

Updated 3/2019

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

I want to thank you for the time, effort, and passion that you place into athletics at Wickliffe City Schools. The Wickliffe City Schools strive to develop students that will learn, lead and serve. Athletics serve as a vehicle for enhanced development of these skills. Our student athletes learn skills that will not only help to better them as athletes but also better them as students, young adults, and community members.

The following Athletic Handbook will review the protocols and procedures in place for athletics at Wickliffe City Schools. I hope for your continued support and hope to see you at the contests.

Go Blue Devils!!!

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Wickliffe City Schools provide all students an opportunity to compete in numerous sports throughout the school year. The goal of this participation is to mature in all areas: mental, emotional, physical, and moral. To realize this goal the participant must bring with him/her a degree of self-discipline, which requires that the student-athlete comply with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior. Very simply defined discipline means doing the right thing, at the right time, the right way, every time. Such behavior promotes order and safety and will enable the participant to reach maximum performance potential. Compliance with rules and order will teach individuals values that carry beyond the extracurricular programs and into the "real world" of daily living. It must also be emphasized that participation in interscholastic sports is not a right, it is a regulated privilege.

All students who participate must meet the following regulations during the entire duration of their seasons. The season is defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), and during that period athletes will be under the jurisdiction of a Board of Education appointed coach. Inappropriate behavior between the end of a season and awards presentation could jeopardize the privilege of recognition.

### *Student-Athlete Code of Conduct*

A student-athlete:

1. Must follow all policies, procedures and rules listed in the Wickliffe Middle School/Wickliffe High School Student Handbook.
2. Must meet all eligibility requirements as established by the OHSAA and the Wickliffe Board of Education. These include age, scholarship, residence, and attendance. Students who do not meet the requirements are not permitted to compete in contests; however, they may continue to practice with approval of the coach.
3. Will understand that academics is the priority and athletic participation could be in jeopardy if academic requirements are not met.
4. Must submit a valid physical examination sheet, signed by a physician and parent/guardian on file with the athletic department prior to the first practice.

5. Must accept financial responsibility for careless use of issued equipment and uniforms.
6. Will behave in a manner, which reflects positively on the Wickliffe City School District and his/her activity.
7. Must comply with all additional rules or requirements set by the coach(es).
8. Should not engage in criminal activity or violate civil law.
9. Will not be involved in hazing of any kind. All students should be safe and free from humiliation and intimidation.
10. Will respect all aspects of the game and activity including their self, coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, fans and rules, regardless of the behavior of others.
11. Will practice and promote good sportsmanship from fellow players coaches, officials, and spectators before, during and after all contests and practices.
12. Will treat coaches, teammates, opponents, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability.
13. Who is suspended from school will be ineligible to participate during the duration of the suspension.
14. Will follow all OHSAA policies and procedures.

### *Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Code of Conduct*

Parent(s)/Guardians will:

1. Place the academic, emotional, and physical well-being of their child ahead of any personal desire to win.
2. Provide positive support, care and encouragement for their child participating in Wickliffe City School Athletics.
3. Demand a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free sports environment for their child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all athletic contests.
4. Assist in providing a positive team experience by volunteering to help with tasks as need and as capable.
5. Insist that treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability and insist that their child does the same.
6. Remember that the participants are student-athletes and academics takes priority over interscholastic athletics.
7. Insist that their child participates in a safe and healthy environment
8. Respect coaching decisions as far as strategies implemented and playing times of student-athletes.
9. Follow the chain of command outline in the Wickliffe City Schools Athletic Handbook when issues/concerns arise.
10. Honor the “24 Hour Rule” discussed in the Wickliffe City Schools Athletic Handbook when contacting coaches

11. Encourage good sportsmanship by following the regulation listed below and understand that removal from contests will occur if these regulations are not met.
  - a. Use positive cheers for your team only.
  - b. Not use profane language or exhibit any distracting behavior.
  - c. Respect the officials' judgment at all times.
  - d. Not heckle, jeer, or distract members of the opposing team.
  - e. Remain off the playing surface during and after all contests
  - f. Not throw any object at any time
  - g. Not use any derogatory signs or noisemakers

### **FITNESS CENTER**

*Safety Rules:* **Use of the fitness center without a supervisor present is prohibited.** No horseplay, loud, offensive language, or spitting at any time. Always use a collar or clip on your bar when using the free lifting bars. Do not sit on the various lifting apparatus during your rest interval. Use the equipment for its intended use, do not modify the equipment. Do not drop/slam the weights. A spotter and safety rack must be used on all free lifting stations. Examples: bench press, incline press, squats, power cleans, etc. Load and unload free weights evenly and carefully. Use a weight belt on all over head lifts and squats (Unless approved by supervisor). Report any injury to the supervisor immediately. Do not attempt a 1 Rep Max without permission from the supervisor. Use proper technique (if you are in doubt, please ask the supervisor). Please use proper etiquette demonstrating courtesy toward others in the fitness room at all times.

*Maintenance Rules:* Re-rack all weights to weight racks/trees and return equipment to its proper location/starting position after use. Wipe down all equipment immediately after use. No food, drink, or gum in the fitness center. The use of chalk is prohibited. Equipment should remain in the fitness room. Weights are not to be leaned against walls, columns, other equipment or mirrors. Do not change the volume or station on the radio/stereo

*Attire Rules:* Wear proper lifting clothes (sleeved and non-mesh shirt and athletic shorts/pants). Clean athletic shoes that have scuff-resistant, non-marking soles must be worn at all times (no sandals, open toe shoes, cleats, or boots).

## **PARTICIPATION FORMS AND FEES**

Before a student may be issued equipment or allowed to tryout/practice, a valid OHSAA physical, emergency medical form, and Wickliffe City Schools Athletic Forms must be turned in to the Athletic Office.

All Wickliffe City School Athletic Fees must be paid in full prior to the due date set each season. No payment plans are allowed. Students may not participate if fees are not paid in full.

Participation fees are as follows and include traditional bus/van transportation costs associated with the sports:

High School Athletics - \$190

Middle School Athletics - \$150

Sports with Van Transportation instead of Bus Transportation - \$140

Family Maximum - \$720 per school year

Forms of Payment Accepted: cash, check made out to the specific school, or EZ Pay. Students interested in participating in multiple sports in the same season are only required to pay one fee for the specific season.

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Students absent from school due to illness are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Students must be in attendance for a minimum of one half of their scheduled classes in order to practice or participate in an event. This rule will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and/or Administration on a case by case basis. Absence from school on a Friday does not impact ability to participate in any weekend events.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINER/ATHLETIC INJURIES**

Wickliffe High School provides a trainer from Lake Health. Wickliffe High School also has a training room that meets our Athletic Trainer and student athletes' needs. A student athlete, student athlete's parents and/or coach can make arrangements with the trainer if needed. The Athletic Trainer may recommend advanced treatment as needed. Wickliffe Fire Department's EMS is present at all home varsity football games and can be called quickly if needed for any other event or practice. In the event of a student athlete injury at home events, the Athletic Trainer will determine the extent of the injury. If the student athlete is suspected of having a head, neck, back, or any other serious injury, the EMS will be called. A school administrator or designee will ride with the student to the hospital if a parent/guardian/emergency contact is not available unless the parent/guardian/emergency contact does not desire this. Injuries requiring a hospital stay can usually be handled through the hospital of the family's choosing. It is encouraged that the Athletic Trainer is utilized as needed.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Interscholastic extracurricular activity is defined as "a pupil activity program that a school or district sponsors or participates in and that includes participants from more than one school or district." It does not include any activity included in the school district's graded course of study for the previous grading period.

### **OHSAA Bylaws for Students in Grades 7-12**

#### **Please familiarize yourself with the following OHSAA Bylaws:**

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw.
- All beginning ninth graders must have passed a **minimum of five** of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received in the preceding grading period. Per Bylaw 4-4-1, a grading period is defined as the school's Board-adopted calendar (e.g. six week, nine week, 12 week or semester). **Semester and yearly grades have no impact on OHSAA eligibility.**
- **Grades 9-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (**Note:** Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards along with those participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students to participate at public schools in the district of residence of the parents).
- **Grades 7-8:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. Students who are participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students to participate at public schools in the district of residence of the parents must also comply).
- For eligibility, summer school grades shall not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken in the preceding grading period.
- In addition to the OHSAA bylaws stated, Wickliffe City School students in grades 7-12 must receive a minimum grade point average of 1.5 as well as failing grades in one or less classes in the preceding grading period in order to be eligible for participation in athletics.
- Wickliffe City Schools will follow OHSAA Bylaws and protocol in regards to students who transfer into the district.

**NOTE: “Grading period” is defined as your school’s board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered “grading periods,” and restoration of eligibility is NOT permitted after such evaluations. Before any changes are made to an academic schedule it is the responsibility of the student to verify with the Athletic Director that the status of athletic eligibility is unharmed due to changes in the academic schedule.**

### **BOOSTER/PARENT GROUPS**

The individual athletic Booster/Parent Groups were formed to promote the athletic programs of Wickliffe City Schools. The different Booster/Parent Groups meet periodically throughout the year. For information on meeting dates and/or responsibilities in joining these groups please contact the head of the specific Booster/Parent Group. All parents and fans are encouraged to join these groups, attend meetings, and take an active role. Each of these groups have different roles within their individual sports, ranging from providing pre-game meals to purchasing supplies. Booster/Parent group members will not influence playing time, coaching strategy, or the selection of the coach(es).

## **HARASSMENT AND HAZING**

No student, teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee of the school shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in sexual, racial, religious harassment or hazing. No teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee shall permit, condone, or tolerate sexual, racial, religious harassment or hazing. This policy applies to behavior that occurs while the student-athlete is at an athletic team related activity, on or off school property. The school district will act to investigate all complaints and take appropriate action against those who are in violation of this policy.

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION AND RULES/REGULATIONS**

At least one school representative will ride on and be responsible for all people riding the bus to athletic contests unless a special exception is granted by the Athletic Director and/or Administration. Student athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from athletic contests. Student athletes may ride to and/or from away contest with only their parent/guardian provided a signed transportation form has been submitted prior to the contest. This completed form must be given to the coach and/or Athletic Director. Violation of this rule is subject to penalty.

Rules to be followed on school busses include but are not limited to: NO eating, drinking, or littering on busses. No use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco are permitted. All parts of riders' bodies must be kept inside the bus. Student athletes must stay seated while the bus is in motion. No fighting, tripping, harassment, or intimidation of others. Instructions of the bus driver are to be followed at ALL times. While talking, appropriate volume and language will be used. No objects should be thrown while on the bus. Weapons and dangerous objects are not to be brought onto the bus. No damage is to be done to the bus.

## **USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

The Athletic Department will follow and adhere to district policies listed in the Student Handbook.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Wickliffe City Schools emphasizes to our students, athletes, and spectators the importance of good sportsmanship.

Spectators will:

- Use positive cheers for your team only.
- Not use profane language or exhibit any distracting behavior.
- Respect the Officials' judgment at all times.
- Not heckle, jeer or distract members of the opposing team.
- Remain off the playing surface during and after the contest.
- Not throw any object at any time.
- Not use any derogatory signs or noisemakers.

Spectators will be removed for not meeting these regulations.

Together, we will make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved.

## **CHAGRIN VALLEY CONFERENCE**

Wickliffe is a member of the Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC). Below are ticket prices and official league sports.

### **Ticket Prices**

A gate admission of \$6 is charged for the following CVC athletic events:

Football (Varsity Only)  
Soccer (JV/V or Varsity Only)  
Volleyball (JV/V or Varsity Only)  
Basketball (JV/V or Varsity Only)  
Wrestling (Dual, Tri, Quad)

Gate admission may also be required for freshmen and middle school events. These are determined by the host schools.

CVC tournament events (ex: track, wrestling, middle school tournaments) may also have a gate admission.

### **League Sports**

The following are official league sports:

Baseball	Golf (Boys and Girls)	Tennis (Boys and Girls)
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	Soccer (Boys and Girls)	Track and Field (Boys and Girls)
Cheerleading	Softball (Fast Pitch)	Volleyball
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	Swimming (Boys and Girls)	Wrestling
Football		

Senior Athletes who have a minimum of **two** varsity letters in their sport and carry a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 are recognized by the Chagrin Valley Conference as All Academic recipients.

## **CONTACT POLICY**

The following chain of command is to take place when issues/concerns arise.

1. Parent/Student Athlete contacts coach(es) in a formal setting/meeting.
  - a. “24 Hour Rule” will be in place and discussions involving issues/concerns will not be initiated immediately before, during or after contests.
2. Parent/Student Athlete contacts Athletic Director.
  - a. This is the next step **after** a formal meeting has taken place with the coach(es).

After meeting with parents and/or student athletes, Athletic Director will discuss pertinent information with Administration and the next course of action will be determined.

**CONTACT LIST**

*General Questions*                    Harrison McCall, Athletic Director, 440-943-7729  
*Eligibility*                                Leah Porcello, High School Counselor, 440-943-7712,  
   Sara Hall, High School Counselor, 440-943-7711  
   Meghan Gabrovsek, Middle School Counselor, 440-943-7742

**\*Important Note: Please also contact the Athletic Director before any schedule changes are made to ensure eligibility is unharmed.**

*Tickets*                                     Charlie Trivisonno, Athletics Secretary, 440-943-7710  
*Team Rules*                                Specific Team Head Coach  
*Practice Schedules*                    Specific Team Head Coach  
*School Rules*                                High School Main Office 440-944-0800  
   Middle School Main Office 440-943-3220  
*Required Payments*                    Charlie Trivisonno, Athletics Secretary, 440-943-7710  
*Athletic Trainer (HS)*                   Hannah Reinhard, 440-943-7787