

**TRIMBLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Home of the Tomcats**



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
2011-2012**

## **OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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

### **TRIMBLE LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

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

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

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

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

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

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES IN PROMOTING SPORTSMANSHIP**

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

## TRIMBLE LOCAL ATHLETIC CONDUCT CODE

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

We have attempted to clarify expectations in this handbook. However, athletes should be aware that all inappropriate behavior or behavior which might prove detrimental to the athletic program may result in a denial of the privilege of participating whether it is specifically covered in this handbook or not. All students involved in any extracurricular activity (e.g. athlete, trainer, statistician, manager, etc.) are subject to the participation guidelines, policies and the penalties for the violation thereof.

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

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

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

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

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

These guidelines should be considered as minimum standards of behavior. Additional rules may be imposed by individual coaches

with the approval of the athletic director. Such rules/policies should be given to the students in writing at the beginning of the season.

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

### **DENIAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATION**

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

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

**\*Depends on seriousness of the violation and the frequency of violations throughout the athlete's high school career.**

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

**In the case of any type of suspension, the athlete may not travel with the team or practice with the team. The athlete must also sit in the bleachers while attending the games.**

Any athlete who is suspended out of school will be denied participation in a minimum of one game, performance, or event. The denial of participation will ordinarily be the first game, performance, or event during/immediately following the suspension. Students will not participate in any game or practice during an out of school suspension.

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

### **DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES**

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

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

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

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

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR FRESHMEN**

Incoming freshmen (beginning August 2007) must have passed 75% of all courses attempted in the last grading period of eighth grade in order to be eligible for the first grading period of high school. This complies with OHSAA bylaw 4-4-3.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

To be eligible to participate in athletics, students must meet certain eligibility guidelines. Junior high school students must have passed at least 75% of the subjects taken during the preceding grading period.

Students in grades 9-12 must have passed at least the equivalent of **five 1 credit courses** and also must have earned a minimum **grade point average of 1.0** during the preceding grading period. Eligibility/ineligibility changes should be made on the 5<sup>th</sup> school day of the new grading period.

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

Tutoring or examinations to complete the preceding grading period requirements are permissible provided that privilege is accorded to every student and the inability to complete required work on time is due to illness or accident verified by a physician.

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

A list of those students who are academically ineligible to participate in extra-curriculars will be available each grading period. Each coach is responsible for knowing the eligibility status of his/her own athletes.

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

To participate in a contest or practice, the student must be at school by 8:00 am on the day of the activity and remain at school until the end of the school day. Exceptions may be made for

dental/medical appointments, funerals, etc. and must be cleared with the athletic director or principal in advance.

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

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

## **TRANSPORTATION**

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

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

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

## **TEAM TRANSFER**

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

**An athlete that wishes to participate in multiple sports during the same season must declare one sport his/her primary sport. The primary sport should then be the sport that the**

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

## **REQUIRED FORMS**

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

### **Physical**

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

### **Emergency Medical Form**

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

### **Handbook Agreement**

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

### **Insurance Information Form**

Athletes will receive and are expected to return with parent signature an Insurance Information Form indicating whether or not the family has medical insurance which will cover the athlete. If athletes are not covered by family insurance, parents/guardians may purchase athletic insurance. Contact the athletic director for more

information. The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) provides the Liability, Lifetime Medical Plan for catastrophic injuries (those whose expenses exceed \$25,000). This would provide lifetime medical benefits, as well as unlimited payments for rehabilitation, occupational therapy, etc. The \$1.00 per student participation fee is paid by the Board.

### **COMPLAINTS OR GRIEVANCES**

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

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

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

### **MEDICATION**

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

## **INJURIES, ILLNESSES, AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

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

## **LOCKER ROOMS**

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

## **EQUIPMENT/INVENTORY**

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

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

## **CONDUCT AT CONTESTS**

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

## **AWARDS**

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

All senior athletes who have earned a varsity letter during their senior year will receive a plaque with his or her varsity athletic achievement listed.

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

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

## **TVC ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM**

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

**[This handbook is available online at trimble.k12.oh.us](http://trimble.k12.oh.us)**