

**New Albany High School
Student Athletic Code
2008-09**

Player Responsibility

Each athlete must meet the following **Ohio High School Athletic Association and New Albany Plain Local Board of Education** requirements to be eligible for participation in our Athletic Department Program. **Students cannot practice or participate in scheduled contests, until all forms are completed correctly and turned into the athletic office.**

- A. Each athlete must provide a **Student Participation Physical Exam Form** prior to any practice or competition. This form must be signed by the parent/ guardian, athlete, and by the physician who certifies that the student is physically able to participate. Only one physical examination is required per calendar year.
- B. Each athlete must provide the athletic department with an **Emergency Medical Form** prior to any practice or competition. This form will be carried by the coaches at all practices and competitions to use in the event that emergency medical services need to be rendered to the athlete. Please notify the school of any changes.
- C. Each athlete must also provide the athletic department with a signed **Athletic Participation Acknowledgment** which includes residency, insurance, equipment, travel and photography information as well as an acknowledgement to reading the Student Athletic Code of Conduct and the OHSSA Bulletin (OHSSA Bulletin does not have to be returned). This acknowledgement is to be signed by the parent and athlete prior to any practice or competition.
- D. **Pay to Participate:** The cost for participation at New Albany High School is fifty dollars per sport with an individual cap of one hundred and fifty dollars. The cost for participation at New Albany Middle School is thirty-five dollars with an individual cap of one hundred and five dollars. Fees need to be paid before participation in games/events begins. Student-athletes on free and reduced lunch will not be charged to participate.
- E. Each athlete must meet the **Ohio High School Athletic Association and New Albany High School and Middle School Eligibility Requirements**, including the following grade mandates:

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by the grades that an athlete receives during the preceding grading period. **Semester averages, exams, or yearly grade averages have no effect on eligibility.**
2. Grades 9-12: a student must be enrolled in school during the preceding grading period in order to maintain eligibility. During the preceding grading period, the student must receive passing grades in the equivalent of a minimum of **five one-credit** courses that count toward graduation (**From New Albany High School**).
3. Grades 7-8: a student must be currently enrolled in school and must receive passing grades in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled. A student enrolling in seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of any previous academic achievement. The 75% rule also applies to entering ninth grade students during their first grading period only.
*At New Albany Middle School, this means that any student who is failing two or more core academic classes will be considered ineligible. (Core academic is defined as any class that meets daily.)
4. **Summer School** grades/credits may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
5. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the preceding grading period become effective.

NEW ALBANY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to participate in any athletic activity in a school year a student must attain, for the nine-week grading period ending prior to the time that he/she wishes to begin participation, a grade point average (GPA) equal to or greater than that set forth below. A student receiving a failing grade academic in an course recognized in the District's graded course of study for the grading preceding the start of an athletic activity in a school year, shall not be prohibited from participating in that activity in the following nine week grading period as long as he/she attains the required minimum GPA during such preceding period and passes 5 credits.

<u>Grade level at time of participation *</u>		<u>GPA</u>
Middle School	7 th and 8 th Grade	1.5
High School	9 TH Grade	1.5
	10 TH Grade	1.75
	11 TH Grade	2.0
	12 TH Grade	2.0

*** A Student shall be deemed to change grade levels as of the first day of class in a school year.

The GPA is determined on a scale on which an "A" earns 4 points, a "B" earns 3 points, a "C" earns 2 points, and a "D" earns 1 point. A mark of "F" does not earn any points. Marks of "Incomplete" or "Pass/Fail" are disregarded in computing a grade point average. When an incomplete is made up, the GPA and eligibility will be recomputed.

In computing a student's GPA for the purposes of these requirements, all subjects taken by the student for which a final mark is recorded are to be used in the calculation. Procedures outlined in the student handbook governing the computation of GPA will be followed, including but not limited to, those for adding or subtracting fractional points for plus (+) or (-) letter grades and giving weighted credit to certain courses.

A student's eligibility to continue participating in athletics during a school year will be determined by examining each nine-week GPA independent of prior grading periods. Semester and final exams are not included in the GPA calculation because of the comprehensive nature of exams. A student who does not meet the eligibility requirements for a grading period is not eligible to participate in any athletic contests until the following nine weeks has ended when his/her grades are once again appraised.

EXCEPTION: A student/athlete may request in writing, (with parent approval) to wave the GPA requirement, one time, for one grading period during their four years at New Albany High School. They are still required to have passed a minimum of 5 one credit courses. If, at the mid term of the succeeding grading period, the student has not attained the minimum GPA requirement for their grade level, they will be declared ineligible for the remainder of that grading period.

Note: A student/athlete who chooses to implement this exception, must attend one study session a week for the nine week grading period. Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored by the athletic director and his/her coach. If a student/athlete does not attend, then they will lose their eligibility for the remainder of the nine weeks.

- E. Any athlete who has an unexcused absence on the day of, or the day preceding, an Athletic contest or practice, or any part thereof, will require written permission for participation from the athletic director or principal. An unexcused absence may result in the denial of participation. An excused permit must be obtained prior to the student's absence whenever possible. An athlete must be present at least four periods that day to participate in a contest or practice (except for administratively

excused reasons).

- F. Each athlete must determine if he/she will be able to meet the commitments of time, expense and transportation for the duration of their season. Work and/or vacation are not acceptable reasons for missing practice and/or games.
- G. Each athlete must be individually responsible for all school equipment issued to him/her. Equipment is to be worn only at practice sessions or scheduled games involving that particular sport. Athletes who do not turn in their equipment will be billed at current replacement costs. The athlete will not be able to participate in his/her next sport until all equipment is turned in.
- H. Each athlete must acknowledge that it is a privilege to participate in athletics and that he/she is willing to cooperate and accept rules and other conditions for participation. **Any student currently participating in a sport, who either is suspended from school or accumulates 3 or more days in the Alternative Learning Center will be denied participation in at least one contest. The denial of participation will be enforced at the next scheduled contest.**
- I. Each athlete must conduct him/herself in a manner that will create a positive reflection upon him/herself, teammates, the student body and the New Albany School/community. This is a year-round commitment, not just seasonal.
- J. Each athlete must uphold the traditions of sportsmanship and fair play and congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. Taunting of opponents will not be tolerated. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make gestures indicating dislike for a decision.

Any violation of the expectations stated in I and J will be reviewed by the coach and/or Athletic Director. Penalty may be denial of the privilege and/or removal from the team or athletic programs for up to one (1) calendar year.
- K. Athletes are not permitted at practice areas or weight rooms unless supervised by a coach. Please arrive at the times designated by your coach.
- L. A student may participate in two sports at the high school level (i.e., cross country and golf) during the same season if both coaches (i.e., cross country and golf) agree, and the administration approves, based on whether or not dual participation will result in conflict in the requirements of the two sports. The student-athlete must declare one sport as their primary sport and attend all functions of this sport. The student-athlete may participate in their second sport as long as it does not conflict with their primary sport. Middle school students are not permitted to participate in two sports during the same season.
- M. Once an athlete begins practice for a particular sport, he/she may not participate in another sport for the remainder of that season, unless such participation occurs within the first three days of mandatory practice and the athlete has permission from the coaches of both sports and the athletic director. A season is defined as lasting from the first day of mandatory practice through the team recognition night. An athlete coming out for a sport must do so before the first contest unless he/she is a new student and enrolls in the District after the first contest. This pertains only to sports that do not have cuts.
- N. Each athlete is responsible for having a lock on their locker. Coaches will assign these lockers. Please see that your locker is neat and that clothes are washed regularly. **The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.**
- O. If an athlete quits a particular sport anytime during his/her high school or middle school career, the coach or athletic director may disallow future participation in that sport. Quitting is highly discouraged.
- P. In the event that an athlete voluntarily quits or is removed from a team or activity, the coach

must immediately notify both the athletic director and the principal. All issued equipment must be returned to the coach. The athlete shall not be reinstated without the express approval of the athletic director, principal and coach.

Eligibility Procedure

- A. The principal, athletic director, and guidance counselor will identify who is eligible for the following grading period.
- B. The faculty will assist the athletic department in checking the grades and behaviors of in-season athletes each interim grade check. Head coaches may request grade checks on a more frequent basis. The head coach will be made aware of all behavior referrals. Coaches will take appropriate action for each referral situation. This action could include a temporary or permanent denial of participation.
- C. The head coach and/or athletic director will contact the parents of any athlete who is ruled ineligible from participating on their team.
- D. A letter of ineligibility will be sent to parents of all athletes in grades 7 through 12, who do not meet the Ohio High School Athletic Association and Plain Local School District's eligibility standards. Such letters will be sent at the end of each grading period.

Training Rules

The Athletic Department believes that athletes have a strong influence within the community and the student body. Student athletes are under constant scrutiny and should demonstrate good, wholesome leadership to those with whom they come in contact. Also, since good physical conditioning is a requirement for successful participation, all athletes are directed to be aware of the following Athletic Department regulations:

Any student suspended or expelled from school or denied participation from a sport shall be declared ineligible for the period of the suspension, expulsion, or denial. Suspensions, including those that begin on a Friday, shall render a student ineligible for competition over the weekend or until regular classes resume. An athlete's ineligibility due to a suspension from school or a denial of participation from athletics over a holiday period shall be administered in such a way that the length of the ineligibility period and the number of contests affected is similar to an ineligibility period that occurs over a weekend. In-School and Out-of-School suspensions shall be treated equally for the purposes of this rule. Saturday School renders an athlete suspended during the hours of such a detention. While a student is denied participation, due to an out-of-school suspension, or expulsion they are not allowed on school property during the length of the penalty.

These rules are established for all athletes, including, student trainers and managers. Training rules are in effect for athletes throughout the year, including during the summer months, when school is not in session. School-sponsored athletic participation continues during this time (i.e. leagues, open gym, weight training, conditioning, and camps).

A. Inappropriate Conduct

1. All athletes are expected to abide by the rules and regulations stated in the New Albany High School handbook, as adopted by the Plain Local Board of Education.
2. **HARASSMENT AND/OR HAZING** of any nature, as defined in Rule 13 of the discipline code, is strictly prohibited and will be enforced with a severe consequence.

B. Substance Abuse Infractions

1. A student shall not possess, use, or transmit tobacco products in any of its various forms, as it shall be deemed an infraction at any time.
2. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, be under the influence of and/or sell any

alcoholic beverage at any time.

3. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, be under the influence of, and/or sell any controlled substance, counterfeit drugs, or any other non-medical substance at anytime. The only exception to this rule occurs when a student-athlete is taking a medication prescribed by a doctor through the school nurse and the trainer being notified..
4. A student shall not possess any drug-related paraphernalia including, but not limited to, tobacco rolling paper, pipes and other holders for drug use such as clips.

Please refer to the student handbook and relevant Board policies for a complete definition of terms.

C. Substance Abuse Self-Referral Procedures.

1. Self-referral occurs when a student or his/her parent reports to a coach, team captain, or school administration that the student has been using drugs, alcohol and/or a tobacco product. The time line for this referral is within one school day of the infraction or first opportunity to contact the previously identified sources.
2. Self-referral may also be if a coach or administrator asks (**without evidence**) an athlete about possible drug/alcohol/tobacco use and the athlete admits to the use. Example: “___, I heard that you were drinking at the party Saturday night.”
“Yes, I was.”
 - a. After the self-referral, the student will not be denied participation, but he/she must undergo family education and/or an assessment. In the event of a failure to complete the requirements, the student will receive the same penalties as a first infraction.
 - b. **All self-referrals will be kept on file in the Athletic Director’s office. A student**

is

allowed one self-referral during his/her four (4) year high school career.

3. Any student who is under investigation for an infraction is denied the self-referral process.
4. A self-referral will be considered a first time infraction. The next substance abuse violation will be disciplined as a second infraction.

D. Penalties For Substance Abuse Infractions.

1. A violation may be observed and reported to the Head Coach by coaches employed by the District, licensed employees of the Plain Local School District, any person employed by the Plain Local School District

1. First violation - use or possession

a. The penalty for a first violation will be prohibition from athletic participation (contests) for a minimum of 50% of the scheduled contests of that sport. Any remaining percentage of the prohibition of participation not served shall be applied toward the next sport in which the athlete participates. Any student disciplined for the first violation may practice with his/her team. He/she may travel with the team and sit on the bench. He/she cannot be in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the athlete during the period of prohibited participation.

b. The athletic director, upon request of the athlete, may reduce the prohibition to a minimum of 20% of the athlete's current and/or next occurring season's athletic contests, provided:

1. The athlete agrees to complete a program of counseling as established by the district drug education coordinator. (This program must be completed before participation can begin or resume.)
2. The athlete agrees to revoke any leadership positions, such as, but not limited to, team captain, and will not hold any leadership positions on athletic teams for the remainder of the school year.
3. The athlete must attend practice. He/she must travel with the team. He/she must sit on the bench with the team. He/she cannot be in uniform.

2. Second violation- use or possession

- a. Upon confirmation of the second violation, athletic participation (practice and contests) will be prohibited for one full calendar year.

b. The athletic director, upon request of the athlete, may reduce the prohibition to a minimum of 50% of the athlete's current and/or next occurring season's athletic contests provided:

1. For tobacco violations: The athlete participates in a professional counseling clinic, workshop, or seminar as approved by the district counseling department. The professional counseling will be at the expense of the athlete and must be completed prior to resuming athletic competition.

2. For alcohol/drug violations: The athlete is assessed by a certified professional agency and follows the assessment recommendations at his/her expense. Assessment must include evaluation reports. Assessment must be completed prior to resuming athletic competition.

3. The athlete agrees to revoke any leadership position, such as, but not limited to, team captain and will not hold any leadership positions on athletic teams for the remainder of the school year.

4. The athlete must attend practice. He/she must travel with the team. He/she must sit on the bench with the team. He/she cannot be in uniform.

3. Third violation - use or possession

a. The student athlete found in violation of the training rules a third time shall be prohibited from athletic participation for the remainder of their athletic career.

b. After one calendar year from determination of his/her guilt, an appeal can be made to the athletic director and/ or high school principal for reinstatement contingent upon substantiated rehabilitation.

4. First violation - sale, distribution, or host

The student found in first violation of sale, distribution, or hosting, will be treated the same as second violation for use or possession. However, if the athlete has not completed the youth intervention program or tobacco workshop, it must be completed at this time. (An unexcused absence from a session will immediately reactivate the original prohibition of participation.)

5. Second violation - sale, distribution, or host

The student found in second violation of sale, distribution, or hosting will be treated the same as a third violation for use or possession.

Procedures For Denial or Participation From Athletics

Students who violate any provision of the student handbook, Board policies or administrative guidelines or the rules established by any coach, advisor or (if applicable) the Ohio High School Athletic Association, are subject to a denial of participation in any or all athletic activities. The Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, coach, advisor or other administrator (hereinafter "appropriate authority") is authorized to deny a student the privilege of participating in any or all athletic activities for such period of time as provided in the handbook, policies, guidelines or rules or, if unspecified, for such period of time, and at such period of time, as the appropriate authority determines to be appropriate.

In the event of athletic disciplines, the appropriate authority has sole discretion to determine what, if any, notice and hearing rights may be afforded to the student and student's parents. Athletic

disciplinary actions are not subject to the procedures established for curricular disciplinary actions. All disciplinary determinations made by the appropriate authority shall be final.

Miscellaneous

- A. A coach may use internal team discipline, including, but not limited to, benching and work detail, when an athlete is amendable to correction without the need for further disciplinary action. Such decisions shall not be subject to any appeal.
- B. A coach may remove an athlete from practice or participation for 24 hours. This may occur when the athlete, in the coach's determination, presents a danger to property or other people, or is a threat to the coaching process.
- C. An athlete must finish the season in good standing with the coach in order to receive his/her awards recognition.

Parents' Responsibilities

- A. Carefully evaluate the commitments of your son/daughter in time, cost and transportation before granting permission for his/her participation.
- B. Understand the training rules and procedures to be followed by the athlete. After their inspection of the rules, parents must sign the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Card prior to their son/daughter's participation.
- C. Sign a Medical Insurance Waiver, Physical Exam Card, Emergency Medical Form, OHSSA Bulletin and a Residency Report Card prior to your son/daughter's participation. Please notify the athletic office of any changes in the information that is provided on these documents.
- D. When possible, schedule doctor, dental and all other outside appointments so as to not conflict with practice or game times.
- E. Take an honest interest in your son/daughter's participation in athletics. Make an effort not to put unreasonable pressure on them to be a starter.
- F. Help support and enforce all training rules.
- G. Try to resolve any problems or complaints, with the coach before approaching the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, or Board of Education. Try to make phone calls of a non-emergency nature during school hours and /or reasonable hours.
- H. Realize that work and vacations are not acceptable reasons for your child to miss practice or games.

VACATION POLICY

Vacations during an athlete's season are discouraged! However, if a vacation is unavoidable:

1. contact head coach prior to the vacation;
 2. an athlete must practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition (contest day will count as a practice day); and
 3. be willing to assume the consequences related to your status as a starter, 2nd string, 3rd string, etc.
- I. Be supportive of all athletic programs. We encourage parents to join our Athletic Booster Club & athletic volunteer staff. Your help is needed for our programs to succeed.
 - J. Focus your attention on supporting our student/athletes giving their best effort while enjoying a positive experience. Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward all who are involved in attending, participating, and working at all school athletic events.

