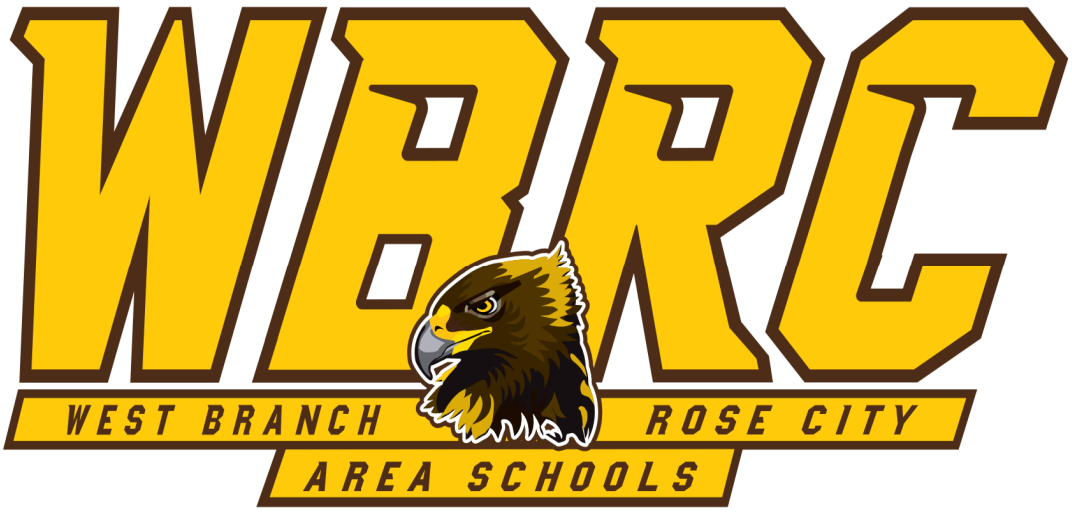
West Branch-Rose City Area Schools

Athletic Code



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West Branch-Rose City Area Schools
Athletic Code

COVERAGE

All athletes and student team support personnel (statisticians, managers, cheerleaders) involved in athletics will be governed by this code from the first day of involvement in West Branch-Rose City Area Schools athletics until graduation.

WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY AREA SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Athletics is an integral part of a high school educational experience and is properly considered an extension of the classroom. The goal of the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Athletic Department is to develop the character traits, leadership skills and sportsmanship of our students. We expect to positively impact our athletes not only in the techniques and strategies of their sport, but also in the attainment of life-long skills and appreciation for physical fitness. We want our student-athletes to understand that successful athletes are those who set goals and strive toward the accomplishment of those goals. Successful athletes are honest and hard-working people who endure personal sacrifice and persevere through the journey of self and team improvement. Those student-athletes who accept the challenges of participation and always give their best effort can only be classified as winners.

STUDENT-ATHLETE DEFINED

A student-athlete is considered to be a member of any interscholastic sports team. This includes, but is not limited to, team managers and student trainers.

FIGHT SONG

GO YOU FALCONS, GO TO WIN THIS GAME.
GO YOU FALCONS, ON AND ON TO FAME.
SO THAT THE PROUD, PROUD NAME OF
OGEMAW HEIGHTS SHALL EVER BE THE TEAM
THAT'S READY TO FIGHT.

GO YOU FALCONS, EVER BRASH AND BOLD.
GO YOU FALCONS, FOR THE BROWN AND GOLD.
BECAUSE WHEN YOU REACH THE HEIGHTS
YOU ARE AT OGEMAW.THAT'S WHY WE FIGHT,
FIGHT, FIGHT.

Middle School Philosophy:

The purpose of middle school athletic programs is to provide opportunities and encourage students to participate in a variety of activities and prepare individuals for the high school level. Skill development, teamwork and love for the sport are the fundamental objectives. At the middle school level, we believe that participation in an athletic event is more important than the outcome of the contest, therefore, every effort will be made to play all eligible athletes in every event as long as the athlete has earned the right to participate in contests. Playing time will not be equal and will be left to the discretion of the coach.

Freshman Philosophy:
Freshman athletic programs strive to provide a positive learning experience for all players while building a successful team concept and fundamental skills. Athletes at this level will learn in both practice and in games the value of hard work, improved skill development, sacrifice, and teamwork as they prepare for the challenges at the JV and Varsity levels. While winning is always a goal, improvement is the focus at the freshman level. Playing time will not be equal and while it is our desire that every athlete participates in a contest, there may be some circumstances where an athlete will not be in the contest.

Junior Varsity Philosophy:
Junior Varsity athletic programs are structured to prepare players for future participation in Varsity level sports; while continuing to build individual skills and team loyalty, players are also prepared to be competitive with opposing teams. Participation in contests is determined by the player's ability to contribute to the success of the team.

Varsity Philosophy:
The educational value of interscholastic competition is measured in many ways, one of which is winning. Varsity athletic programs aim to be as competitive as possible while developing capable and mature athletes. Every player has a defined role and is a contributor to the success of the team. Participation in contests, however, is determined by the player's ability to assist the team in winning contests.

SPONSORED ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES:

High School	
Fall	**Winter**
Football (Freshmen, JV, Varsity)	Girls Basketball (Freshmen, JV & Varsity)
Volleyball (Freshmen, JV, Varsity)	Boys Basketball (Freshmen, JV & Varsity)
Cross Country (Boys & Girls) (Varsity)	Wrestling (JV & Varsity)
Boys Soccer (JV & Varsity)	Boys Swimming & Diving (Varsity)
Girls Swimming & Dive (Varsity)	Boys & Girls Bowling (Varsity)
Sideline Cheer (Varsity)	
Spring	
Baseball (JV & Varsity)	Softball (JV & Varsity)
Track (Boys & Girls Track) (Varsity)	Boys Golf (Varsity)
Girls Soccer (JV & Varsity)	
Middle School	
Winter	
Boys Basketball (7th & 8th Grade) November-December	Girls Basketball (7th & 8th Grade) January-March
Spring	
Track (Boys & Girls) (7th Grade & 8th Grade)	

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a vital component of the West Branch-Rose City Athletic Program. Student athletes may be asked to assist with fundraisers during their athletic career. The head coach of each program is responsible for coordinating fundraisers for their program. All money collected must be deposited by student athletes in the team's account that they represent. Coaches are required to make the deposit with the athletic office at Ogemaw Heights High School during regular business hours. Fundraising may be

used by athletic programs for equipment, uniforms, apparel for athletes and coaches and coaches clinics and conferences. If you have questions regarding a fundraiser, please contact the head coach of the program your child is participating in.

BOOSTER CLUBS

A booster club is not considered an administrative body and functions solely for fundraising and other support purposes.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must be eligible under both the semester and current eligibility guidelines for athletic participation.

Previous Semester Eligibility: A student must have earned semester credit in at least five classes from the previous semester in order to be eligible to compete in any sport. Anyone failing to meet this requirement will be ineligible for competition for one entire semester.

Exceptions: Incoming freshmen are immediately eligible when they enter Ogemaw Heights High School. They have no previous semester eligibility requirement. Transfer students must meet the minimum MHSAA eligibility requirement of having earned at least 4 semester credits during the previous semester at their former school.

Current Semester Eligibility: A student must be earning credit in five out of six classes in the current semester in order to be eligible to compete in any sport. Anyone failing to meet this requirement at any time during the semester will be ineligible to compete until grades in five classes are up to credit level. (Minimum ineligibility will be at least two weeks (from Sunday through Saturday) following the eligibility check.

ATHLETIC VIOLATIONS

Each sport contains its own set of rules. You will get each set explained by the coach, athletic director, or a copy of the rules to help you to better understand the rules.

The following actions listed below are considered athletic violations and are in effect for all athletes in all sports:

a) Use and/or possession of tobacco products;
b) Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages;
c) Use and/or possession of illegal drugs or paraphernalia;
d) Theft or destruction of any items belonging to school personnel, students, or the school district;
e) inappropriate behavior and/or unlawful behavior (such as but not limited to theft, destruction of property, or indecent exposure);
f) Any conduct that is unbecoming of a student athlete;
g) Use and/or possession with performance enhancing drugs named on the National Federation High School banned substance list.

An athlete who brings undue disgrace to the school may be subject to discipline and/or suspension. Athletes, who are present at a gathering or event involving minors, where alcohol, tobacco, or drugs are

present, will be considered to have violated this policy and will be subject to discipline and/or suspension. In addition, upon receipt of a juvenile petition from local authorities, students will be placed on discipline and/or suspension for violation of this policy.

Student athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g. e-mail) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g. internet, online chat rooms, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Snapchat). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social network sites; however, student–athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of Ogemaw Heights High School. Any individual that is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered a violation of the athletic rules and will be subject to athletic discipline and/or suspension.

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Because hazing is unsafe, and can discourage participation as well as negatively affect a student's enjoyment in athletic participation and school, all forms of hazing are prohibited. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know would have the effect of harming a student or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or damage to his or her property;

- Any type of physical force, harm or injury inflicted by athletes on their team members such as: whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing an unwanted substance on the student's body;

- Any type of coerced or involuntary sexual or physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other coerced or unwelcome confinement, restriction or other forced activity by athletes on their fellow team members;

- Any coerced or involuntary activity by athletes on their team members that subjects the athletes to an unreasonable risk of harm or adversely affects their mental or physical health, safety, or welfare;

- Any coerced or involuntary activity inflicted, encouraged or mandated by athletes on their team members, such as the consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal, unauthorized, or foreign substances of any type whatsoever, tobacco or tobacco products, over the counter medicine or prescription drugs, or any other unreasonable risk of harm or activity that adversely affects an athlete's mental or physical health, safety, welfare or interest in the sport.

For the purpose of this rule, a team member's voluntary participation in hazing is not necessarily a defense to a claimed violation of this rule. Athletes, who organize or initiate hazing activities but do not directly participate in them, are equally subject to possible discipline as students who directly participate in acts of hazing. Student athletes are required to report suspected incidents of hazing and may be disciplined for failure to do so. Student athletes may not participate or initiate hazing activities against any athlete regardless of team affiliations.

Any student-athlete who has been reprimanded with any of the above violations may not join any sport part way through the season as a means of satisfying the suspension.

Individual coaches may have additional policies and penalties that must be adhered to by team members and team support personnel. Upon approval of the athletic director, these individual policies will be presented in writing to each athlete and placed on file in the athletic office at the beginning of the season.

PENALTIES

A first offense of any athletic violation will result in suspension from competition for 35% of current season playing dates. If there are not enough dates left in current season to complete the penalty, the penalty will be combined into the next season of participation. Athletes may practice during this time but will not dress for contests and may be present with the team on the bench at the coach's discretion. Student's punishment will be reduced by 10% of regular-season scheduled contest dates if he/she self-reports the violation before being confronted by a school official. This opportunity applies only to first offense violations.

A second offense will result in suspension from competition for 75% of their season beginning from date of violation.

A third offense will result in an indefinite suspension from athletics at OHHS.

A fourth offense will result in permanent suspension from athletics at OHHS.

- All contest dates will be rounded up at .5 or higher. These totals will reflect the entire regular season schedule.

- Indefinite Suspension: A student athlete who has received an indefinite suspension must be suspended no fewer than 365 days from the date of the suspension. At that time, a student may apply for reinstatement to the athletic program. The student must submit his/her request for reinstatement in writing, citing the various steps the student has taken to alter his/her behavior and regain the trust of the school. Upon receipt of this written request, the Athletic Director and building Principal will form a committee, which should include at minimum themselves, the coach for the team, the student who would like to be reinstated, and a teacher from the building in which the student is enrolled. This committee will hold a hearing at which the student may present evidence showing his/her readiness to return to the athletic program. The student may have additional representation at this hearing including parents and/or legal representation.

- The Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Asst. Principal reserve the right and discretion to deviate from the normal step process outlined above based upon the nature and severity of the violation.

- If contest is cancelled the suspension will carry over to the next contest date.

Elastic Clause: The administration reserves the right to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations for circumstances that may arise and require actions that are not covered in this handbook. In all cases, rules, regulations, and possible consequences shall be as consistent as possible with previously established rules, regulations, and consequences for similar incidents. Matters omitted from this handbook should not be interpreted as limitation to the scope of the school's responsibility and, therefore, authority in dealing with any type of infraction that may not be in the best interest of the safety and welfare of the students or the athletic department.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student who transfers from one high school to another is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for one full semester for the school to which the student transfers, unless the student qualifies under one or more of the 15 MHSAA exceptions. All transfers should contact the Athletic Director immediately for a ruling.

Ogemaw Heights High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject to resulting from a student or athletic code violation at that student's previous school. That student will be considered subject to the rules and penalties of the previous school and shall not be allowed to escape the consequences of his/her conduct.

PROCEDURE

Prior to the start of the sport season, athletes must register online to determine eligibility for each sport played. Athletes must provide a brief medical history and medical approvals to be treated in the case of emergency. The athletic department will review each registration for eligibility and informs coaches of cleared athletes before the first practice/tryout. Only cleared athletes may participate. Contact and medical information are kept confidential and/are only shared with appropriate personnel in accordance with FERPA laws.

Students and parents shall be informed of the Athletic Policy prior to participation in the school athletic program. Students and their parents shall certify in writing that they have read the policy and are aware it is in effect.

No student shall be disqualified from competition on hearsay evidence. The individual reporting the violation (other than court or law official) must be an adult and be willing to meet with the accused student, parents, and the athletic director within five days of the witnessed offense if the athlete denies the allegation.

Local law enforcement agencies and the court system will be in communication with the school as to athletes who are caught violating any laws. The athletic director or administrator will then confront the student and invoke the appropriate penalty. Parents, coaches, and the principal will be notified in writing of the infraction and penalty.

APPEAL

Within three school days following the application of a penalty, a student or parent may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent. The Superintendent. Principal, and member of faculty chosen by the administrative team will weigh the appeal and make a decision within three school days of the appeal. The decision is final.

REINSTATEMENT

Eligibility is automatically restored after the penalty has been completed and student has successfully completed the current season.

PAY TO PARTICIPATE

Athletes must pay to participate in athletics at Ogemaw Heights High School. At the beginning of each season, students/parents must pay a fee of $50. If a student participates in two or more sports, the total cost will not exceed $100. This fee will also include a student athletic pass good for all home non-MHSAA/Invitational events. A free physical for next school year is also included. Each year in June the athletic department will hold their free annual physical night where athletes are encouraged to attend this event.

ALL Pay to Participate fees MUST BE PAID IN FULL or another arrangements worked out with the athletic department before your student athlete will be allowed to participate in any contest representing West branch-Rose City Schools.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in the high school will always be with a bus to games unless the team traveling contains less than 15 athletes. If the team has 14 or fewer athletes, they may be taken in a caravan style departing from WBRC District building with parents who have filled out the appropriate paperwork attached to this document. As a parent, you have the option of driving your athlete, driving your athlete with other athletes as well, or allowing your athlete to be taken by another adult driver who meets the criteria listed below.

ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE FILLED OUT BEFORE THE FIRST CONTEST. A NEW ICHAT FORM NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT EACH YEAR AFTER MAY 31st.

1. I am 21 years of age or over.
2. I possess insurance on the automobile being driven, including liability insurance.
3. I possess a valid operator's license
4. I will transport only that number of passengers for which the vehicle has seat belts for.
5. I have no physical condition or disability which will affect my ability to safely provide transportation for students to school-sponsored functions
6. My driving record is devoid of any alcohol-related violations.
7. My driving record reflects an accumulation of six points or less for traffic violations.
8. The automobile being used is in safe operating condition and/or in safe condition, including tires, lights, brakes, horn, windshield wipers, windshield visibility, rear view mirrors, Heater, and defroster.
9. The West Branch-Rose City Area School District assumes no liability for accidents related to my transporting students to a school-sponsored function, as the primary insured, only as Secondary insured.
10. The insurance coverage carried by the school district does not cover the driver, automobile, or passengers as the primary insured, only as secondary insured.
11. The information provided by me in this statement is true and represents an accurate statement of my health condition and driving record.
12. I understand this this information will be kept confidential by the school district.
13. As an owner/driver of a vehicle providing private transportation for students to a school event, I hereby waive any and all claims against the school district for injuries which may occur.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Athletes must attend all scheduled classes on contest/practice days and cannot be more than 10 minutes late for first hour (unless he/she has left early with athletic team) in order to participate in that day's competition or practice. Exceptions (Doctor's appointments, court appearances, etc.), must be cleared prior to the competition/practice through the Athletic Director. A doctor note must be turned in for any appointment before being excused. Illness or "tiredness" is not an acceptable exception under the intent of this provision. A student who practices or participates in a contest contrary to this policy will be suspended from the next competition date.

POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

1. Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury, which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program and inspect their own equipment daily.

Also due to the nature of athletics, the possibility of the exchange of body fluids is present in sports. Regardless of how remote the possibility of transmission of diseases such as HIV/HBV is, all athletes should be aware of the inherent risks associated with athletic competition.

2. Risk taking: Participation in athletics is a voluntary extra-curricular activity in which the student participates at the risk of injury. Athletic activities can be hazardous and participation in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student and parents.

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools does **NOT** provide any accidental insurance for student-athletes. However, the MHSAA does provide concussion care insurance beyond what your personal insurance will cover.

Return to participation following ILLNESS or INJURY:

Athletes who are out of school for one (1) or more day because of injury may not attend practice session or participate in competition without written permission from a physician. A student must have a doctor's permission to return to practice or competition if he/she has sustained any injury which requires a visit to a physician.

Injury Reporting:

Students absent from practice due to extended illness or any athlete who sustains an injury while participating for West Branch-Rose City Area Schools or on his/her own time needs to report the injury to the athletic office.

Release to practice/compete following an injury:

Any athlete who has sustained an injury must be released to return to competition or practice by the head trainer, team physician and/or his/her licensed authorized health care provider. Release by the licensed health care provider must be delivered in writing to the athletic office.

Release to practice/compete following a head injury:

It is important to recognize that blows to the head can cause a variety of injuries other than concussions (e.g. neck injuries, more serious brain injuries). Please be sure to see your doctor as soon as possible for any other medical concerns. Please be advised that your son/daughter will not be allowed to return to play until he/she has no symptoms and have been cleared in writing on the MHSAA return to Participate form (available in the athletic office or from your coach) by a licensed authorized health care provider for this type of injury.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Appropriate issues or concerns to discuss with coaches….

1. The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically;
2. Ways to help your child improve;
3. Concerns about your child's behavior or attitude.

It can be very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches…
While there are certain things that can, and should, be discussed with your child's coach, there are other things which must be left to the discretion of the Coach;

1. Playing Time;
2. Strategy;
3. Play Calling;
4. Other Student-Athletes.

All complaints MUST be heard at the lowest possible level BEFORE intervention by a higher authority can occur and a 24 hour "cooling off" period must be observed before any complaints will be initiated. Any complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident and for the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

COMPLAINT PROCESS

This system works very well and we are committed to abide by it.

Step 1: start with the source – The player will speak directly to the coach. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present, however, the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.

Step 2: move to the program head – This step is necessary only if the issue is in regards to a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV Coach, Freshmen Coach, Middle School Coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the "source" is the head of the program, move to step three.

Step 3: contact athletic director – If an agreeable solution is not reached in Step 2, the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

Step 4: contact principal – If an agreeable solution is still not reached in Step 3, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find a resolution.

Step 5: notify the superintendent – At this point in the process, individuals who still believe his/her issue has not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of his/her complaint to the school Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. Once the Superintendent has reviewed the documents, he can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.

DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

If it is the intention of the athlete to participate in two sports during the same season, the following stipulations must be met.

1. Meeting between both coaches, and athletic director must be held.
2. If it is approved by both coaches and athletic director, a meeting with parents, coaches, and athletes will be held to work out the details. (meeting will take place once try-outs have been completed)
3. The Student must inform coaches before try-outs their intention on being a dual sport athlete.
4. A dual sport participation form must be signed by all parties at the meeting.
5. A student-athlete must declare a primary and a secondary sport.
6. Student must have a GPA of 3.0 to participate.
7. Freshmen are not allowed to participate.
8. Any student with an E will be removed from the secondary sport during any academic check.
9. Any violation of the athletic code/handbook will apply to both sports.
10. Once a primary and secondary have been chosen those cannot be changed.

AWARDS AND AMATEURISM

Students cannot receive money or other valuable considerations for participating in an athletic performance or in MHSAA sponsored events or officiating in interscholastic athletic contests except as allowed by the MHSAA Handbook. Students may accept, for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over $25. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips and admissions to camps or events, are permitted if accepted “in kind”. Awards in the form of cash, merchandise, certificates, or any other negotiable documents are never allowed.

A student-athlete cannot participate in any athletic team competition in the same sport during the same season or cannot participate in post-season all-star charity or exhibition games in football, basketball, or ice hockey at any time. There are exceptions to this rule involving individual sport meets. For more information, contact the Athletic Director.

NCAA ELIGILIBITY RULES

For complete information and registration, visit the NCAA web site at *www.ncaaclearinghouse.net*

NCAA COLLEGE ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY: Student athletes who wish to participate in athletics at Division I or Division II colleges, must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. To be certified, students must submit the Student Release Form, a transcript of grades, test scores, and the filing fee to the Clearinghouse. Test scores must be submitted from the testing agency.

The NCAA has adopted legislation that will require prospects who intend to enroll at NCAA Division I and Division II institutions to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agencies. Test scores on an official high school transcript will no longer be accepted for NCAA purposes. All prospective student-athletes intending to enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time

must complete the NCAA Amateurism Certification questionnaire. Online courses may not be accepted by the NCAA Clearinghouse, please check with your counselor or the NCAA Clearinghouse.

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

In the event that a college recruiter contacts an athlete, he/she should work with his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform the coach of such a contact as soon as possible. Athletes interested in playing college athletics should contact their counselor during their junior year regularly.

SELF-FUNDED EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Definition of Self-Funded Extra Curricular Activities: Any sport/activity that is support by the school district but does not receive any district funds. All funds are fundraised or received by donation.

Participation Fee: $50 per sport with a cap of $100 per school year. This fee will be collected by the athletic office and deposited in that specific activity account for their operations.

Athletic Code Policy: All West Branch-Rose City Area Schools students will be held to the same athletic code policy of conduct and eligibility standards as outlined in the student handbook.

Scheduling: athletic director will schedule contest for all sports except those that have a predetermined schedule. Any contest that is scheduled with a non-school team needs to be run by the athletic director and must provide a contact name, phone, e-mail and possible dates of competition.

Try-Outs: Try-Outs must take place during the required time period for any MHSAA sponsored activity. Any sport that is not sponsored by the MHSAA will hold tryouts on dates that are decided by the athletic director and coach.

Officials: Officials for MHSAA teams will be scheduled by the athletic director. Non-School contest officials will be scheduled by coach. All officials will be paid via arbiter pay within 24 hours of contest when possible.

Finances: It will be generally accepted that there must be two sets of standards established; one for teams not governed by a separate 501C3 and one for teams that are. A booster club is not considered an administrative body and functions solely for fundraising and other support purposes.

Coaching Stipends and Guidelines: All coaches will sign a “contract” that has job expectations (see below) well documented. Coaches are expected to uphold standards put forth by the Union Labor Agreement according to schedule B. Stipends cannot exceed the limits that are set forth in schedule B. All stipends will be paid at the end of the season after all post-season requirements are met and all uniforms are returned. This includes any outstanding bills must be paid before stipend is paid.

Determination of Budget and coaches stipend for teams NOT administered by 501C3: A three or five person budget committee of parents and team representatives (not coaches) will meet with the head coach at least one (1) month prior to the first day of practice to determine the program’s budget for the upcoming season. The budget committee will meet with the athletic director to review the projected budget and determine coach’s stipend.

Determination of Budget and coaches' stipend for teams that ARE administered by 501C3: Budgets and coaches stipend can be determined by the 501C3 organization as long as organizations bylaws legislate a minimum of three present voting members meeting determined budget. This should also be done at least one month prior to start of the season.

Transportation: Coaches or team representative are expected to coordinate all transportation. School bussing may be available, but the team will cover ALL costs determined by West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Transportation Department. Self-Transportation is allowed and must follow all West Branch-Rose City transportation guidelines. Students are NOT ALLOWED to drive to away contests.

Hiring Coaches: All coaches will be hired using the current West Branch-Rose City hiring procedures. The AD will construct a hiring committee to interview candidates in the same fashion he/she would for any other coaching position of a school funded sport. Teams administered by a 501C3 that have explicit hiring standards and protocol outlined in their bylaws and have been approved by the athletic director, may "recommend for hire" their coaching recommendation. However, the athletic director has final say as to whether or not that recommendation is approved to be presented to the Board of Education.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Coverage
All athletes shall be governed by this policy from the first day of involvement in West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Middle School athletics until completion of 8th grade.

Academic Eligibility
Every athlete competing in West Branch-Rose City Area Schools' 7th or 8th grade sports will be governed under the MHSAA and West Branch-Rose City Area Schools eligibility guidelines as set forth below. Student athletes will be checked weekly during their competitive season beginning the week prior to their first contest.

Previous Semester Eligibility
Student-athletes must have passed at least 5 classes the previous semester in order to be eligible for the entire current semester. **Exceptions:** First-semester 7th graders have no previous junior high semester and are exempt from the previous semester requirement. Transfer students need only to have passed 4 classes from their previous school.

Current Semester Eligibility
Student-athletes must currently have satisfactory grades and be exhibiting appropriate behavior in all classes with a D- or higher currently to meet minimum eligibility requirements. Anyone failing to meet these minimum expectations at any time during the semester will be ineligible to compete until grades and behavior are raised to acceptable levels.

Administration: An initial check will occur the week prior to the first competition

Notification: Coaches and athletes will receive weekly results on Thursday, indicating the eligibility status for the following week. Parents will be notified by letter. Students may continue to practice during a period of ineligibility at the coach's discretion.

Athletic Violations
The violations listed below are in effect for all athletes in all sports:

a) Use and/or possession of tobacco products

b) Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverage
c) Use and/or possession of illegal drugs
d) Theft of any items belonging to school personnel, students, or the school district
e) Inappropriate and/or unlawful behavior (conduct on becoming of an athlete) (such as but no limited to theft, destruction of property, or indecent exposure)

Individual coaches may have **additional policies and penalties** that must be adhered to by team members. Upon approval of the athletic director, these individual policies will be presented in writing to each athlete and placed on file in the office at the beginning of the season.

Penalties: An offense of any violation (a-e above) will result in suspension from competition for 4 basketball games or 2 track meets.

Administration: Students and their parents shall be informed of the Athletic Policy prior to participation in the school athletic program. Students and their parents shall certify in writing that they have read the policy and are aware it is in effect. In the event that an athlete becomes ineligible due to academic or behavioral problems, the athletes will be informed personally and parents will be informed in writing.

Appeal: Within three school days following the application of a penalty, a student or parent may appeal the decision in writing to the principal. The principal and athletic director will weigh the appeal and make a decision within three school days of the appeal.

Reinstatement: Eligibility is automatically restored after the penalty has been completed and student has successfully completed the current season.

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools
Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgement Form
is on Page 17

WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY AREA SCHOOLS
ATHLETIC RESPONSIBILITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Student Name (please print) _____

As an Ogemaw Heights High School student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics, I understand:

I have read and will abide by the Ogemaw Heights High School Athletic Code, rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the laws of the State of Michigan, and my coaches stated rules.

Specifically, I understand the following:

1. that I must attend school the **entire** school day to participate in practice or a contest in the same day, unless a parent has pre-excused it with the Athletic Director
2. that I **will not** be able to participate from the Sunday to next Saturday after I have been marked ineligible (Failing or no credit) in more than one class
3. that I passed 66% of credit in the semester previous to my participation
4. that I understand the training rules and my rights to due process
5. that if I have transferred between schools, I have established my eligibility with the athletic director, whom will verify it with the Michigan High School Athletic Association

I will conduct myself in an exemplary manner that will not discredit myself, my family, my team, the school, or my community.

I will be responsible for all athletic equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.

I also understand that should I violate any of the rules I am subject to the penalties as stated in the Athletic Code or by my coach.

I have attended a meeting with the athletic director and/or coach and have been informed of all precautions and procedures involving private transportation of student-athletes to athletic contests and agree to abide by the policies set forth by the school system.

Parents and student athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious injury associated with participation in sports programs provided by West Branch-Rose City Area Schools. Athletic activities can be hazardous and taking part in such activities is calculated risk-taking on the part of the athlete and parents. While reducing injuries to a minimum is a goal of our coaching staff and administration, the possible dangers must not be overlooked.

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which students participate at their own risk.

By signing below, we understand and have read the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Athletic Code and all its parts including the transportation, pay to participate, NCAA eligibility rules, and the rules. By signing below, we understand that this Athletic Code is in effect for any sport, for 365 days a year during my athletic career at West Branch-Rose City Area Schools. I know what is expected of an athlete who represents West Branch-Rose City Schools and am prepared to distinguish myself.

Student Signature _____ Print Name_____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Print Name_____ Date _____

Coaches Signature _____ Print Name_____ Date_____

* This form needs to be signed and handed in to the coach before the first game of every athletic season in which he/she participates.