if it might mean loss of playing time or removal from one of the activities.

The Wheelersburg Athletic Department and coaches are opposed to specialization in sports at the high school level. The benefits of extracurricular participation should not be limited to one season a year. Every athlete is encouraged to participate in every sport possible. Every coach in the system will be expected to encourage their athletes to participate in other sports.

Drugs and Alcohol Expectations

All athletes are expected to follow the guidelines contained in the Wheelersburg High School Student Handbook and to be free of alcohol and drugs. At the beginning of each season, **the head coach of each team will hold a meeting** for athletes and parents. At this meeting, the coach will review team rules, and give a brief presentation explaining the school's drug and alcohol policy. In order to continue participating in team activities, every team member and at least one parent are required to attend this meeting. The policy is outlined below.

Drug & Alcohol Policy (from Student Handbook)

The Wheelersburg Board of Education shall not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, consume, show evidence of having consumed, used or offer for sale any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, or any mind-altering substance while on school grounds or school facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations under authority of the district or in school-owned or approved vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any substances that are presented as controlled substances, non-alcoholic beers, steroids and/or drug paraphernalia normally referred to as counterfeit or "look-a-likes". The Board wishes to emphasize the following:

A student is required to obey existing laws on school grounds and while involved in school activities. School authorities have the same responsibility as any other citizen to report violations of the law. The final disposition of any problem, however, will be determined by the building principal with due consideration of the welfare of students and of any other relevant factors involved.

Discipline will be imposed independent of court action. Students will be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion proceedings for possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.

Students will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions and will be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

If conditions warrant, the administration will refer the student for prosecution and offer full cooperation in a criminal investigation.

A reduction in penalty may be considered for the first offense if the student receives professional assistance. Professional assistance may include, but not be limited to: an alcohol/drug education program, assessment with follow through based on the assessment findings, counseling, outpatient treatment, or inpatient treatment.

Consequences -The following procedures and consequences will be followed in dealing with Drug & Alcohol infractions. The principal will maintain all records. Any student who has previously been suspended for a drug-related offense will automatically move to "SECOND OFFENSE" procedures. Any student caught selling illegal substances or counterfeit substances will automatically move to "SECOND OFFENSE" procedures.

FIRST OFFENSE

The principal may suspend (Out of School Suspension) the student for ten (10) school days and make a recommendation for expulsion to the superintendent of schools.

The principal will notify the parent(s) in writing using the suspension form.

The principal will notify the parent(s) to arrange a conference.

The principal may notify law enforcement officials.

The ten days of suspension may be reduced to five days of suspension if the student and parent(s) agree to consult a physician or professional agency for the purpose of obtaining a program of assistance. Proof must be provided within two days.

The contacted physician or agency, with the client's permission, notify the principal that the client made contact and is attending a substance abuse program. The principal will obtain a release to allow the physician or agency to release information on compliance with the school's recommendation. If the physician or agency notifies the principal that the student is not satisfactorily participating in the treatment program,

the ten (10) days of suspension, and the recommendation for expulsion will be reinstated.

SECOND OFFENSE

The principal will automatically give a ten-day (10) out of school suspension.

The principal will notify the parent(s) in writing using the suspension form.

The principal will notify the parent(s) to arrange a conference.

The principal may notify the law enforcement officials.

The principal will recommend to the superintendent that the student be expelled from school.

Additional consequences for athletes and cheerleaders include:

Any athlete or cheerleader in violation of the above while on school grounds, attending or participating in a school activity will be disciplined according to our Drug & Alcohol Policy.

For any athlete or cheerleader not on school grounds or attending or participating in a school function, the following procedures will be followed in dealing with Drug & Alcohol infractions. The coach will maintain all records and assure confidentiality. Any athlete or cheerleader caught selling drugs will automatically skip "FIRST OFFENSE" and go to "SECOND OFFENSE" consequences. Any athlete or cheerleader who has previously been suspended for a drug related offense while a member of a team at Wheelersburg Schools will automatically move to "SECOND OFFENSE" procedures.

DEFINITIONS

Athletic Season - as defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association in their handbook.

Athlete - A student who is actively participating during an athletic season.

Student - A child under the supervision of school employees during school or at a school sponsored activity.

FIRST OFFENSE

The head coach will remove the athlete or cheerleader from participation, notify the principal, and recommend to the athletic director dismissal from the team.

The head coach will notify the parent(s) and the athletic director will arrange a conference.

The removal may be reduced to a minimum of one game and the dismissal recommendation withdrawn if the student and parent(s) agree to consult a physician or professional agency for the purpose of obtaining a program of assistance from a source approved by the athletic director and principal.

The contacted physician or agency will, with client permission, notify the athletic director if the student fails to participate in the treatment program, if so the removal and the recommendation for dismissal will be reinstated.

SECOND OFFENSE

Automatic removal from all athletic participation for a period of one calendar year.

The Athletic Director will notify the parent(s).

Tobacco Expectations

All athletes are expected to follow the guidelines contained in the Wheelersburg High School Student Handbook and to be free of tobacco products. At the beginning of each season, **the head coach of each team will hold a meeting** for athletes and parents. At this meeting, the coach will review team rules and give a brief presentation explaining the school's tobacco policy. In order to continue participating in team activities, every team member and at least one parent are required to attend this meeting. The policy is outlined below.

Tobacco Policy (from Student Handbook)

Tobacco - Contact with tobacco products including, holding, transporting, chewing or smoking of any tobacco product. This also includes vapor cigarettes, e-cigarettes & other products as spelled out in the board of education policy.

Consequences

1. 1st offense - automatic three-days of Day-Long Detention and successful completion of the school-sponsored tobacco education program
2. 2nd offense - automatic three-day out-of-school suspension
3. 3rd offense - automatic five-day out-of-school suspension
4. 4th offense – automatic ten-day suspension and recommendation for expulsion

Additional consequences for athletes and cheerleaders include:

Any athlete or cheerleader in violation of the above while on school grounds, attending or participating in a school activity will be disciplined according to our Tobacco Policy.

For any athlete or cheerleader not on school grounds or attending or participating in a school function, the following procedures will be followed in dealing with tobacco infractions. The coach will maintain all records and assure confidentiality. For a **FIRST OFFENSE**, the athlete will be suspended from the team for a minimum of one game. For a **SECOND OFFENSE**, the athlete will be suspended for a minimum of three games. For a **THIRD OFFENSE**, the athlete will be removed from the team.

Social Media/Digital Citizenship Policy

Wheelersburg student-athletes are held at a standard of excellence both on and off the playing arena. Therefore, using ANY form of social media or electronic device should be done carefully and wisely. All messages, pictures, and videos should be appropriate, in good taste and reflect the integrity of Wheelersburg Local Schools, your team, your family, and you the athlete. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Assume nothing is private, ever. If you are putting your thoughts on the internet/social media, there is no "invasion of privacy." Information can be accessible even after you remove it. Your posts can be permanent. Once posted, your digital footprint remains.
2. Similar to comments made in person, The Wheelersburg Athletic Department will not tolerate inappropriate comments and behavior online. Therefore, the student-athlete must take responsibility for his/her own electronic device.
3. Remember that your audience is vast. Keep in mind that what you say can be seen by the world – it could affect your future. Be wise.

4. Student-athletes may not engage and influence any non-Wheelersburg student-athletes for the purpose of enrolling at Wheelersburg for athletics.
5. Student-athletes may not discuss injuries, either yours or that of any of your teammates.
6. Never post pictures and/or videos from the locker room, practice, bus, school facilities, or game without permission of the Athletic Director or coach.
7. Complaining about your coaches or teammates will NOT solve anything. Talk to the necessary parties to solve problems in a more healthy setting.
8. Do not talk about your opponents in a negative fashion. “Trash talking” actions do NOT correspond with our beliefs at Wheelersburg Local Schools.
9. Students are to refrain from submitting photos, videos, comments or posters showing personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, or sexual content.
10. No posts or messages should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities such as hazing, harassment, soliciting, or discrimination.
11. Keep in mind if you retweet, share, or forward a message or multimedia file, you agree with it and promote it.
12. If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider discussing the content with your coach and/or administration. Be proactive.
13. Play the game to the best of your abilities, not with your fingertips.

Student-athletes who violate our Social Media/Digital Citizenship Policy may face disciplinary action including, but not limited to: meeting with administration and/or coaches and parents, removal of the unacceptable content, team-related consequences – as determined by the school administration and coaches or temporary or permanent suspension from the team (with conditions for reinstatement).

Emergency Medical Authorization, Physical, and Insurance Waiver Forms

All athletes must have a completed emergency medical authorization form, a completed physical form, and a completed insurance waiver form on file **prior** to the first day of tryouts or practice. All forms should be turned in to the head coach, and no athlete will be permitted to participate without these forms being completed. In the event of an emergency, coaches will have a copy of the emergency medical form in their possession for use at all practices and contests. Blank forms can be found in the appendix of the handbook or they can be picked up in the main office.

Equipment

Each athlete will be issued equipment which is the property of the school. Athletes are responsible for this equipment and are expected to maintain it. Please follow the “care of product labels” when laundering cloth goods. All equipment is to be returned at the end of each season. Athletes who fail to return equipment will have holds placed on their records until all equipment has been returned.

Facility Usage

School facilities are extremely limited; therefore all scheduling for use of these athletic facilities must be coordinated through the principal or athletic director. Boosters clubs are permitted to use areas of the building for meetings and other activities, but the events must be scheduled through the office in advance.

No athlete is to use any indoor facility (gym, weight room, etc.) without a staff member being present. Outside fields, open to the public, may be used provided a school activity is not going on.

Failure to Complete a Season

It is the athletic department's policy that if a student athlete decides not to finish the season in a sport that he has participated in (practice or games) he/she will be ineligible to participate in any organized fitness or conditioning program that another sport may be conducting until the first sports' season is over, or the second season officially starts. The intent of this policy is to discourage athletes from not fulfilling their commitment to a team. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the principal, the athletic director, and head coach of the team in which the athlete quit.

Insurance

Wheelersburg Local School District does not provide accident or health insurance coverage for athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility of the parents to maintain an active accident and health insurance policy while your child is participating in sports.

Lettering Guidelines/Awards

The award system of Wheelersburg High School is as follows:

1st year Award:	Letter, First Year Certificate, Pin
2nd Year Award:	Second Year Certificate, Pin
3rd Year Award:	Third Year Certificate, Pin
4th Year Award:	Fourth Year Certificate, Pin

Certificates and pins will be awarded for each sport that a student athlete participates in. Only one chenille letter will be awarded per athlete. The criteria for earning special awards vary from sport to sport because of the different characteristics of each program. Each head coach will be permitted to determine the criteria necessary for earning special awards.

NCAA Clearinghouse / Athletic Scholarships

The clearinghouse is an arm of the NCAA. It was established to certify student athletes for Division I and Division II institutions. In order to be eligible to compete for athletic scholarships at these levels, the athlete must be registered and must send either an ACT and/or SAT score to the clearinghouse. Information concerning this can be obtained in the high school guidance office. There is a cost to register and it cannot be done until the summer between your junior and senior year. The best thing underclassmen can do to become eligible for an athletic scholarship is to maintain a high grade point average in the core courses during their first three years of high school.

Playing Time

There is no guarantee on any amount of playing time. As athletes move through the program there could be very limited playing time given. The coaches determine who plays and how long, based on ability, practice, rules, and desire. When there is a question about playing time the **athlete** should speak with the coach. It is important to reinforce with your athlete that his/her contribution to the team is just as important regardless of the amount of his or her playing time.

Preseason Meetings

Each coach will organize a preseason meeting with players and parents. In the meeting, the coach will pass out an Athletic Handbook to any student athlete that does not have one. The coach will review items in this handbook along with specific team rules, expectations, sportsmanship, and any other items pertaining to his or her sport.

The OHSAA also requires that all parents of athletes attend a pre-season meeting conducted by the principal and athletic director. The meeting will help answer concerns about eligibility and sportsmanship.

Risk of Participation

Participation in interscholastic athletics can lead to possible injury to student athletes. Although most injuries are minor in nature, it is possible that an injury could occur that is serious enough to cause a person to become paraplegic, quadriplegic, or result in death. Wheelersburg Schools and staff take every precaution to prevent such injuries, but such risk does exist.

The OHSAA guidelines for dealing with head injuries, which is included in the 2018-19 OHSAA Handbook under General Sports Guidelines, will be followed by all coaches and team trainers. The guidelines will be discussed at all preseason coaches meetings as well as at the annual OHSAA parent meeting conducted by the principal and athletic director.

Transfers

Per the OHSAA, a transfer from one school district to another school district (public or private) without a change in residence of the parents or legal guardian will likely make the student ineligible for athletic participation for all or part of the year. Before any student athlete transfers to another school he or she should consult with the athletic director or the principal. All necessary paper work must be completed by new students (students who enroll at WHS after the start of their ninth grade year) before participating in any sport.