

Franklin Local School District



Student Athletic Policy 2023-2024

Philosophy

1. The total athletic program is an integral part of the entire educational program at Franklin Local. We believe there are substantial educational advantages from a soundly conceived and executed program for the players, the student body, and the community.
2. A profitable experience can be gained through athletic participation. The values to the participants are very life adjusting. Rigorous competition provides students the opportunity to develop ideas, fair play, good health, achievement, initiative, and emotional control.
3. We, in Franklin Local, believe the game exists for the student...never the student for the game.

Objectives

1. To provide a program that will be available to all students where competition can be found and skilled and interested people are sufficient.
2. To provide an interscholastic athletic program with emphasis on good and proper sportsmanship.
3. To provide an interscholastic program to develop skills, moral qualities, social development and emotional maturity.
4. To comply with all rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

Participation Requirement

Requirements for participation in Philo High School and Philo Junior High School Athletics:

1. A physical examination completed by a doctor.
2. School insurance or athletic waiver (At Risk Form) signed by parent/guardian.
3. Emergency medical form on file with the athletic director, a copy of which is to be carried by the coach to all away contests.
4. Meet all OHSAA, Philo High School and Philo Junior High eligibility requirements.
5. Parent/guardian and student-athlete signed agreement to abide by the Franklin Local School District Athletic Code. *This is signed on Final Forms.*
6. Parent/guardian signed agreement to abide by the student-athlete's parent pledge. *This is signed through Final Forms.*

7. Parent/guardian and student-athlete signed Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet. *This is signed through Final Forms.*
8. Parent/guardian and student-athlete signed Sudden Cardiac Arrest information form. *This is signed through Final Forms.*

Cheerleading: Initial Requirements for Tryouts

1. *Cheerleaders will be selected in the Spring to represent the school during the following school year. Candidates will be given the opportunity to try out for one or both sports seasons (football and basketball). Candidates must meet the requirements established by the coach(es) for the clinic and try out sessions. Requirements must include the following:*
 - a. *Parental permission must be turned in prior to tryouts.*
 - b. *Sports preference form must be turned in prior to tryouts.*
 - c. *Candidate meets attendance requirements for the clinic sessions.*
 - d. *Candidate turns in form acknowledging her acceptance of the established cheerleading policy.*
 - e. *Upon selection as a cheerleader, candidate will be required to obtain a physical examination for the following school year.*
 - f. *Candidates must be enrolled at Philo High School/Junior High School at the time of tryouts or otherwise be eligible to participate in sports and extracurricular activities at Franklin Local Schools.*
2. *Cheerleading Squad Membership*
 - a. *Cheerleading candidates will have the option of trying out for one or both seasons (football and basketball)*
 - i. *Up to 12 cheerleaders will be chosen for varsity football. Grades 9-12*
 - ii. *Up to 12 cheerleaders will be chosen for junior varsity football. Grades 9-11.*
 - iii. *Up to 8 cheerleaders will be chosen for varsity basketball. Grades 9-11.*
 - iv. *Up to 8 cheerleaders will be chosen for junior varsity basketball. Grades 9-11.*

- v. *If there are more than 5 9th grade cheerleaders, they will cheer at the home football games.*
- vi. *Up to 10 cheerleaders for 8th grade football. Up to 8 cheerleaders for 8th grade basketball.*
- vii. *Up to 10 cheerleaders for 7th grade football. Up to 8 cheerleaders for 8th grade basketball.*

Eligibility Requirements for Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities

Eligibility will be based on Board policy. At the end of the grading period, student eligibility will be determined by the following guidelines and any additional eligibility rules imposed by the OHSAA:

1. OHSAA requirements for passing classes leading to five credits which could lead to graduation for the grading period, and must maintain a 1.3 G.P.A. (Block scheduling students must pass 2 ½ credits each grading period.)
2. Students receiving a letter grade of F, even though they have a G.P.A. of 1.3 or higher.
3. OHSAA requires Junior High students to be passing 4 classes to maintain eligibility. Students in junior high become ineligible with two failing grades of F in all subjects taken during the grading period.
4. Eligibility will be established as follows:
 - a. 1st nine weeks, based on previous year's last nine weeks' grades. (9th graders will be based on junior high requirements)
 - b. 2nd nine weeks will be based on 1st grading period.
 - c. 3rd nine weeks will be based on 2nd nine weeks, and so on.

Attendance

To participate, practice, or play in an athletic activity, the athlete must be present in school for the entire school day or have permission from the principal to participate despite the absence. The principal will only authorize participation if the student's absence was excused. If an athlete is absent a full day, then a medical, dental, legal, or counseling slip must be presented to the building principal upon returning to school before the student may participate in any practice or athletic contest.

Transportation

1. The Athletic Director is responsible for ensuring appropriate transportation arrangements are made to athletic events.
2. Athletes are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from activities at Philo High/Junior High School.
3. If the District provides transportation to an athletic contest/event, all team members must travel to and from the athletic contest/event on the District-provided transportation unless the athlete's parent/guardian provides advance written notice to the athletic director. If the athlete chooses not to ride the bus home from an athletic contest/event, the athlete must be signed out by a parent or guardian. School buses will be used for most trips.

Inclement Weather Athletic Policy

As the winter season continues, so does the chance for inclement weather. The general policy for athletic practice and/or games are as follows:

1. If school is cancelled, all middle school and 9th grade practices and/or games are cancelled for the day.
2. Junior varsity/varsity games **may** be held following contact with proper authorities. 9th grade basketball games may be played in conjunction with the reserve/varsity level games (tripleheader). The administration will make this decision as close to 12:00 p.m. as possible. Practices will occur only at the junior varsity/varsity level between the hours of 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and may be cancelled if weather conditions persist or deteriorate throughout the day.
3. On early dismissal days due to inclement weather, all middle school and junior varsity/varsity level games and/or practices will be decided on individual team-by-team basis. All athletes are advised to listen to end of day announcements for future practice/game schedules.

Lost or Damaged Equipment

An athlete assumes the responsibility of returning issued equipment, including uniforms, in reasonably good condition at the end of the season or upon request by the coach. The following procedures apply if the equipment is not returned or is not returned in reasonably good condition:

1. The athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian must reimburse the District for the cost of the lost or damaged equipment. The coach or athletic director will notify the athlete and parent/guardian of the cost of replacement.
2. The District will not issue equipment in other sports to the athlete until the athlete reimburses the District for the cost of the lost or damaged equipment.
3. Failure to reimburse the District for lost or damaged equipment may result in the District withholding the athlete's awards, athletic letters, grades, credits, report cards, and/or diploma until such fees are paid.

Uniform Policy

This policy will apply to all equipment and clothing that is provided to student athletes. Equipment and clothing provided to student athletes is the property of the school district and not the individuals who wear the uniforms.

Guidelines:

1. Equipment must be well maintained and the uniforms must be cleaned after every game or as otherwise directed by the coach.
2. Uniforms are to be worn for practice and games only! They are not to be worn in school or other non-sport settings, except with permission from the coach and administration.
3. Uniforms may only be worn by the athlete to whom they are issued.
4. Uniforms must be returned to the coaches within two weeks after the last game.
5. All coaches will have a uniform sign out list of their own design.
6. Athletes will be responsible for their uniforms and equipment throughout the season. This also includes warm-ups, travel bags, shooting shirts, etc.
7. Athletes who would like to use their uniforms for senior pictures or other personal uses must receive permission in advance from the head coach and athletic director.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics is a privilege of all students in grades seven through twelve in Franklin Local School District. Athletes can lose this privilege by violating the Athletic Code of Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, or team rules. Violations may be reported by any coach, school administrator, teacher, law enforcement person, or any

Franklin Local School District Employee. The Athletic Code will be enforced **twelve months** a year and at all locations.

Every year, each athlete and at least one parent or guardian, must attend a school sponsored athletic meeting to review the Athletic Code of Conduct and other athletic policies and rules. All parents/guardians and athletes will be asked to sign an agreement through Final Forms certifying that they understand and will abide by the Franklin Local Athletic Code.

For the purposes of this Athletic Code of Conduct, a student becomes an athlete the first day of mandatory practice as designated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for each sport, provided the student meets all eligibility requirements for the sport and participates in practice. If a student does not participate in any sport for one calendar year from the date of their last date of participation in athletics, the student is no longer considered an athlete for the purposes of this Code.

Rule A: The use of and/or possession of alcohol and drugs, in any form (including a vaping device), is strictly prohibited.

1st violation-Removal from 40% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of regularly scheduled contests in one athletic season. As necessary, removal time will carry over to tournaments and/or the next sport in which the athlete competes. If the student/athlete is not a squad member at time of violation, the removal will begin with the next athletic season. The athlete may continue to practice with the team. If the athlete completes an approved counseling program, the removal time may be reduced to 20% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of regularly scheduled contests in one athletic season.

2nd violation-Removal from all athletic competitions and practices for 1 calendar year from time of infraction with further counseling recommended..

3rd violation-Removal from all athletic competitions and practices for the duration of the athlete's junior high and high school career at Philo Junior High and High School.

Self-Referral Program- A student athlete will not be penalized for a violation of Rule A if the student athlete self-refers himself/herself to an athletic director, principal,

assistant principal, guidance counselor, or coach. Further violations of Rule A will be penalized, beginning with the 1st violation penalty.

Note: A student removed from a competitions and practices under this rule must remain a member of the team otherwise in good standing until the term of the removal has been completed. Failure to do so will result in removal from athletic competitions and practices being completed during the season of the next sport in which the athlete wishes to compete.

Rule B: The use of and/or possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited (including a vaping device).

1st violation-Removal from any competition for 20% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of regularly scheduled contests in one athletic season. As necessary, removal time will carry over to tournaments and/or the next sport season in which the athlete competes. The athlete may continue to practice with the team. If the athlete completes an approved counseling program, the removal time may be reduced to 10% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of regularly scheduled contests in one athletic season.

2nd violation-Removal from 40% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of regularly scheduled contests in one athletic season with reduction to 20% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) upon completion of an approved counseling program. The athlete may continue to practice with the team.

3rd violation-Removal from all athletic competitions and practices for 1 calendar year from time of infraction with further counseling recommended.

4th violation-Removal from all athletic competitions and practices for the duration of the athlete's junior high and high school career at Philo Junior High and High School.

Note: A student removed from competitions and practices under this rule must remain a member of the team otherwise in good standing until the term of the removal has been completed. Failure to do so will result in the removal from athletic competitions and practices being completed during the season of the next sport in which the athlete wishes to compete.

Rule C: A student athlete shall not cause willful damage or attempt to take into possession the property or equipment of any school district, or the personal property of another student, teacher, visitor or employee of Franklin Local.

Violation-Removal follows Rule A.

Rule D: A student athlete disciplined, suspended, or expelled from school for violation of the Student Code of Conduct is automatically removed from all school activities, including athletics, during the student's discipline. The District may impose additional suspensions or removals from athletic competitions and practices following the student's return from the discipline.

Rule E: A student athlete who has been removed from or quit a team will not be permitted to practice **or use any school facility (weight room, practice fields or athletic equipment) in any other sport** effective with the first regularly scheduled contest through the end of regular season play.

Rule F: Any equipment issued to an athlete must be turned in no later than 2 weeks after the conclusion of the season or at the direction of the coach.

Violation-The athlete may not compete in another sport until all outstanding equipment is returned or paid for at new replacement cost. No athletic department awards will be given until all equipment is returned.

Rule G: Athletes must follow team rules established by the coaches.

Violation-Athletes who violate team rules will be subject to discipline at the discretion of the coach of the team, athletic director, and/or principal. Such discipline may include a verbal warning, written reprimand, call(s) to parent(s)/guardian(s), demotion of playing status or leadership position, suspension, removal from team, and/or permanent prohibition from participation. Accumulation of infractions/discipline carry over from one sport to another and from one year to another.

Rule H: No recording devices of any kind are to be used in the locker rooms.

Violation-Students who violate this rule will be subject to discipline at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or principal. Such discipline may include a verbal warning, written reprimand, call(s) to parent(s)/guardian(s), demotion of playing status or leadership position, suspension, removal from team, and/or permanent prohibition from participation. Accumulation of infractions/discipline carry over from one sport to another and from one year to another.

*** Code violations will not carry over from 7th to 8th grade or from 8th grade to 9th grade.**

Penalties and Discipline Procedure

- A. If the violation involves only team rules, the coach will inform the athlete of the infraction, investigate as necessary, and implement appropriate discipline consistent with team rules. The athlete has the opportunity to explain his/her actions.
- B. If the violation involves infractions of the Athletic Code of Conduct, the Student Code of Conduct, and/or other District policies or rules, the athletic director or principal will inform the athlete of the infraction, investigate as necessary, and implement appropriate discipline consistent with the Athletic Code of Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, and/ or other District policies or rules. The athlete has the opportunity to explain his/her actions.
- C. In cases where the athletic director determines the student will be removed from athletic contests and/or practices, the athletic director or designee will inform the athlete and his/her parent/guardian in writing of the removal. The athletic director or designee will notify the athlete and parent/guardian of the length of the removal, reason(s) for the removal, and any other relevant information. The athlete or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal the removal decision to the principal, whose decision will be final.
- D. During the investigation of any violation and any subsequent appeal to the principal, the athlete may be denied participation. This denial of participation may be enforced until the conclusion of any appeal process.
- E. The coach has the right to temporarily remove an athlete from competition for violation of team rules.

Sample Removal Letter



Philo High School/Junior High School Athletic Department
Notice to Pupil of Removal from Sports

Student: _____ Date: _____

You are hereby advised that you will be removed from _____ for the following reasons:

Removal will begin on _____ and last for _____.

Athletic Director

I have received a copy of this notice of removal.

Student

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Athletic Ticket Policies

1. Athletic admission fees are determined by the Board of Education each spring. Admission fees will be advertised at a later date.
2. Student athlete admission rules.
 - a. Varsity squad members may attend home games in his/her sport at no cost.
 - b. 9th grade team members will be given, in their sport, a pass to be honored at the gate for the varsity home games.
 - c. Junior high athletes must pay to attend a high school sport unless prior arrangements or special nights are created.
 - d. When a varsity, reserve, or 9th grade athlete attends another sport, he/she must pay the prevailing rate.

Athletic Award System

1. Minimum requirements for participation in a season to earn a Varsity Letter:
 - a. Baseball-50% of Varsity innings played, Pitchers-25% of Varsity innings played
 - b. Basketball- $\frac{1}{2}$ of total Varsity quarters played
 - c. Cross Country-Participation in 75% of meets and practices and finishing the season in good standing.
 - d. Football- $\frac{1}{2}$ of total Varsity quarters played
 - e. Golf- $\frac{1}{2}$ of total Varsity matches played plus 8 team points
 - f. Soccer- $\frac{1}{2}$ of total Varsity halves played
 - g. Softball= 50% of total Varsity innings played, Pitchers-25% of Varsity innings played
 - h. Track—5 Paths to Lettering.
 - i. Place at an Invitational
 - ii. Attend 50% of Invitationals
 - iii. Receive a minimum of 10 points at TriMeets
 - iv. Senior (complete season in good standing)
 - i. Volleyball- $\frac{1}{2}$ of total Varsity matches played

- j. Wrestling-Participation in ½ of total Varsity meets or win in the sectional tournament
 - k. Cheerleading-Cheer at 90% of Varsity games. Varsity home football games are mandatory for Junior Varsity cheerleaders, but do not count toward a Varsity Letter.
 - l. Swim-Participate in 100% of practices and meets (unless excused by coach or medical excuse), demonstrate good sportsmanship, a positive attitude, and practice as a team.
2. Seniors are awarded a letter if they participate in a sport for 3 consecutive years.
 3. Managers and trainers are awarded a letter if they manage or train for one season of a varsity sport.
 4. Statisticians are awarded a letter if they keep statistics for two successive years in a varsity sport.
 5. Method of awarding
 - a. 9th grade team member-Certificate
 - b. Reserve team member-Certificate
 - c. First year-Varsity "P"-Swiss emblem
 - d. Second year-2nd year certificate-Swiss emblem
 - e. Third year-3rd year certificate-Swiss emblem
 - f. Fourth year-Plaque-Swiss emblem
 6. Cheerleading awards will be awarded at the conclusion of fall and winter sports seasons. Cheerleaders may participate in other varsity sports with both coaches' consent.
 7. Special Awards-Plaques
 8. Head coach will select special awards that must be approved by the athletic director.

If an athlete fails to meet the minimum varsity letter requirements, the head coach has the right to recommend a letter. The coach and athletic director must review the recommendation.

Prior to awards night, the athlete may be excused by the principal or athletic director.

*All awards are based on high school participation