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A Message From The Athletic Director

This handbook is being presented to you because your son or daughter has expressed interest in participating in athletics at New Miami Local Schools. You have also expressed your willingness to permit him or her to compete. Your family’s interest in this phase of our total educational program is gratifying. I believe that participation in athletics provides numerous opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development.

The New Miami Local School District is interested in the development of young men and women through athletics. A properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets students’ needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is my hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and is one which furthers each student’s educational maturity.

Likewise, I believe that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations as parents or guardians of an athlete. I would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad based community support to be fully effective. This is achieved only through communication between the Athletic Department and the parents or guardians of our athletes. It is my hope to accomplish this objective through this Athletic Handbook for Athletes and Parents. In addition, you are encouraged to visit our district’s athletic web pages on our web site at the following link:  www.new-miami.k12.oh.us

Good luck to you and your son or daughter this year!

Kevin Dunnette
Athletic Director
New Miami Local Schools
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896-3954 Ext. 2005
**Purpose of Publication**
This manual was created as a means of improving communication between the Athletic Director, administration, coaches, athletes and parents of the New Miami Local School District. Improved communication results in an improved Athletic Department.

**Statement of Athletic Philosophy**
Athletic programs shall be an integral part of the total secondary school educational program, which has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum. This will increase learning in areas of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns and will contribute to the development of better citizens. Emphasis shall be upon teaching “through” activities in addition to teaching the “skills” of activities.

Athletic programs shall be primarily for the benefit of the students who participate directly in them. These programs shall exist mainly for the value which they have for students and not for the benefit of the school itself.

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted cooperatively by the schools through the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and those additional standards established by the New Miami Board of Education.

The OHSAA shall be concerned with the development of those standards, policies, and regulations essential to assist its member schools in the implementation of its philosophy of interscholastic activities.

**Athletic Goals and Objectives**
The goal of the New Miami Athletic Department is to assist in making our student-athletes more productive citizens in society.

**Specific Objectives**
- **To learn teamwork** - To work with others on a team, an athlete must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.

- **To have fun** - This is the main reason young people participate in middle school and high school sports.

- **To be successful** - Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
Sportsmanship - To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us.

To Improve - Continual improvement is essential as an athlete. You must establish a goal and constantly strive to reach that goal.

The Miami Valley Conference
The Vikings compete in the Miami Valley Conference along with the following nine schools:

- Cincinnati Christian
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Clark Montessori
- Lockland
- North College Hill
- Seven Hills
- St. Bernard-Elmwood Place
- Summit Country Day

Miami Valley Conference Mission Statement
“The Miami Valley Conference coaches, players, officials, administrators, and fans shall promote respect on and off the playing field. We shall be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Our mission is to aspire to these high ideals in word and deed, and at the same time, to have fun.”

Miami Valley Conference Fan Code of Behavior
1. Let the officials handle the game.
2. No obscene gestures or language.
3. Be respectful and courteous of others.
4. Cheer for a team and not against an opponent.
5. Use self control; no taunting.
6. Remember it is only a game!

Sportsmanship Philosophy
Good sportsmanship is viewed by the OHSAA as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship. This includes players, cheerleaders, student managers, scorekeepers, timers, spectators, and coaches. One of
our goals is to develop athletes and support groups who demonstrate good sportsmanship. We believe that the basic rules of good sportsmanship consist of:

- Showing respect for opponents at all times.
- Showing respect for officials and their decisions.
- Knowing, understanding, and following the rules of the contest.
- Maintaining self-control at all times.
- Recognizing and appreciating skill in performances regardless of affiliation.

**Athletes OHSAA Fair Play Code**
I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.

I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.

I will control my temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.

I will respect my opponents.

I will do my best to try to be a true team player.

I will remember that winning isn’t everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.

I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and my opponents.

I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given their time to be with me.

**Coaches OHSAA Fair Play Code**
I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young people have other interests and obligations.

I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.

I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and opportunities.
I will not ridicule my athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly. I will remember that young people play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.

I will remember that young people need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.

I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes’ ages and abilities.

I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

**Behavior of Spectators at Athletic Events**

We believe that being a spectator is a “privilege” and not a “right.” It is a privilege to watch an educational process where teams demonstrate what they have learned in the athletic classroom. Spectators will be held accountable for good sportsmanship.

*Please, let the players play; let the coaches coach; let the officials officiate; and let the fans be positive!*  

**Spectators Removed From an Athletic Event**  
Spectators removed from an athletic event by school personnel, security personnel, or contest officials for inappropriate behavior and/or poor sportsmanship will lose the privilege of attending the next scheduled contest (home or away). Policy will carry over into the next season or school year if the removal occurs on the last game of the season or school year. Any spectator who is removed from a second contest will lose the privilege of attending home AND AWAY contests for the remainder of the school year.

**Fans OHSAA Fair Play Code**  
I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.

I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one’s best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.

I will respect the official’s decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.

I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will show respect for my team’s opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.

I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.

I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

**The Role of Parents in Athletics**

**Communicating With Your Children**
Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.

Try your best to be completely honest about your child’s athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.

Be helpful but don’t coach them. It’s tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.

Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be “out there trying,” to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.

Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. You were frightened, backed off at times and were not always heroic. Athletic children need their parents, so do not withdraw. There is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.

Don’t compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
Don’t compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.

Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.

Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some of us climb mountains and are afraid to fly. Some of us will fly but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

**Communicating With The Coach**

**Communication You Should Expect From Your Child’s Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
- Procedure should your child be injured.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child’s participation.

**Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.

**Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child’s behavior.

**Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches**

- Playing time
Team strategy
Play calling
Other student-athletes

Appropriate Procedures For Discussing Concerns with Coaches
Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the Athletic Director to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach).

Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution).

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, then contact the Athletic Director.

Athletic Eligibility Standards

Age Limitation
If a student enrolled in high school reaches the age of 19 before August 1st, that student shall be ineligible for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 reaches the age of 15 before August 1st, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th/8th grade athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year. However, he/she may be eligible for high school athletics.

Scholarship
The School Board and administration of the New Miami Local School District believe that academic excellence and high achievement are extremely important. For this reason, the minimum eligibility standards set by the New Miami Schools are higher than the minimum standards set by the state of Ohio. The New Miami Local School District also understands the impact of interscholastic athletics on the total education of the student.

High school students must have received passing marks in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation. 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 immediately preceding grading period become effective.

Once the sports season begins, eligibility will be checked every two (2) weeks. Students failing two or more classes become ineligible for a one-week period. Students who are ineligible during this one-week time period, will be unable to
participate in a game until they are declared eligible by the Athletic Director (Athletes are expected to practice but not play in games).

OHSAA eligibility guidelines will be used for end of quarter eligibility status.

Please familiarize yourself with the following OHSAA Bylaws:

Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility.

**Grades 7-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses (9-12) or five courses (7-8), or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.

Remember, summer school grades are not used for eligibility.

**NOTE:** Additional OHSAA eligibility requirements, including Residency guidelines etc., are available from the Athletic Director. They are also printed in the back of this document.

**Conduct of Athlete**

**General Philosophy**

All New Miami Athletes are expected to adhere to all of the District’s discipline policies outlined in the Student Handbook. In addition, all athletes are also expected to follow all discipline policies set by their coaches. Simply put, athletes shall conduct themselves in a positive manner in the classroom and on the playing field/court. Remember, participating in athletics is a privilege and not a right! Athletes who are referred to the office for disciplinary reasons or who misbehave in the classroom may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by the Principal, Athletic Director, or head coach. Specifically, student-athletes who are assigned in-school or out-of-school punishments (excluding out-of-school suspensions) **WILL NOT** be permitted to participate on those days on which they are assigned their punishment (they are expected to attend practice, but may not participate).

**Insubordination and Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

This is an extremely broad area which covers a wide variety of problems that ultimately depend, for proper solution, upon good judgment, fairness and the consideration of best interests of all our athletes. This, then, dictates that a consistent approach be taken in dealing with these kinds of problems.
The Coach and the Disciplinary Process
The incident is specifically recorded, one-on-one counseling is used, and the parents, Athletic Director, and school administration are notified. If the situation warrants, the athlete may be suspended from participation and/or school. If the problem persists, the athlete may be removed from the team.

In matters of conduct in which athletics are not involved, the coach, Athletic Director, and school administration are to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.

In matters of conduct in which athletic contests are involved, the Principals of the involved schools or game officials may file a report and the OHSAA shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether the student participates or not.

Denial of Participation Due to Misconduct

FIRST OFFENSE GRADES 7-12
1. An athlete removed from participation in athletics shall be given an informal hearing with the Athletic Director prior to removal from the athletic team for the remainder of the season and the next sports season for the first offense.
2. It must be understood by all athletes and their parents/guardians that a condition to participating in interscholastic athletics in the New Miami Local School District requires a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies and procedures established by the district and its coaches for the implementation of its athletic program. It should also be understood that an athlete who violates these rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall face disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action may include denial from participation in interscholastic athletic activities and possible suspension or expulsion from school pursuant to the student code of conduct and Ohio Revised Code 3313.66.
3. All athletes who have been denied participation for a season or longer shall forfeit any athletic awards for the activity for that season from the New Miami Local School District or any other association as a result of participation in the athletic activity. An athlete and parent may appeal to the Principal and Athletic Director.

SECOND OFFENSE GRADES 9-12
An athlete who is removed from any athletic team for the second time will be denied participation for a full calendar year. They would then be reinstated to be able to tryout to participate for the next athletic season after the year of non-
participation. An athlete and parent may appeal to the Principal and Athletic Director.

THIRD OFFENSE GRADES 9-12
An athlete who is removed from participation a third time shall be permanently denied participation in athletics and shall not be permitted to apply for reinstatement. An athlete and parent may appeal to the Principal and Athletic Director.

SECOND AND THIRD OFFENSE GRADES 7-8
An athlete removed a second time and third time must meet with their parents and the Athletic Director and Principal in order to discuss reinstatement by establishing an agreement to improve the student’s conduct.

Athletic Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy
Athletes, coaches, and contest officials are prohibited from using any form of tobacco or drugs at the playing site of an athletic event. Penalty for violations by school participants are grounds for disqualification from the contest.

The responsibility of an athlete to his/her fellow athletes is a year-round commitment and does not end with the season. Therefore, this policy is in effect for the entirety of an athlete’s middle school and high school career and is enforced all twelve months of the year.

The following consequences are in effect and will be enforced for twelve months of the year and may carry over to the next season of participation. Consequences will be cumulative during middle school and high school years.

Players using and/or possessing tobacco (including smokeless tobacco) will be denied the privilege of athletic participation for a period of two weeks. A second infraction involving tobacco will result in the loss of athletic participation for the remainder of the current sports season. A third infraction involving tobacco will result in the loss of athletic participation for a period of one calendar year.

Players using and/or possessing illegal (or counterfeit) drugs or alcohol will be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the period of one calendar year. In addition, any athlete convicted of a criminal wrongdoing concerning the possession and/or use of alcohol or drugs will be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the same one calendar year period. Players violating this policy a second time will be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of their athletic career.
Athletes who are denied athletic participation for **FIRST-TIME** violations of the drug and alcohol policy may apply for reinstatement with the Athletic Director and Principal. An Athletic Reinstatement Plan must then be implemented and completed before the athlete may participate in any athletic activity.

The Prevention Coordinator shall be informed of any violations to this policy and will assist the family in identifying suitable assessment/intervention sites.

Players who violate the drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies will not receive any All-League or team trophies at the Award’s Banquet.

**Voluntary Referral Opportunity**
Voluntary referral must occur prior to any report of violations. Involvement by law enforcement officials negates the option of voluntary referral. The student may use the option of voluntary referral once in his/her athletic or academic career at New Miami Local Schools.

Students have the opportunity for a voluntary referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and/or assessment in regard to the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol and other controlled or non-controlled substances. Voluntary referrals may be made by the athlete or his/her immediate family. Voluntary referrals will not carry violation consequences on the first offense only.

Any subsequent violations will be enforced accordingly. If the athlete requesting the voluntary referral opportunity does not complete the assessment recommendations by the established time schedule, the violation consequence will be put into effect immediately.

For an alcohol and/or controlled substance/mood-altering chemicals referral, the student must have, within five (5) days, an appointment for an assessment with a chemical dependency counselor and notify the Prevention Coordinator of the appointment. The student must participate in the assessment process (the cost of any and all assessment will be the responsibility of the student and/or parents/guardians) and follow the counselor’s recommendations to completion. If treatment or counseling is recommended it must be with an Ohio-certified chemical dependency counselor. The student must waive his/her rights of confidentiality so that verification of this assessment and a written report can be given to the Prevention Coordinator. The student will also attend an out-of-school education program approved by the school Prevention Coordinator. Confirmation of the attendance must be made to the Prevention Coordinator.
is the responsibility of the student and his or her parents to keep the Prevention Coordinator apprised of the athlete’s progress throughout the entire process.

For a tobacco referral, the student must within five (5) days provide verification of enrollment in an out-of-school tobacco education/cessation program approved by the Prevention Coordinator. Parents must sign a release of information to the Prevention Coordinator so that the student’s progress in the program can be followed and written verification of completion given to the Prevention Coordinator. The athlete must complete the program or receive the original discipline.

**Explanation of Athletic Forms**

The forms of this handbook are important items that each athlete must understand. All forms are available from the Athletic Director. They are as follows:

**Physical Form** – this form must be completed and signed by a physician, parent and athlete PRIOR to participating or even trying out for any athletic team. They are good for one calendar year.

**Liability Waiver** – this form must also be completed PRIOR to participating on any athletic team. This form is designed to point out the possible dangers of participating in athletics and renders the school district free of any liability in the event of injury to the athlete.

**Emergency Medical Authorization Form** – this form must also be completed PRIOR to participating on any athletic team. This form shall be kept with the team’s coaching staff at all times and allows (or does not allow) medical treatment in an emergency situation. It also shows which hospital your family prefers in such an emergency.

**Travel Release Form** – this form allows athletes to ride home from away contests with a parent/guardian rather than riding the bus. This form is for emergency or unusual situations only and must be approved by the head coach.

**Participation Fee Form** - The fee will be $40 per sport per child in grades 9-12 and $30 per sport per child in grades 7-8 with a family cap of $160. The fee will be due before the squad’s first game for each sport. Checks should be made out to *New Miami Athletics*.

**Handbook Acknowledgement Form** – this form must also be completed PRIOR to participating on any athletic team. This form is designed to show that each athlete has received and has agreed to abide by this Athletic Handbook.
**Athletic Department Policies and Guidelines**

**Attendance Policy**
Every student is expected to spend the day in school. Students absent from school are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. Students who arrive to school after 7:50 a.m. or miss any other part of the school day must present a Doctor’s note in order to participate in extracurricular events for that school day. Any student who has an unexcused absence or tardy on Friday will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity on Saturday or Sunday, unless permission is granted by the Athletic Director.

In addition, student-athletes are expected to be at practice and games throughout their season. Missing practices will not be tolerated, and playing time will be reduced for these absences.

**End of the Season Awards**
Each athlete who successfully completes his/her current sports season will be invited to attend the Awards Program, held following the fall, winter, and spring sports seasons.

Any athlete who is dismissed from a team, voluntarily “quits,” or fails to attend the season’s final game(s) will not be invited to the Awards Programs and will receive no awards (nor will those who don’t attend the Awards Program).

**Equipment and Uniforms**
Athletes are responsible for the return of all equipment and uniforms at the conclusion of their season, including if they are dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons or they “quit.” Equipment and uniforms must be cleaned and returned in the condition that the athlete received them (taking into account normal wear and tear). All uniforms and equipment shall be returned before an athlete receives any end-of-the-year awards and/or is permitted to begin the next sport season in any capacity.

Equipment and uniforms should not be altered or modified in any manner without permission from the head coach.

Equipment and uniforms are the property of New Miami Local Schools and should not be worn or used for personal purposes.
Game Day Dress Code and Practice Dress Code
Our athletes represent our school at all times, including when they travel to away contests or arrive to school for home contests. Therefore, athletes are to dress appropriately when they travel to other schools. Your coach may require a particular dress code for these events and the Athletic Department will support such dress code requirements.

Appropriate (modest) dress is required at all practices as well. T-shirts shall be worn by male athletes while working out, and shorts shall be worn at the waist. Female athletes shall wear complete t-shirts (not cut or sleeveless) which cover undergarments. Again, coaches may require a stricter dress code for their teams.

Inclement Weather Policy
If school is cancelled for inclement weather, practices will be cancelled unless coaches receive specific permission from the Athletic Director to practice.

Insurance
Insurance is available for families whose children are not covered by an insurance policy. See the Athletic Director to secure these forms.

Lockers
All athletes will be issued a lock at the beginning of their sport season if they so desire. All locks must be returned at the end of the season or athletes will be charged a $5 replacement fee for locks not returned. It is each athlete's responsibility to keep his/her property locked in his/her locker, and to keep it orderly and clean. No stickers, pictures or posters shall be placed on the outside of the locker.

General searches on school property may be conducted at any time by school authorities when there are reasonable grounds to fear for the welfare or safety of the school community. There shall be reasonable causes for school authorities to believe that the possession of certain items constitute a rule violation or a crime.

OHSAA Parents’ Meetings
The OHSAA requires each school district to have three (fall, winter, and spring) Parents’ Meetings each school year. Items discussed include Sportsmanship, Eligibility, and the Athletic Code of Conduct. Each athlete and his/her parent or guardian must attend this meeting prior to participating in any games. Once a parent or guardian attends one meeting, he or she will not need to attend another one for the rest of the school year unless directed to attend by the head coach.
Pay to Participate
A participation fee will be collected after the teams have been formed and the fee is non-refundable. All interscholastic athletes and cheerleaders in grades 9-12 will pay an athletic fee of $40 per child per sport; while those in grades 7-8 will pay $30 per child per sport. There will be a family cap of $160 per year. Fees are due by the team’s first contest. Fees will be paid to the Athletic Director. If the fee is not paid by this date, the student will not be permitted to participate in the activity until the fee is paid. Parents and student athletes also need to understand the following conditions for participation:

Payment of the participation fee is not related to playing time, position on the team, place in the line-up, or membership on the varsity vs. junior varsity team, for example.

Coaching decisions are the prerogative of the coach and are not related to the payment of the participation fee.

Once the student “makes the team,” fees paid will not be reimbursed unless the student sustains a season-ending injury prior to the second contest of the season or is cut from the squad as part of the normal selection process.

Students who sustain non-season ending injuries will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

Students who move will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

Students who are removed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

The Board has the right to cancel any sport that does not have sufficient participation to support the sport. Fees paid for a cancelled sport will be refunded.

If payments are not made by the stated deadline, the student will be denied practice and game privileges.

Fees are paid by sport or by activity, not season.

Fees are designed to defray the cost of athletics; i.e. officials, transportation, equipment, etc.
Physical Forms and Other Required Paperwork
All athletes must have an OHSAA physical form on file in the Athletic Department prior to participating in any tryouts, practices, or games. The physical form must be signed by a physician and a parent/guardian and is good for one year from the date that it is completed. In addition to the above mentioned OHSAA Physical Form, all athletes must have the following forms on file with the Athletic Director prior to participating in any tryout, practices, or games:

   Handbook Acknowledgement Form
   Athletic Participation Fee Acknowledgement
   Liability Waiver
   Emergency Medical Authorization Form

Quit Policy
Athletes who quit during any sports season (which includes attendance issues) are prohibited from participating in the next two sports seasons. Athletes are encouraged to fulfill the commitment they made to their team and school when they tried out. Athletes may appeal this policy to the Athletic Director only.

Course Load Agreement
The OHSAA requires athletes at the high school level to pass five (5) one-credit courses in order to maintain eligibility at the end of each grading period. What this means, simply put, is that student-athletes must pass five courses which count as one-half (0.5) credit each semester. This does not include, for example, Physical Education, Aide positions, etc.

Athletes have been encouraged for a number of years to take more than five classes each quarter in order to remain eligible. In addition, this eligibility policy is discussed at the OHSAA-mandated Athletes, Parents, and Coaches meetings. However, some students may elect to take less than six or more courses. As a result, a contract has been created to assist administrators, counselors, coaches, and student-athletes understand that this OHSAA-mandated eligibility policy does exist. Contract is in back of this Handbook.

Injuries
Athletes are encouraged to utilize the services of Oxford Physical Therapy in Hamilton (10001 Main Street at 737-4567) for the care and treatment of injuries. Any athlete who sees his/her personal physician shall not return to participation without a signed release from that physician.
Fire Exit Doors
The doors in the gymnasium which go directly to the outside should not be open at any time, unless in the event of a fire.

Coaches’ Offices and Equipment Rooms
Athletes are not to be in Coaches’ Offices and/or equipment rooms without a coach present.
ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE

I hereby acknowledge that a participation fee will be collected after the teams have been formed and that the fee is non-refundable. All inter-scholastic athletes and cheerleaders in grades 9-12 will pay an athletic fee of $40 per child per sport; while those in grades 7-8 will pay $30 per child per sport. There will be a family cap of $160 per year. Fees are due before the squad’s first game. Fees will be paid to, and collected by, the Athletic Director. If the fee is not paid by the first game, the student will not be permitted to participate in the activity until the fee is paid. Parents and student athletes also need to understand the following conditions for participation:

- Payment of the participation fee is not related to playing time, position on the team, place in the line-up, or membership on the varsity vs. junior varsity team, for example.

- Coaching decisions are the prerogative of the coach and are not related to the payment of the participation fee.

- Once the student “makes the team,” fees paid will not be reimbursed unless the student sustains a season-ending injury prior to the second contest of the season or is cut from the squad as part of the normal selection process.

- Students who sustain non-season ending injuries will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

- Students who move will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

- Students who are removed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be entitled to a fee reimbursement.

- The Board has the right to cancel any sport that does not have sufficient participation to support the sport. Fees paid for a cancelled sport will be refunded.

- If payments are not made by the stated deadline, the student will be denied practice and game privileges.

- Fees are paid by sport or by activity, not season.

- Fees are designed to defray the cost of athletics; i.e. officials, transportation, equipment, etc.

I, ________________________________, (signature of parent or guardian), agree to accept full responsibility for payment of this activity fee. I understand that my son or daughter will not be allowed to participate in the extracurricular activity if this fee is not paid. Further, I have read and understand the conditions outlined above.

Athlete’s Name: ____________________________       Date Signed: _____________________
New Miami Athletics
Liability Waiver

Acknowledgement of Warning to Student

I, ___________________________ (Name of Student) hereby acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the New Miami Local School District that by participating in the sport of _____________________, I am exposing myself to the risk of serious injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in the above sport, and should I choose to participate in the above sport I hereby acknowledge that I do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to which I am exposing myself by participating in the above sport.

Signature of Student-Athlete:  _____________________________________________

Date Signed:      ____________________________

Acknowledgement of Warning to Parent/Guardian

I, the parent/guardian of ________________________________ (Name of Student) hereby acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the New Miami Local School District that our child named above may suffer serious injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death by participating in the sport of _____________________. Not withstanding such warnings, and with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to my child named above which may result, I give my consent to the child named above to participate in the sport named above.

Print Name of Parent/Guardian:_____________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian: ______________________________________________________

Date Signed:    ________________________________
As an athlete of the New Miami Local School District, I am expected to conduct myself in a manner which follows all New Miami Local School District and New Miami Athletic Department policies.

I have received an Athletic Handbook, which outlines the Athletic policies that I am expected to abide by, and I agree to abide by these policies. In addition, I have received a Student Handbook which outlines School District policies I am expected to abide by as well.

____________________________  _________________________
Athlete’s Signature    Parent/Guardian Signature

____________________________  _________________________
Date Signed      Date Signed