

- 4-9-3 All member high schools are permitted to mass market their entire high school program and all of its elements for the purpose of informing and recruiting students.

Recruiting a select athletic group or individual, i.e. eighth grade team or individual sports participants, is a violation.

Coaches initiating contact with prospective student-athletes, who are not presently enrolled in the school's educational program, or their parents, prior to written acceptance notification (which cannot occur prior to January 2), is a violation.

**Note:** For the purposes of this section of Bylaw 4, the description of "coaches" as stated in Bylaws 6-1-1 and 6-1-2 shall be applicable.

- 4-9-4 Prior to enrollment, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public school in contemplation of transfer, as long as that contemplated transfer is consistent with Board of Education or similar governing board policy formally adopted by that school district and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and/or school administrator designated by the Board of Education or similar governing board.
- 4-9-5 All questions relating to enrollment, attendance or the athletic program shall be handled through the school administration or the admissions office. High school coaches may answer athletic questions from prospective student-athletes and/or their parents and describe their programs only within the school in accordance with approved administrative policies and procedures (i.e. via admissions offices).
- 4-9-6 Member schools shall not distribute athletic publications or advertise solely for athletics. All athletic materials must be accompanied by general school information, prior to student registration. Athletic camp brochures that advertise athletic camps that are available to a general population are permitted.
- 4-9-7 Invitations and/or free admission to high school contests or invitations to athletic-related recognition ceremonies/banquets, etc., are permitted provided that the invitation or admission is extended to the entire group or team and is mutually agreed upon by the administrations of both schools/organizations. Additional favors or inducements, such as T-shirts, or caps, cannot be given to prospective student-athletes or their parents.
- 4-9-8 Providing financial aid or scholarships to a student on the basis of athletic ability is prohibited.
- 4-9-9 All member school coaches approved by the Board of Education or other governing board and student-athletes, when invited, may speak at elementary/middle schools, as well as to youth organizations, provided the talk focuses on educational values and coaching techniques and is not used to recruit student-athletes.
- 4-9-10 Any violation of the recruiting prohibitions as set forth in this Bylaw shall cause the recruited student-athlete to be ineligible upon transfer. Furthermore, the school to which the recruited student-athlete transfers or the school the recruiting attempts were intended to benefit shall be subject to sanctions as set forth in Bylaw 12.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Athletics are an integral part of the total educational program and contribute substantially to the learning experience of all students. Through interscholastic athletics, an opportunity is provided for students to achieve beyond the normal physical education curriculum. Our program is tailored to provide meaningful learning experiences that fit harmoniously into the over-all educational program. We recognize that vigorous physical activity is vital to healthful living and participation in athletics should be founded on a clean and disciplined lifestyle. We endeavor to develop young athletes to the full extent of their capabilities.

## **ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

Nordonia Hills City Schools offers a comprehensive variety of athletic activities for prospective student athletes. The following is a list of interscholastic sports presently available:

### **BOYS' ATHLETICS**

#### **FALL:**

**Cross Country\***  
**Football\***  
**Golf**  
**Soccer\***

#### **WINTER:**

**Basketball\***  
**Bowling**  
**Wrestling\***  
**Swimming**  
**Ice Hockey (Coed)**

#### **SPRING:**

**Baseball**  
**Tennis**  
**Track\***

### **GIRLS' ATHLETICS**

#### **FALL:**

**Cross Country\***  
**Cheerleading\***  
**Golf**  
**Soccer\***  
**Tennis**  
**Volleyball\***

#### **WINTER:**

**Basketball\***  
**Bowling**  
**Cheerleading\***  
**Swimming**

#### **SPRING:**

**Softball**  
**Track\***

**\*Denotes Middle School Program**

## **NORDONIA ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Superintendent**  
**Wayne Blankenship**

**Athletic Director**  
**Rob Eckenrode**

**High School Principal**  
**Casey Wright**

**Assistant Athletic Director**  
**Ron Gura**

**Middle School Athletic Director**  
**Shyla Urban**

**Middle School Athletic Office:**  
**330-908-6614**

**H.S. Athletic Secretary: Pat Grace**

**H.S. Athletic Offices: 330-908-6000 or 330-908-6001**

**Email: [Rob.Eckenrode@Nordoniaschools.org](mailto:Rob.Eckenrode@Nordoniaschools.org)**

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Nordonia Hills City Schools is a member in good standing of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Northeast Ohio Conference. All athletic department administrative procedures comply with the provisions and constitutions of these two organizations.

The Northeast Ohio Conference consists of the following schools:

Nordonia	Brush	Brunswick	Cuyahoga Falls
Elyria	Garfield Hts.	Hudson	Lakewood
Mayfield	Medina	Normandy	North Royalton
Parma	Solon	Stow	Strongsville
Twinsburg	Valley Forge		

## **CANCELLATION OF ATHLETIC CONTESTS DUE TO WEATHER**

If the Nordonia Schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all athletic contests will be cancelled unless the two superintendents agree to hold the event. Practices may be held only with the permission of the athletic office. Information during inclement weather can be obtained by contacting the head coach.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

All athletes must be present for 1/2 of the school day on all days of practice or contests (Friday for weekend events) to be eligible to participate in any team activity. Medical appointments, funerals, or other emergencies may be excused if approved by the coach and athletic director. If an athlete is absent all day Friday or the day before a school vacation, he/she may participate in a weekend or vacation day contest with permission from the athletic office.

## **DISTRICT AND OHSAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The Nordonia Board of Education permits students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in interscholastic activities if the following guidelines are met:

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 7 and 8)**

1. Must achieve a 1.5 grade point average at the end of each grading period. Students who achieve less than a 1.5 GPA at the end of a grading period but are above a 1.0 may be permitted to participate provided they engage in a structured academic intervention program approved by the Superintendent and monitored by the building principal.
2. Must be passing 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
3. Incoming 7th grade students' grade point average will be first established at the end of the first grading period.

- 4-7-8 In order for a transfer student to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition at a school, the student's name must be listed on the eligibility certificate submitted at the tournament level in the sport.

### **Section 8. Students From Foreign Countries and Exchange Students**

- 4-8-1 Students from countries and provinces outside the United States are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

**EXCEPTION 1:** A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible if the student's parents move into and are legal residents of the school district in which the student is enrolled and attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A student in an approved foreign exchange program contained in the Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) may be eligible for interscholastic athletics. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the exchange student form. The following restriction applies:

- a. Students are eligible for a maximum of one school year.

**EXCEPTION 3:** A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parents are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

- 4-8-2 An Ohio student returning from a domestic or foreign exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in an Ohio member school at the point of interruption provided the student did not receive credits toward graduation while participating in the exchange program and provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters of eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements in the exchange program. Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner or Board of Directors.

### **Section 9. Recruiting**

- 4-9-1 A student is considered a prospective athlete after enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country. Any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes shall be strictly prohibited.
- 4-9-2 For purposes of this Bylaw section 9, the term "recruit" shall mean the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the transfer of a prospective student-athlete.

- 3) The school closes or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement
- 4) The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school
- 5) The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons.

Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner's office.

4-7-5 Notwithstanding the provision of sections 4-7-2 and 4-7-3, if a student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commissioner's office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Commissioner's office may declare such transferring student eligible upon application to the Commissioner's office. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office.

4-7-6 If a student transfers to a high school within the same public school district within which the school from where the student transferred is a part, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner's office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the School District as a result of redistricting or a specific change of program; and
- 2) The transfer takes place to the beginning of the school year; and
- 3) The District petitions the Commissioner's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student; and
- 4) The student is ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

4-7-7 If a student transfers to a high school located within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system (e.g. Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian School International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) from another high school within that same system, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner's office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent or other administrative authority of that school system as a result of a specific change of academic program; or a material change in economic circumstances so as to create a hardship; and
- 2) The transfer takes place to the beginning of the school year; and
- 3) The Superintendent or other administrative authority of the school system petitions the Commissioner's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student verifying in detail the specific reason for the transfer in accordance with item #1 and certifying that the transfer is not made for athletic reasons; and
- 4) The student is ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

### **HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9 through 12)**

1. Must achieve a 1.5 grade point average at the end of each grading period.
2. Students who achieve less than a 1.5 GPA at the end of a grading period but are above 1.0 may be permitted to participate provided they engage in a structured academic intervention program approved by the Superintendent and monitored by the building principal. Study tables will be made available to all students grades 9-12. Study tables will be held before school for 50 minutes a minimum of 2 days per week at Nordonia High School. A student who does not participate in the required number of study tables or is dismissed for disciplinary reasons or lack of effort will immediately become ineligible for a minimum of one week.
3. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades 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.
4. Incoming 9th grade students' grade point average will be established at the end of the first grading period.
5. A student with an IEP **may** be exempt from the grading provisions set forth in this policy. However, the student is still subject to all OHSAA requirements.
6. Failure to comply with the academic eligibility requirements results in interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.
7. Student athletes must meet all other requirements as set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Nordonia Hills Board of Education.

### **IN SEASON/OUT OF SEASON**

The athletic season shall be defined as beginning with the dates established by the OHSAA and ending with the final formal contest or activity scheduled for each sport. This includes tournament and awards programs. Any athlete who leaves or is suspended from an athletic team before the completion of its season, may not begin any workouts or practices for the next season until the original season is completed.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM/ PHYSICAL EXAM FORM**

All Nordonia students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics must have completed emergency medical authorization and physical examination forms and filed them with the athletic office or their coach prior to the first day of participation. All parents/guardians must sign an Insurance Waiver Form before participation of any athlete begins.

### **PARTICIPATION FEES**

Participation fees will be charged by the Nordonia Hills Board of Education for anyone participating in athletics. These fees are non-refundable if an athlete quits, is injured, or becomes academically ineligible during the season. This fee does not guarantee playing time on any team.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CUTTING**

A pre-season meeting will be held with parents/guardian to explain the criteria used to cut a squad. The coach has the responsibility to see that each child understands the criteria and process.

At the high school, any student cut from a team may request a conference with the coach. During the conference, the coach will explain the reasons why the student did not make the team and suggest possible alternatives for improving skills, therefore, enhancing the student's opportunity for making the team in the future. If the coach anticipates a problem, it is recommended that the parent be contacted and encouraged to become involved. It is the responsibility of the head coach and Athletic Director to ensure that all policies set forth by the Nordon Hills Board of Education are followed.

The coaching staff will participate in the evaluation of each student athlete in a given sport in a fair and equitable manner. The head coach will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to the varsity squad of his/her sport. At the middle school, the grade level coach will select his/her squad with the input of the varsity head coach. Any student cut from a high school or middle school team will be notified verbally rather than through a posted list.

Try-outs will be a minimum of three days in length before cuts are made to ensure adequate time to evaluate candidates. Every attempt will be made to give each student the some amount of time to demonstrate skills.

Understanding that twelfth grade student-athletes have demonstrated three years of loyalty to an athletic program, varsity head coaches will consider longevity prior to releasing a senior from the team/program. This consideration in no way guarantees the senior-athlete a roster spot. Seniors must demonstrate the same level of dedication, work ethic and ability as all other athletes being evaluated for a position on an athletic program roster.

## **LETTER/AWARD POLICY**

Each sport has a specific criteria for earning a varsity letter in their respective activity. All athletes must remain academically eligible and complete their entire season to be eligible for an award unless having received permission from the Athletic Office. The following are the general criteria for the athletic department:

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Certificate of Participation** - All athletes.

**Muncie Award** - Awarded to the 8th grade athlete in each sport who demonstrates team spirit, is academically eligible throughout the entire season, is a team player, is cooperative, has a positive impact on the school climate, is respectful of other students and staff, has a positive attitude, always gives a good effort, and is dependable. A committee made up of head coaches from the season, the athletic director and a school administrator will nominate the athletes. Candidates will be selected based on a consensus of the committee.

**Knight Award** – Awarded to one 8th grade football player who has been selected by his teammates.

**Coaches Award** - Awarded to one player in each sport.

**EXCEPTION 11:** If, and only if, a school district ceases to sponsor its interscholastic athletic program, a student may transfer to any other school and continue his/her eligibility provided the following conditions are met:

- a) The student had participated on the school sponsored team in the canceled sport during the entire previous sport season for that sport; and
- b) The transfer occurs at the beginning of the new school year (defined as the first day of school or when the student participates in the first contest for the school prior to the beginning of the school year) or, at the beginning of the next grading period following the school's decision to cancel its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic program; and
- c) For a period of one year from the date of transfer, the student may only participate in that sport(s) in which the student had participated in the previous school year; and
- d) Evidence that all of the conditions for eligibility are submitted to the office of the Commissioner, which, upon review, may rule the student eligible. No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared so by the Commissioner's office. In addition to the preceding conditions having been met, the following limitation shall apply:  
Any student transferring eligibility pursuant to this exception will not be able to take advantage of exception 6 (transfer into residential district) of this Bylaw at any time after the transfer becomes effective.

- 4-7-3 If a transfer takes place during the season in which the student has participated in an interscholastic sport, the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season in the school into which the student has transferred. A student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to circumvent this bylaw except if the parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district as referenced in Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route. For purposes of this Bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the date when the season ends.
- 4-7-4 The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only in the following circumstances:
  - 1) The parent(s) or legal custodian of the student have made a bona fide move from one attendance zone into a new attendance zone within the school district and such move entitles the student to attend another district high school OR
  - 2) There has been a court-ordered change of legal custody from one individual to another individual living within a new attendance zone within the school district and the student shall live with the new custodian in the new attendance zone OR

**EXCEPTION 5:** If the bona fide residence of the student's parent is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner can rule the student eligible.

**EXCEPTION 6:** A student shall be entitled to one transfer into a public high school located in the public school district within which the student's parent residence is located except that such a transfer shall not be permitted if the student has previously utilized the superintendent's agreement which was previously set forth in exception 6 to transfer from that same public high school.

**EXCEPTION 7:** If a student transfers from a non-public high school to the public high school in which the student's parents' residence is situated pursuant to Exception 6 above, the student may transfer back to the same non-public high school and have her/his eligibility restored at the discretion of the Commissioner's office provided the following conditions have been met:

1. That the transfer from the non-public high school to the public high school was not done for athletic reasons but for purely academic reasons or family circumstances beyond the control of the student and/or his/her parents; and
2. The student has been continuously enrolled in the same system of non-public education (e.g. Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian School International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) beginning in the 6th grade and continuing thereafter through and including the eighth grade as the high school in which the student enrolled as a ninth grader.
3. The student has been ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

**EXCEPTION 8:** A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner. **Note:** Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for self-support under this exception.

**EXCEPTION 9:** A student transferred to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf shall be eligible upon enrollment.

**EXCEPTION 10:** The Commissioner shall have the discretionary power to waive the Residence requirements in only those cases of students whose parents live outside the school district and whose contracted domicile is not available for their habitation. The students are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman & Junior Varsity	Certificate of Participation
First Year Varsity	Letter with insert
Second Year Varsity	Choice of Key-chain or Pin
Third Year Varsity	Plaque
Fourth Year Varsity	Plaque

\*The varsity athlete from each team with the highest GPA for the most recent 9 week grading period will be awarded a plaque from the Athletic Department.

Fall Sports	First nine week grading period
Winter Sports	Second nine week grading period
Spring Sports	Third nine week grading period

All varsity athletes who have earned a varsity letter and maintain a 3.4 GPA or better will receive a Northeast Ohio Conference Scholar Athlete Award recognizing their accomplishment.

## INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA FOR A VARSITY AWARD

<b>Football</b>	Athlete must play in 1/2 of the varsity quarters and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Tennis</b>	Athlete must play in 1/3 of the varsity matches and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Basketball</b>	Athlete must play in 20 varsity quarters and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Track</b>	Athlete must score in 1/2 of the varsity meets or have a total of 15 team points and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Soccer</b>	Athlete must play in 1/2 of the varsity halves and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Baseball/ Softball</b>	Position players must play in 1/3 of the varsity innings. Pitchers awards are based on use as a starter and/or reliever. Any others who make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Wrestling</b>	Athletes must win at least one varsity match and must have wrestled in a minimum of 3 varsity matches. Any others who make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Golf</b>	Athletes must have competed in 1/2 of the varsity matches and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Volleyball</b>	Athlete must play in 1/4 of the varsity games and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Cross Country</b>	Athlete must complete in 1/2 of the regular season varsity meets and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Swimming</b>	Athlete must earn a minimum of 85 points and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
<b>Bowling</b>	Athlete must play in 1/4 of the varsity games and/or make a viable contribution to the team.

## **MEDICAL RELEASE**

Any student who is seen by a physician or any medical personnel for an injury or illness must have a note from the medical professional to be released to participate.

## **NORDONIA ATHLETIC BOOSTERS**

The Nordonia Athletic Booster Club is a volunteer organization which raises money to support the athletic programs by subsidizing the purchases of uniforms and equipment, etc. Parents are urged to show their support by joining the organization and encouraged to volunteer their time where and when help is needed.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Nordonia places the highest priority on good sportsmanship and integrity. As a parent or student athlete, you play a fundamental role. We ask you to take your responsibility seriously and lead by example. Please attend our athletic contests with spirit and enthusiasm, but also with courtesy to our opponents and their fans. Any spectator who is in violation of these and/or any Northeast Ohio Conference sportsmanship guidelines may be asked to leave the premises without refund. Together, we can portray and establish a positive image of the Nordonia Hills School District. Athletes are encouraged to take on the responsibility of talking with their coach should an issue arise. Open communication between parents and coaches is highly recommended for the benefit of the program.

## **TRAVEL**

Nordonia High School athletes are required to travel to and from contests on vehicles provided by the Board of Education. Special provisions and parental requests must be turned into the athletic office 24 hours prior to the contest.

## **HAZING POLICY**

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. It is the policy of the Nordonia Hills Board of Education, School District and Athletic Department that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational policy and athletic philosophy and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage or engage in hazing. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Students participating in this activity may be subject to suspension or dismissal from an athletic team.

## **VACATION POLICY**

Athletes missing mandatory contests during a scheduled vacation will be required to sit out the following number of contests.

Miss 1 - 2 contests	Sit out one contest upon return
Miss 3 or more contests	Sit out two contests upon return

Athletes missing mandatory practices during a scheduled vacation may be required to make up missed practices at the coaches' convenience before returning to the normal line-up.

## **Section 7. Transfers**

- 4-7-1 The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and non-public.
- 4-7-2 If a student transfers after the fifth day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament contest), the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that school in which the student was enrolled as a ninth grader to any other school regardless of whether the school from which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school district. Subject to the provisions of this Section 7—Transfer—the following exceptions to the general transfer bylaw may apply.

**EXCEPTION 1:** If the parents or legal guardian have made a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district to another public school district, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of that public school district that includes the new residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non-public school, and be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned. **Note:** See the definition of a bona fide residence in Bylaw 4-6-1.

**EXCEPTION 2:** If the student is the ward of a court-appointed guardian, and there is a subsequent change in that guardian, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new guardian or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the guardian. Likewise, if the student is the child of parents who were never married or have had their marriage terminated and there is a court ordered change of custody, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new custodial parent or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the new custodial parent. For purposes of this exception, the term "parent" means the biological or adoptive parents of the student or, as the case may be, the person to whom parenting rights and responsibilities have been allocated pursuant to court order. In the event a student has been temporarily or permanently removed from the home, "parent" means the person or government agency with legal or permanent custody.

**When a change of residential parent or legal custodian results in a change of school district, the student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.**

**EXCEPTION 3:** If, and only if, either one of the parents in a Shared Parenting Plan, notwithstanding any provisions therein to the contrary, makes a bona fide legal change of residence from one public school district into another public school district, the student shall be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in the public school located in the residential district of either parent or any non-public school.

**EXCEPTION 4:** If the school in which the student is enrolled closes, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible insofar as a transfer is concerned.

**Note:** It shall not be considered a “bona fide” change of residence as Proscribed in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, or Bylaw 4-7-4 (1) if the parents of a transfer student vacate the residence prior to one year from the date of transfer and the student remains in the school into which the transfer was approved . Penalty for the student: ineligibility for one year from the date the parents vacate the residence.

4-6-2 A student who is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder who is enrolled in a Special Education program at a school outside of the district of residence of parents is eligible at the school where the student attends classes or the school located in the district of residence of the parents,

PROVIDED each of the following is met: (a) the student’s parents reside in Ohio; (b) the school district in which the parents reside does not provide the required programs to meet the student’s special education needs; and c) there is a contractual agreement specifying the responsibility for educating a “child with disabilities” between the respective school boards or between the parents and the school the student with the disability will attend.

4-6-3 A student whose parents reside outside the state of Ohio but within the United States will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics in a member school. (See Bylaw 4-8-1 for eligibility requirements for students whose parents live outside the United States). **NOTE:** A biological or adoptive parent must reside in Ohio. A change of custody/guardianship does not satisfy the requirement of this bylaw.

**EXCEPTION 1:** A student who has attended a minimum of 15 days in the eleventh grade when the parents move outside the state of Ohio may be declared eligible for the twelfth grade provided the student maintains continuous enrollment in the Ohio school.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

**EXCEPTION 3:** A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled by fourth grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in that school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the students’ educational program.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student who resides within the boundaries of a public district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state’s school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state.

**EXCEPTION 5:** A student who is enrolled in a member school that provides housing for the student and accepts the role of the parent in loco parentis.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Student Pre-sale (**FOOTBALL ONLY**) \$4.00  
(available in all elementary buildings, the middle school, high school book store, high school athletic office)

### **Football**

All Tickets at the gate \$6.00

Senior Citizens Free to all Northeast Ohio Conference games w/  
NOC pass obtained from the athletic office.

### **Varsity basketball, soccer, swimming and wrestling**

Student tickets purchased at the gate \$4.00

Adult tickets purchased at the gate \$6.00

### **JV/Freshmen Games (single games)**

Student tickets purchased at the gate \$2.00

Adult tickets purchased at the gate \$3.00

### **Middle School Games**

Student tickets purchased at the gate \$1.00

Adult tickets purchased at the gate \$2.00

## **SEASON TICKET PASSES**

Student 10 game pass \$30.00

Adult 10 game pass \$50.00

Student and adult 10 game passes are good at any home athletic event during the school year. These passes will **not** be honored at any NOC or OHSAA tournament. Sports include: football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming and wrestling.

Family Football Pass (5 home games) \$80.00

Family Basketball Pass (10 home games) \$100.00

Family passes will admit up to 4 individuals. Families must present themselves at the gate at the same time.

# ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

## PHILOSOPHY

The Nordonia Board of Education, school administration, and coaches believe that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-athletes.

## SCOPE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Student athletes are subject to the following code of conduct throughout their season, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the duration of the season. The season will be defined as the official first day of practice as set forth by the OHSAA through the last contest and any subsequent awards programs or all star games. If a student athlete violates this code toward the end of their season, penalties could carry over into their next season of participation.

The Nordonia Athletic Department will proactively attempt to enhance the physical and emotional growth of each Nordonia student athlete.

### The Athletic Department will:

1. Host a meeting at the beginning of each season for all parents of athletes to discuss the current Athletic Code of Conduct. Parents and athletes must sign the Athletic Code of Conduct contract before the athlete can participate in any athletic activity.
2. Provide opportunities for high school and middle school athletes to be positive role models for all Nordonia students.

### The coaches will:

1. Distribute written expectations specific to their sport, during or prior to the first week of the season.
2. Discuss the current Athletic Code of Conduct with their team during or prior to the first week of the season.
3. Enforce the Athletic Code of Conduct and the expectations specific to their sport.
4. Consistently emphasize the importance of the high standards set for all athletes.

## AREAS OF PARTICIPATION DENIAL

### CHEMICAL ABUSE (alcohol and drugs):

An athlete shall not use, possess, or smell of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, nor shall he/she possess drug paraphernalia. This includes marijuana, hallucinogens, and other illegal drugs. An athlete shall not use, possess, or sell look-alike drugs or substances, which are thought to be drugs, sold as drugs, or thought by the seller or buyer to be mind altering substances or illegal drugs. An athlete shall not use performance enhancing drugs, including but not limited to anabolic steroids.

- 4-4-5 A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects in which the student received grades.
- 4-4-6 The primary responsibility for verifying eligibility rests with the receiving school. Eligibility shall be verified by reviewing school records or written verification from the sending school.
- 4-4-7 Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards specified in Bylaw 4 during the last grading period of the school year.
- 4-4-8 Tutoring or examinations to complete the preceding grading period requirements is permissible provided the inability to complete the required work on time is due to illness or accident verified by a physician and the procedure applies to all students in the school. **Note:** In order to avail oneself of this provision, an "incomplete" must have been issued and not a grade that is subsequently changed to reflect this work.

### Section 5. Conduct, Character, Discipline

- 4-5-1 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-2 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the Principal and game officials shall file a report and the Commissioner's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-3 Physical attacks on any official shall be reported to the Association office immediately by the officials involved. The Commissioner shall conduct an investigation and determine the penalties involved.
- 4-5-4 Any students who are ejected or disqualified from an athletic contest in any sport for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation shall be immediately placed under the direct supervision of a school official.
- 4-5-5 Any student suspended or expelled from a member school shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any member school for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. For the purpose of this bylaw, suspension refers to the denial of attendance at school for a period of not more than 10 days. Expulsion refers to the involuntary removal of a student for more than 10 days.

### Section 6. Residence

- 4-6-1 The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In addition, school districts with multiple high schools may establish attendance zones within those districts. In determining one's residence for purposes of these Bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day.

## Section 4. Scholarship

- 4-4-1 In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. Furthermore, during the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- EXCEPTION 1:** The Commissioner's office may waive this requirement for a student in his/her 12th and final year of school who a) has accumulated sufficient credit hours to have graduated in the preceding semester; b) maintains a grade point average in the top 10% of the student's class; and c) can demonstrate that the underlying purposes of this bylaw have been otherwise fulfilled by the student.
- EXCEPTION 2:** The Commissioner may waive the enrollment requirements of this bylaw provided the student has been withdrawn or removed from the school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the Principal of the school and be in writing. The appeal for waiver shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence.
- 4-4-2 If, either through the due process procedure or the direct mediation process established by the Ohio Department of Education in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it is determined that a school has failed to provide all of the support services as identified in the student's IEP as necessary for the student to receive a "free and appropriate public education," AND the Commissioner's office determines that this failure to provide these necessary services caused the student to fail to meet the requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1, the student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner upon the student's successful completion of the appropriate compensatory education as ordered by the Independent Hearing Officer (I.H.O.) or through the mediation process.
- 4-4-3 The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. For purposes of this Bylaw, "school day" includes faculty in-service days, calamity days and regular school attendance days but not holidays or school breaks.
- EXCEPTION 1:** Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.
- EXCEPTION 2:** A student coming off the "ineligible status" may become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade reporting date (a date established by Board policy which cannot be the same day as the end of the grading period) established by the Board of Education or other similar governing body for that school's district, provided said grade reporting date is applicable to all students in that district. (see template for Board policy at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org))
- 4-4-4 A student enrolled on the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

**First Violation:** The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season. However, if the athlete chooses to schedule, attend and successfully complete an assessment by a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor level III (CCDCIII) and follow the recommendation's of an approved agency and/or individual, then the athlete may return to practice and the team after three (3) athletic days. In addition to this suspension, the athlete will be denied participation in a total of 20% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 20% remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season games and then into the next season of participation.

**Example:** The infraction occurs during the basketball season. The penalty would be 20% of 20 contests or 4 contests. If only 2 contests (10% of the season) remain, the remaining 10% would be based on the number of contests in the next season of participation.

**Second Violation:** The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season and must miss a minimum of 30% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 30% of the contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation. (See the example above) The athlete will be required to attend a follow up appointment with the previous agency of assessment.

**Third Violation:** The athlete will be denied participation for one calendar year and be required to attend a follow up appointment with the previous agency of assessment.

**Note:** An athletic day refers to any day that has a scheduled practice or contest.

## TOBACCO PRODUCTS

An athlete shall not smoke or possess tobacco products of any kind at any time.

**First Violation:** The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season. If the athlete chooses to schedule and complete the tobacco cessation program with the school's community intervention counselor, the suspension will be reduced to three (3) athletic days. In addition to this suspension, the athlete will be denied participation in a total of 20% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 20% of the contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation.

**Example:** The infraction occurs during basketball season. The penalty would be 20% of 20 contests or 4 contests. If only 2 contests (10% of the season) remain in the season, the remaining 10% would be based on the number of contests in the next season of participation.

**Second Violation:** The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season and must miss a minimum of 30% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 30% of the regular season contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation. (See the example above.) The athlete may not return to any participation until they present to the athletic office proof of counseling.

**Note:** An athletic day refers to any day that has a scheduled practice or contest.

### **ATTENDANCE**

An athlete is required to attend all mandatory activities designated by the coach.

#### **Second Unexcused Absence:**

Minimum – Administrative discretion.

Maximum – 5 days of practice and one contest

#### **Third Unexcused Absence:**

Minimum – Administrative discretion.

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

Athletes must be in school on the day of a contest for a minimum of one half of the school day. Being absent on the day of a contest will render an athlete ineligible for that contest. Such absence or tardiness can be excused only by a principal.

### **INSUBORDINATION**

An athlete shall not refuse to comply with a reasonable request, order, or direction of any coach, administrator, or other authorized personnel.

#### **Penalty:**

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

### **PROFANITY OR VULGAR DISPLAYS**

An athlete shall not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language. This includes gestures, either nonverbal or written.

#### **Penalty:**

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

### **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

An athlete shall not willfully cause damage to either public or private property, including but not limited to:

1. Vandalism: An athlete shall not attempt to deface public or private property.
2. Theft: An athlete shall not take and/or acquire the property of others without their consent.

#### **Penalty:**

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

### **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

An athlete shall not act in a manner unbecoming to the Nordonia Hills City School District.

#### **Penalty:**

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

**EXCEPTION 6:** A student who is home schooled and is enrolled in a member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of a Board of Education or similar governing board may be eligible at the school where the student is enrolled and attending. **Note:** A student entering a member school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been home schooled for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet the one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible.

4-3-2 Enrollment and attendance in a member school shall be deemed continuous until such date when a student has been officially withdrawn from the school in accordance with that school's policies.

4-3-3 After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to Bylaw 4-2-3, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

**EXCEPTION 1:** The Commissioner or the Board of Directors may permit a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

**EXCEPTION 2:** If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- A) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- B) the student does not enjoy advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- C) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- D) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

4-3-4 A student who is enrolled 15 or more school days in any semester, or who participates in an interscholastic contest prior to or in a semester, shall have that semester count as one semester of eligibility.

**EXCEPTION:** The Commissioner may, in the exercise of the Commissioner's sole discretion, disregard a particular semester of "enrollment" if extenuating circumstances of such enrollment are presented and are shown to have existed through no fault of the student-athlete. **Note:** A student who does not attend school in a semester due to a suspension or an expulsion shall have that semester(s) count in the total of eight that are permitted.

4-3-5 A student is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation and is declared a graduate by the Board of Education. Such student is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.

- C) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and  
 D) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

4-2-3 A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student attains ninth grade standing. The student is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level.

4-2-4 In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth.

4-2-5 Family Bibles, physician's statements, parent's affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

### Section 3. Enrollment and Attendance

4-3-1 All students participating in a school sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school.

**EXCEPTION 1:** A student enrolled in the ninth grade separate from the high school (grade 10-12) are eligible to participate with the school squad of the high school the student will be assigned to attend.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A student enrolled in a joint vocational school is eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained.

**EXCEPTION 3:** A student enrolled in a member school who receives his/her education through a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code that is sponsored by the city, local or exempted village school district in which the student is entitled to attend school pursuant to Section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, is eligible to participate at the member public school that is operated by the school district sponsoring the community school, provided the student is enrolled and attending pursuant to Board of Education policy.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution.

**EXCEPTION 5:** A student enrolled in an alternative school that is sponsored by a Board of Education or similar governing board is eligible to participate at the member school where the student would be entitled to attend provided the alternative school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.

## **VIOLATION OF STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

In addition to the penalties set forth in the preceding rules and regulations, violation of existing school codes, or criminal acts, may lead to suspension from athletics for a period of time up to the maximum of the remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

## **DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION**

1. The Athletic Director issues an ATHLETIC INTENT TO DENY PARTICIPATION statement to the athlete. An informal hearing follows. The coach may or may not be present.
2. After the Intent has been issued and signed by the athlete, the building Principal will sign the Intent and give a copy to the athlete. The parents of the athlete will be informed that they have twenty four hours from the time of notification, to appeal the denial. The appeal request should be directed to the Athletic Director.
3. The Athletic Director should convene the appeals board within forty-eight (48) hours, two work days, after receiving a request for an appeal.
4. The number of members and composition of the appeals board is determined by the building Principal. The appeals board will hear statements from both parties, ask questions and subsequently make a recommendation to the building Principal. The Principal may either follow the recommendation of the appeals board or deny it.
5. Should the violation occur either before the school year begins or during a recess period, a designated administrator will act as the appeal officer. There is no appeal within the school system beyond the appeals board.

## **OTHER ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS**

### **REASONABLE CONDUCT**

The Nordonnia Athletic Department recognizes that the safety and welfare of individual athletes and teams are a priority. Athletes are expected to behave appropriately during school and extracurricular activities. Detrimental actions include, but are not limited to, insubordination, repeated absenteeism, fighting, sexual misconduct, negative/apathetic attitude, unsportsmanlike conduct, lying and inappropriate language or gestures.

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity, the type of misconduct, and an athlete's previous record of conduct, each situation will be considered individually. The coach and/or athletic director will determine appropriate consequences, which may include denial of participation or dismissal from the team. In all cases, the athlete will have the right to due process and a written record of the incident will be filed with the Athletic Director.

### **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

An athlete must complete and return the Athletic Code of Conduct contract, physical examination, parental consent, and emergency medical procedure forms before participating in any team activity.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Academic eligibility is a prerequisite to participation in any team or individual activity. Students who are determined to be ineligible at the onset of the season will not be able to participate in any games or contests. If a student becomes academically eligible after a grading period and the sports season is already in progress, the student may become a member of a team based on the coach's recommendation.

### **EQUIPMENT**

An athlete must return school equipment in the condition it was received, with reasonable wear and tear, within 5 school days of the last contest. Athletes must reimburse the Nordon Board of Education for lost or damaged equipment prior to receiving any athletic awards. An athlete must fulfill obligations from a previous season before he/she will be permitted to begin participation in any other athletic activities.

Any student athlete who quits a team during the course of the season is responsible for all uniforms and/or equipment issued to him/her. The uniforms and/or equipment must be returned to the head coach of that specific team prior to the conclusion of that sport season. Failure to do so will result in the student athlete in question being charged the replacement cost of all uniforms and/or equipment that he/she was issued. Should a student athlete reconsider his/her decision to quit a team, they may not rejoin that team without the expressed permission of the head coach and Athletic Director.

### **ATTENDANCE**

An athlete is expected to attend all team activities unless excused by the coach prior to the absence. Unexcused absences will result in the disciplinary action described in the Code of Conduct. Extended excused absences may result in the loss of playing time. The coach will keep a written record of excused and unexcused absences and inform the parent and Athletic Director when the athlete's actions result in denial of participation.

### **COMPLIANCE**

An athlete must comply with the rules of the Northeast Ohio Conference, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and the Nordon Board of Education approved Student Code of Conduct.

## **OHSAA BYLAWS/ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 1. Eligibility**

4-1-1 Each student shall meet all requirements in this bylaw to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition.

4-1-2 If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.) the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.

### **Section 2. Age Limitation**

4-2-1 If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

**Exception:** If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- A) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- B) the student does not enjoy advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- C) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- D) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

4-2-2 If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

**Exception:** If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- A) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- B) the student does not enjoy advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and