

Student Athletic Handbook

FRANKLIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2024-2025



Introduction

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).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A FRANKLIN LOCAL STUDENT-ATHLETE

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Being a member of a Franklin Local athletic team carries a certain set of responsibilities.

- Reputation: Student-athletes represent their school as well as themselves old and should compete to the best of their ability.
- Character: Student-athletes should broaden themselves and develop strength of character.
- Leadership: Student-athletes should set good examples for younger athletes. judge our school by our conduct and attitudes, on and off the field.
- Home/Community: Student-athletes represent their communities.

STUDENT HAZING

NO student shall perform any act or coerce another person, to perform any act of initiation into any organization that creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Hazing may result in a denial of participation.

SPORTSMANSHIP



District Policy: 7.281 - Sportsmanship

<https://www.franklinlocalschools.org/wp-content/docs/school-board/board-policies/7.281.pdf>

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS



District Policy: 7.28 - Interscholastic Athletics

<https://www.franklinlocalschools.org/wp-content/docs/school-board/board-policies/7.28.pdf>

Athletic Code of Conduct

GENERAL STATEMENT

Students are expected to display proper behavior at all times. There are consequences for students who display inappropriate behavior. The policies governing the Athletic Code of Conduct are in effect during the entire calendar year (including summers) for students in grades 7 through 12. This begins with the first day of the first sport in which a student-athlete participates in at Philo High School or Philo Junior High and continues throughout the student athlete's career whether sports participation is continuous or not.

Any conduct which may be a violation of state, local or federal criminal, or juvenile law may cause the participant to be declared ineligible by the administration.

Any athlete hosting or attending (as confirmed by a law enforcement agency or school district employee) a party where alcohol or other drugs are consumed shall also be prohibited.

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.

Performance Enhancing Drugs - Athletes found using illegal performance-enhancing drugs (including but not limited to steroids and illegal stimulants) shall be immediately deemed ineligible for interscholastic competition until medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of PED per OHSA rules/regulations

Conduct Unbecoming of a Student-Athlete - Franklin Local student-athletes are representatives of either Philo High School or Philo Junior High School. Their conduct reflects on their team and their school. Engaging or participating in illegal or criminal activities, engaging or participating in bullying, racial, sexual, or ethnic "hate" activities (including electronic activities); or acting in other ways that bring disrepute to the team or the school

may result in disciplinary action which may include suspension or removal of the privilege of athletic participation.

- **Use, possession and/or distribution of tobacco, alcohol or drugs**, in any form (including a vaping device) is strictly prohibited.
 - **1st Offense** - An athlete found in violation of this policy will be denied participation for 20% of the remaining scheduled contests (season or tournament) based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in that particular sport of primary rostered team. If the suspension does not cover the remainder of that sport season, said suspension will carry over into the next sport the athlete participates in.
 - **2nd offense** - An athlete found in violation of this policy a second time will be denied participation in 50% of the scheduled contests of that sport (regular season and tournament). A second violation will carry over to the next sport in which the athlete is participating, if suspension does not cover the remainder of said sport season.
 - **3rd offense** - An athlete found in violation of this policy a third time will be denied participation for one calendar year.
 - **Notes:**
 - Violations of the “Use, Possession, and/or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs” policy do not reset at the end of each school year and are cumulative throughout high school and/or junior high.
 - Any further violations beyond the 3rd offense will result in denied participation for one full calendar year.
 - Scrimmages do not count as athletic contests for the purposes of penalties imposed due to the above infractions.
 - A canceled or postponed game/contest does not count for the purposes of penalties imposed due to the above infractions.
 - Students who violate the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Athletic Code of Conduct may be subject to both school and athletic sanctions depending on the severity of the infraction.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT NOTATIONS

OHSAA Unsporting Behavior Misconduct - Athletes who receive any penalty imposed by an OHSAA contest official may receive an additional penalty imposed by the coach or administration. More serious conduct violations will be reviewed by the administration and may cause the participant to be declared ineligible to participate.

Athlete Removed or Quit A Team - 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 until the current season is complete.

If there is a good reason to quit a sport and remain in good standing, then the student should: 1) Talk to the head coach; 2) Report your situation to the athletic director; 3) Check-in all equipment issued.

Violation of Student Code of Conduct - Student-Athletes referred to the school administrative office for a school rule violation may be subject to both school and athletic sanctions depending on the severity of the infraction.

Completion of Game Suspension Penalties - If a student-athlete does not complete the contest suspension penalties prior to the completion of that season, then those penalties will be carried over to the next sport season the student-athlete participates in.

Specific Team Regulations - Coaches will have specific regulations for their team (in consultation with the Athletic Director) which may have additional disciplinary consequences in addition to the Athletic Department's policy. 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. The coach has the right to temporarily remove an athlete from competition for violation of team rules.

Period of Athlete Conduct Regulation - The above regulations are enforced throughout the calendar year, beginning with the first day of the first sport in which a student-athlete participates at Philo High School or Philo Junior High School, and continuing throughout the student athlete's career whether sports participation is continuous or not.

Self-Referral by Student-Athletes - Student-Athletes may take advantage of "one-time" self-referral procedure. Voluntary self-referrals do not carry any loss of the current season. Self-referrals are subject to the following guidelines:

- Allowed one (1) time in a student's middle school and high school career, for a total of six years.
- Must follow through and complete a school accepted counseling program.
- Voluntary referral must be made by the athlete or with the athlete's parent/guardian
- Cannot be used by student-athletes as a method to avoid consequences once a Code of Conduct rule is violated and a student has been identified as having violated one of the Code of Conduct Rules
- Must appear in-person to a coach, athletic director, teacher, administrator, or guidance counselor prior to any type of official report (which includes a police report) or an investigation by school officials into the matter.
- Any further offense after a self-referral is made will constitute a "second" offense.

DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

An athlete who has lost their athletic privileges due to violating the FLSD Athletic Code of Conduct may appeal the decision. The Appeals process begins with the student submitting, in writing, any extenuating circumstances or evidence that he/she believes could affect the consequences of violating the Athletic Code of Conduct. The appeal should be directed to the Athletic Director or the Principal. This appeal must be made no more than 48 hours after being informed by the Athletic Director of the consequences of his/her actions. The Appeals Committee will convene and will render a decision on whether to reinstate his/her athletic privileges. The Appeals Committee will convene and render their decision within 3 days after receiving the written request. The Athletic Director and or Principal will meet with the student and/or his/her parents to reveal the decision of the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee consists of the Principal, the Assistant

Principal, the Athletic Director, a coach, and a teacher. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. During the time the appeal is pending, the student may NOT participate in any athletic contests.

Making A Team

GENERAL STATEMENT

The most frequent issues players and parents express about coaches are playing time and cuts. Here are some guidelines in order to understand how and why these are determined.

Please keep in mind that:

- The coach determines criteria and procedures for making the team
- All students are given the same opportunity
- Coaches are solely responsible for determining playing time and cuts
- A coach can determine these issues utilizing a combination of objective and subjective procedures

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

All athletes must have a physical examination, signed by a physician prior to participating in any sport. Physical forms must be submitted to the athletic office and are current for one calendar year. Athletes must have health/accident insurance from a parental policy or they may purchase school insurance. Information regarding school insurance purchases may be found on the Franklin Local website. (OHSAA has a lifetime catastrophic insurance which covers athletes involved in sponsored events)

Eligibility to participate begins when all the following items have been completed on Final Forms by both the athletes and a parent. The following forms must be signed off on in Final Forms.

- Contact Information - Emergency Medical Form
- Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form which includes Code of Conduct
- Acknowledgment of Risk
- OHSAA Pre-Season Meeting Acknowledgement Form
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgement
- OHSAA Eligibility Authorization form
- Physical examination form completed and on file in the athletic office
- Acknowledgment form of insurance responsibilities
- Concussion Acknowledgement Forms
- OHSAA Authorization Form
- All academic eligibility requirements have been satisfied

OHSAA STANDARDS

A student must receive passing grades in 5 half or full credits during the preceding grading period, excluding Physical Education. When dropping and/or adding a class, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to review all requirements for extracurricular eligibility, class rank, and fulfilling the requirement for graduation. The parents and students are encouraged to check with a counselor, coach, or athletic director prior to submitting a Drop/Add Request.

FRANKLIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS



District Policy: 7.27 - Extracurricular Activities Academic Policy

<https://www.franklinlocalschools.org/wp-content/docs/school-board/board-policies/7.27.pdf>

As a condition for the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities, a student must have attained a minimum grade point average of 1.3, received a passing grade in a minimum of five one-credit courses or equivalent.

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.

ACADEMIC APPEALS

An athlete who is declared ineligible to participate due to not meeting the FLSD scholastic eligibility requirements may appeal the decision. The Appeals Process begins with the student submitting, in writing, the reasons that may have contributed to the level of achievement attained. This appeal must be made no more than 5 days after grade cards are issued. The Appeals Committee will convene and will render a decision on whether to reinstate his/her athletic eligibility. The Athletic Director and or Principal will meet with the student and/or his/her parents to reveal the decision of the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee consists of the Principal, the Athletic Director, a Guidance Counselor, a coach, and a teacher. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. During the time the appeal is pending, the student shall remain academically ineligible to participate in any contests.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION



District Policy: 6.17c – Physical Education Waiver

<https://www.franklinlocalschools.org/wp-content/docs/school-board/board-policies/6.17c.pdf>

HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

District home-schooled students grades 7-12 may participate in athletics provided they meet all residential, academic and non-academic eligibility standards and financial requirements. Students must provide evidence of meeting the eligibility standards per OHSAA By-Law 4-3-1 prior to participation. Students and parents must meet with the Athletic Director prior to beginning participation.

TRANSFERS

Transfer students must meet OHSAA By-Law 4-7: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete should attend school at least 1/2 day (10:39 a.m.) to be eligible to participate in a contest or practice that day. If an approved excuse is presented, the student-athlete can participate in practices or contests. If an absence from school is not approved, the student-athlete may be held out of participation on that date. Please refer to the board policy below for approved absences:



District Policy: 6.12 - Student Absences And Excuses

<https://www.franklinlocalschools.org/wp-content/docs/school-board/board-policies/6.12.pdf>

A student-athlete on an Out of School Suspension or an In-School Suspension they cannot attend practices or events during the suspension.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS RULES

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be decided by the coaches. Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season.

Athletic Department Policies

ADMISSIONS

Admission tickets are sold to attend events in order to purchase needs for the athletes in the programs. Athletic admission fees are determined by the Board of Education each spring. Admission fees will be advertised at a later date. For the 2024-2025 season the Franklin Local Board of Education has determined that all Franklin Local students may attend home contests for free.

ATHLETIC PASSES

Will be available for sale in the HS Athletic Department at Philo High School.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

The Athletic Director is responsible for ensuring appropriate transportation arrangements are made to athletic events.

Athletes are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from activities at Philo High/Junior High School.

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 canceled, all middle school and 9th grade practices and/or games are canceled 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 canceled 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.

ATHLETIC LETTERS

Each coach determines who letters with the following guidelines:

- The coach will provide written criteria to participants and parents prior to the first contest.
- Coaches can award injured athletes a letter if the athlete received injuries after the start of the season and the coach feels the athlete would have lettered. Coaches may award varsity managers/statisticians a letter.
- For lettering fall and winter, cheerleading may be considered separate sports.
- An athlete must finish the season in good standing in order to receive an athletic letter.
- Seniors are awarded a letter if they participate in a sport for 3 consecutive years.
- 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.
- Special Awards-Plaques
- 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

CHEERLEADING

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, candidates 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.

Athletic Communication Guide

GOAL

A goal of the Athletic Department is to provide our student-athletes with the best possible sports environment. We believe that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication among all parties involved.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching can be extremely challenging. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION

Coach to Parent:

- Expectations the coach has for your child and the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements: fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, and requirements to earn a letter.
- Athletic policies and additional rules that may affect your child's participation, including guidelines for cutting participants from the program.

Parent to Coach:

- Notify the coach of the special needs of your child. IE: a physical limitation that may not be obvious.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- The treatment of your child both mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

As a student becomes involved in the athletic program of the school, it is the hope of the coaches and administration that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as a parent or a child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable, and is encouraged, to clear up any issues and avoid misunderstandings.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

Our coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be best for ALL student-athletes involved under the circumstances. There are topics that are inappropriate to discuss with the head coach. These include:

- Playing time/position assignments
- Team strategy/play-calling
- Matters concerning other student-athletes

PROCEDURE FOR PROPER COMMUNICATION

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and a parent. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. To help promote a resolution to the issue, each party should be willing to listen. If you have a concern to discuss with a coach:

- A message can be left for any coach who is employed by the Franklin Local School District

IMPORTANT: Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session...These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution, and in fact, often escalate the issue. ***We enforce a 24-hour policy where a coach and parent will not communicate after an athletic contest.***

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Please follow the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any athletic concern:

- Head Coach - include assistant if applicable

After speaking with the head coach, if you are not satisfied or need additional information contact:

- Athletic Director - anonymous e-mails, voicemails, and calls will be disregarded.

If you still desire further communication, the Athletic Director will determine the next appropriate step and arrange for another meeting with

- Building Administration
- District Administration
- Each meeting should include the athlete as well as all participants from the previous meeting. Respect and honest communication are essential.