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ABBREVIATIONS THROUGHOUT HANDBOOK

AD = Athletic Director
OCC = Ohio Capitol Conference
OHSAA = Ohio High School Athletic Association
SWL = Southwest Licking Local Schools
WM = Watkins Memorial

SOUTHWEST LICKING LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

The athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.

ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES

The student shall learn teamwork, self-discipline, respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Students must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.

THE ATHLETIC BOOSTER ASSOCIATION

The athletic booster association consists of parents and community members who fundraise for and promote Watkins Memorial High and Middle School Sports programs. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the high school library starting at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT

SWL District does not discriminate, in violation of law, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion, or disability in admission to access to treatment in, or employment in any service, program or activity sponsored by SWL. A copy of the board policy can be obtained through the superintendent's office.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SOUTHWEST LICKING STUDENT ATHLETE

Being a member of a Watkins Memorial athletic team carries a certain set of responsibilities.

- **Tradition/Reputation:** Student athletes have inherited a tradition to win with honor and are challenged to uphold it. Student athletes represent their school as well as themselves when wearing Black and Gold and should compete to the best of their ability.
- **Character:** Broaden themselves and develop strength of character. Gain the greatest possible good from school experiences in preparing for adult life.
- **Leadership:** Student athletes are under a spotlight. Communities judge our school by our conduct and attitudes, on and off the field. This is a way to contribute to school spirit and community pride.
- **Home/Community:** Student athletes represent their families. They should not do anything that would make their parents ashamed. They should set good examples for younger athletes.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The OHSAA, OCC, and athletic department believe in basic sportsmanship principles.

Students should:

- Believe participation is more important than winning
- Participate to their best ability with honor
- Display respect for athletic opponents and their schools
- Display respect for officials
- Respect the rules and conform to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules
- Strive to maintain self-control
- Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community

Responsibilities of Coaches, Participants and Parents (Spectators)

- Demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship
- Exercise self-control. Never argue or make gestures
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion
- Practice positive cheers and encourage our own team without demeaning the opponent
- Never attempt to distract opposing players or interfere with performance

Examples of Inappropriate Behavior (not limited to)

- Use of profanity
- Berating officials, players, coaches, or spectators including signs, chants or cheers
- Inciting other spectators or players to inappropriate behavior
- Theft / Damage / Destruction of school property
- Interruption of contest including throwing objects on the playing area, entering the playing area, or other disruptive behavior

Possible Consequences

- Conference/hearing with school official
- Possible suspension/termination as participant or coach
- Removal from contest/premises
- Denied attendance at contests
- School Suspensions/Expulsions for students violating school rules
- Restitution

Ejection of Coaches or Participants from Athletic Contests

Ejected coach or participant (OHSAA bylaw 12 and 8.3.1) shall NOT participate for the remainder of that day nor the next two contests (one in football). Suspensions may carry over into the next sport. Further violations can result in permanent suspension or termination.

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to display proper behavior as all times. There are consequences for students who display inappropriate behavior. Consequences will be progressive as poor behavior continues. The policies governing the Athletic/Activities Code of Conduct are in effect during the entire calendar year (including summers). This begins with student's enrollment or the first day of participation whichever comes first. This ends with the student's last day of school or upon the completion of the student's spring activities whichever comes last (senior year). These consequences are separate and in addition to school rule violations. **See Appendix A.**

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The SWL community is concerned with the health habits of student athletes. It is convinced that athletics and the use of tobacco, alcohol or any illegal drug are not compatible. Students are prohibited from the use or possession of these products at all times during the entire year.

DEFINITIONS

Intervention: Assessments, treatments, rehabilitation, or counseling may be required for participation after a self referral or violation. Intervention programs must be approved or designed by administration. If a student athlete refuses to enter an intervention program, the student will be denied participation. Students and their parents will assume all costs for intervention.

Denied Participation: This is different from an athletic suspension in that students cannot:

- Practice
- Attend any team activities
- Receive any athletic awards which may have been earned during that season
- Under behavior consequences awards may be issued as determined by the administration

Athletic Suspension: During an athletic suspension students must attend all practices and team meetings. Students will not participate in game night activities. They cannot wear team apparel nor participate. They should, however, be in attendance. All athletic suspensions carry over from one activity/sport to the next. The student will serve a suspension for end-of-a-season infractions in the next activity in which the student participates.

Policy Intent: The policy will govern extra and co-curricular off school grounds and non-school functions. The intent is to provide assistance and opportunities for any student who has an admitted or potential problem with tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. Assistance will be through educational meetings, counseling, team/activity and coach/teacher involvement. Opportunity to regain the privileges of participation in school activities will be determined by the administration.

Violation: A violation is the act of using or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.

Self-Referral: A student may refer himself for help. Any student who does not refer himself prior to being confronted by administration will be considered in violation. This is available one time from 9th-12th grades.

Reinstatement: Students may request reinstatement after a one year denied participation. The principal, athletic director and team coach will determine reinstatement after proof of rehabilitation from a state certified agency.

Please refer to appendix A for consequences.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Eligibility to participate begins when all the following items have been completed:

- Code of Conduct Signature Page, signed by parents and athlete
- Physical examination completed and cards on file in athletic office
- Uniform and any other fees paid
- Emergency Medical Form
- All academic eligibility requirements have been satisfied
- Attend a rules meeting with coach accompanied by parents prior to the start of the season
- Written acknowledgment of insurance responsibilities

- Pre-Season Meeting for Parents and Students

Scholastic Eligibility Requirements: All students are required to meet eligibility standards in order to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Ohio High School Athletic Association Standards: A student must receive passing grades in 5 credits during the preceding grading period excluding Physical Education. **Incoming freshman must pass 75% of preceding grading period to be eligible for Fall Sports.**

When dropping and/or adding a class, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to review all requirements for extracurricular eligibility, class rank, and fulfilling the requirement for graduation. The parents and student are encouraged to check with a counselor, coach, or athletic director prior to submitting a Drop/Add Request.

Watkins Memorial High School Standards: A student must receive a minimum 9 week GPA of 1.5 during the preceding grading period.

Proficiency Intervention: Students who have not passed **portions of the OGT** tests must attend school sponsored intervention with an attendance rate of 97% in order to be eligible to participate. Guidance and administration can answer questions.

Grade Checks: In addition to the WMHS Standards, individual sport coaches may require grade checks during the 9-week grading period. This would be an individual sport rule as addressed in this handbook.

Other Requirements

Age Limitation: Students age 19 prior to August 1 shall be ineligible to participate in athletics. Students age 15 prior to August 1 shall be eligible to participate in high school athletics. School records shall be final in determining age.

Residence Requirements: Generally, an athlete's parents or legal guardian must live in the school district. Questions on residence requirements should be referred to the AD or principal.

Transfers: Transfers from other schools (public or private) without change in residence may make the student ineligible for one year. Questions on residence requirements should be referred to the AD or principal.

Attendance: An athlete must attend school at least ½ day (before/after 10:57a.m.) to be eligible to participate in a contest or practice that day. An athlete missing more than ½ day on Friday is NOT eligible to compete or participate in team activities over the weekend. The principal or AD may make exceptions prior to the athlete missing school.

A student athlete on out-of-school suspension cannot play or practice during the suspension. In-school suspension and Saturday school students may participate except during the Saturday school hours.

Curfew: Coaches may set curfew times for their individual sports. Students are expected to abide by the curfew hours set. Consequences may vary depending on the sport.

Grooming and Dress Policy

The following grooming and dress policies will be adhered to by team members:

- Hairstyles are to be neat and clean and present a positive image
- Facial hair will be neatly trimmed
- Athletes shall dress appropriately at all times
- Shirts and shoes are required at all time outside locker rooms
- Only uniforms issued by the athletic department will be worn at contests
- Uniform shirrtails will be tucked in at all times

Camps/Open Gyms: Information will be available through each sport head coach.

Team Captains: Coaches may have expectations for captains beyond other athlete expectations. Failure to comply with these may result in revoked captainship.

Individual Sport Rule: Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be decided by the coaches. Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Admissions: Admission tickets are sold to attend events in order to purchase needs for the athletes in the programs. Student athletes must pay admissions when attending other sports. Middle school athletes are to pay admissions unless there is a middle school recognition night.

Ticket Prices

	Adult	Student/Senior Citizen
Varsity	\$6.00	\$4.00
Junior Varsity (only)	\$4.00	\$2.00
Freshman (only)	\$4.00	\$2.00
Middle School	\$4.00	\$2.00

Year Long All Sports Passes: Forms for family sports passes can be picked up in the athletic office. Cost is \$150.00.

SWL Senior Citizen Discount: The OCC passed a regulation charging senior citizens the student admission rates. All **SWL Senior Citizens** 60 years of age or older can receive a pass to be admitted to all **home SWL** athletic events free of charge. This pass may be picked up at the athletic office (927-3417).

Cancellations: The High School Principal and Athletic Director will determine cancellations due to inclement weather. The OCC prohibits any spring contest played in 40 degree or cooler temperature. Cancellations will occur at approximately 2:00. Please refer to www.highschoolsports.net or refer to web www.swl.k12.oh.us .

Dropping or Transferring Sports

If there is good reason to quit a sport, then students should:

- Talk to the immediate school coach and then the head coach
- Report your situation to the athletic director
- Check in all equipment issued

Athletes wishing to change sports during a season must:

- Receive approval of both coaches (Cannot recruit from other teams)
- Receive approval of the athletic director

Financial Obligations and Equipment

Uniforms: In several sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform. Any item purchased will become the student's property.

Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to financial penalty.

- All equipment issued to players will be worn only at practice or scheduled events involving that specific sport. The coach must approve exceptions.
- Before any item is attached, added to, removed from or worn with a uniform, the athlete must secure permission from the coach.
- Athletes are responsible for all issued equipment. It must be kept clean and in good condition. SWL and WM are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Student should use locks on lockers.
- All athletic equipment is the property of the Board of Education and the athletic department. School equipment may not be taken from the school building for personal use or other organizations. The athletic director must approve exceptions.
- All equipment issued to athletes must be returned at the end of the season. Missing or damaged equipment must be reimbursed at replacement cost within one week of the last contest. An athlete will be denied the right to participate in athletics until equipment is accounted for.
- Under certain circumstances, equipment can be sold to athletes at the end of a season. The head coach and athletic director will control the sale. Price will be set by the athletic director and will be the replacement cost of the item. Money will be collected prior to disbursement of equipment.

Lockers

- Coaches assign lockers for the specific sport season only.
- Coach will give verbal notice to athletes to remove all articles from their locker at the end of the sport season.
- After 1 week, coach will give written notice to athletes that locks will be removed in 1 week.
- After 2 weeks, the coach, under supervision of the athletic director, will remove the lock and locker contents.
- The contents will be put in a bag and held for 1 week. After this, contents will be given to charity.

Missing Practices: An Athlete should consult the coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely.

Vacation Policy: Athlete vacations during a season are strongly discouraged. When an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- Be accompanied by his parents or guardians while on vacation.
- Contact the head coach **prior** to the vacation.

Transportation

- Class time missed will be kept to a minimum. Coaches and players will be excused at a specific time to travel to away contests. No team will be excused from class for any other reason unless approved by the principal.

- Team members must travel to and from an event on the bus. Athletes are responsible to see that the bus is clean after returning from an event.
- Athletes on any trip are under school jurisdiction from the time they enter school property until they leave school property after returning from the trip or until released to their parents. Athletes on a team staying overnight are considered under school jurisdiction until returning to school and are liable for any rule violation during that time.

College Recruitment Policy: In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, the student has an obligation to work through the high school coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the guidance office.

Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities: An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra curricular activities will be in a position of conflicting obligations.

The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities. The department will **attempt** to minimize schedule conflicts.

Students are responsible to avoid a continuous conflict, including belonging to too many activities. Students should notify coaches/sponsors involved immediately when conflicts arise. Coach/sponsors will meet to work out solutions. If there is not a solution then the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- The relative importance of each event.
- The relative contribution the student can make.
- How long each event has been scheduled.
- Talk with parents/guardian.

Parental Permission and Physical Examination

Athletic participation forms for all participants shall be signed by a physician, the participant, and the parent. This must be on file in the athletic director's office before athletes may practice each year.

Risk of Participation

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability, or death as a result of athletic participation. The school district will use the following safeguards:

- Provide educational opportunities for coaches to learn the most up to date techniques and skills in their sport
- Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in specific sports

Parental Acknowledgment of Athletic Policies

Upon entering high school, or when trying out for a team, athletes will be presented with this handbook. Coaches will distribute all forms referenced in this book. Each parent shall read all the enclosed material and certify that they understand the eligibility rules and policies. This signed document will be filed in the athletic department.

Insurance

Athletes must have accident insurance, either school insurance or a parental policy. An insurance waiver form indicating adequate insurance must be completed and on file prior to participation.

The OHSAA has lifetime catastrophic insurance which covers athletes involved in sponsored events.

AWARDS

Athletic Letter: An athlete earns a “W” letter by athletic ability. The coach determines who letters with the following guidelines:

- The coach will provide written criteria to participants and parents prior to the first contest.
- Coaches can award injured athletes a letter if the athlete received injuries after the start of the season and the coach feels the athlete would have lettered. Coaches **may** award varsity managers a letter.
- Awarding of letters to managers and statisticians is left to the discretion of the coach.
- For lettering fall and winter cheerleading will be considered separate sports.

Wearing of Awards: Awards are to be worn or displayed appropriately. Athletes are to behave properly while wearing awards.



AWARDS SYSTEM

Season Awards

Each Participant	Certificate	
Freshman	Numerals	
Junior Varsity	Certificate	
First Letter	Chenille W	Sport Pin
Second Letter	Medallion	Bar Pin
Third Letter	Plaque	Bar Pin
<u>Fourth Letter</u>	<u>Plaque</u>	<u>Bar Pin</u>
Captain of Varsity Team	Captain pin	
Statistician	Stat Pin	
Manager	Manager Pin	

Most Improved: Each sport is allowed (not required) to give a Most Improved Athlete. The coach determines the selection process.

Most Valuable: Each sport is allowed (not required) to give a Most Valuable Athlete. The coach determines the selection process.

Other Team Awards: Any coach wishing to give more than Most Valuable and Most Improved Awards must pick up the expense and have it approved by the athletic director.

Championship Award: All members of a varsity team that wins a league, district, or regional championship will receive a 4” chenille emblem of that sport indicating the championship.

State Awards: Any athlete qualifying for the OHSAA state championship as an individual will receive a 4” chenille emblem of the state indicating tournament qualification. Any athlete placing in the OHSAA state championships as a team will receive a 4” chenille emblem of the state indicating state placement.

OCC Scholar Athlete Award: The senior player with the highest accumulative grade point average in each sport will receive an award. The average will be determined through the current nine weeks grading period and must be a minimum of 3.5.

CHEERLEADERS

There are varsity, reserve, freshman and competition teams for fall and winter sports. Cheerleaders are considered athletes and therefore, are required to adhere to all rules and regulations of the athletic department.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Violation			
Student refuses Intervention	Athletic Suspension 50% of season	Denied Participation One Full Season/No Awards All Administration Directives prior to participation	Denied Participation for remainder of career May request reinstatement after one calendar year
Student agrees to Intervention	Athletic Suspension 20% of season Any other directives of Administration	Athletic Suspension 50% of season All Administration Directives prior to participation	Denied Participation for remainder of career May request reinstatement after one calendar year
Self Referral (One per Career)			
Student refuses Intervention	First Offense Violation		
Student agrees to Intervention	No Suspension/No Violation Complete any directive of Administration		

TOBACCO	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Violation			
Student refuses Intervention	Athletic Suspension 20% of season	Athletic Suspension 50% of season All Administration Directives prior to participation	Denied Participation for remainder of season
Student agrees to Intervention	Athletic Suspension for one event Any other directives of Administration	Athletic Suspension 50% of season All Administration Directives prior to participation	Denied Participation for remainder of season
Self Referral			
Student refuses Intervention	Violation occurs		
Student agrees to Intervention	No Suspension/No Violation Complete any directive of Administration		

BEHAVIOR	Consequence
School Discipline Referral (Any referral to office for a school rule violation) In School Suspension Out of School Suspension	May be denied privilege of participation. To be determined by the coach/advisor or Administration Athletic Suspension determined by Administration Denied Participation determined by Administration
Truancy	Same
On the Field	Any penalty imposed by official Any additional penalty imposed by coach or administration
Off the Field (On Field addressed above) (More serious violations including but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect not addressed by the official, immorality, other violations of the law, bench rule, fights, and acts that tarnish the reputation of the school or athletic programs)	Penalty determined by Coach or Administration

APPENDIX A