

# **Frontier High/Middle School**



## **Athletic Handbook 2023 - 2024**

June 2023

## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

The student/athlete is a person that has very strong influences both in the community and on the student body. These students are highly visible and are seen by many as the public image of the Frontier Local Schools. In addition, their conduct should form both the model and standard of conduct of both their peers and countless younger children in the community. In exchange for the benefits afforded these students, the student/athlete has an obligation to exhibit moral and responsible conduct. These students are to present themselves in such a manner as to not discredit their school, family, community, coach, team or themselves.

## **II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:**

In conjunction with the OHSAA's statement of philosophy, "participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted cooperatively by the schools through their state associations, and those additional standards set by each school for its own students."

Eligibility to participate in athletic contests will be based on the preceding nine-week grading period. Ineligibility or eligibility begins five school days following the end of the nine-week grading period. Ineligible students will not be issued athletic uniforms, nor will they be allowed to practice or travel with the team.

Eligibility in fall sports will be determined by the last grade period of the preceding year.

The definition of interscholastic extracurricular activities is defined as a school sponsored student activity involving more than one school or district.

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

A student enrolling in seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in seventh or eighth grade must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in minimum of five of those subjects in which the students received grades.

A student must also receive a 2.0 G.P.A. at the end of each grading period in order to be eligible to participate in the following grading period. All subjects taken will be used in determining a student's G.P.A.

Any CCP students are required to provide grades at the time when the high school's grading period is over. The student-athlete is responsible for taking enough coursework at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one credit courses.

Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirements shall result in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.

### **III. ATTENDANCE:**

It must be understood that student-athletes must attend practices to participate in any sport at Frontier High School; however, certain circumstances will arise that cause absences. **The athlete will be given an excused absence from practice or game if he/she is involved in a school-sponsored activity, has suffered a family loss, is involved in a function of a religious nature, or is under a doctor's care and the athlete turns in a physician's excuse with date of actual visit(s) and day(s) that the athlete must be excused from practice or game.** An athlete's contest starts and or game time may be reduced if they have had several excused absences; even excused absences lead to missing important information and not being able to practice that new information. To attend practice or compete in a contest, when school is in session the athlete must attend five (5) complete class periods. No unexcused portion of the days counts toward the five (5) complete periods. Only a note from a doctor will count as an excused absence. If an athlete completes five (5) class periods and then goes home sick that afternoon, the athlete is not to return for practice or a contest unless he/she brings a note from their doctor or medical personnel who are approved by the principal. Students who are serving days at the out of school suspensions or who have been expelled from school may not practice, may not attend contests, and will not be transported to athletic events until the student has attended a full day of classes.

Students who have an unexcused absence from practice will receive extra conditioning and/or sit out of contests at coach's discretion.

When a student does not participate in a game due to an unexcused absence from school they will sit out the next regularly scheduled contest or playoff game. Exceptions will be made if the student is attending another school sponsored event and has notified the head coach in advance of the activity or to attend a funeral or sickness with a doctor's excuse given to the head coach upon return to school.

Student athletes will participate in practice sessions only upon completion and return of the following forms:

1. Physical Card
2. Emergency Medical Form
3. Insurance Release Form
4. Sign off page at the end of this handbook
5. Waiver of liability Form
6. Drug Testing Policy Form

All high school athletes are to complete a minimum of ten practices before the first contest. All junior high students are to complete fifteen practices before the first contest.

#### **IV. PRACTICE AREAS AND BUILDING ACCESS:**

Athletic teams and support members (stats, managers, etc.) are to use the cafeteria entrance to the school unless instructed otherwise by a school employee. Students are to refrain from going to their school locker (unless practice is immediately after school) or other areas of the building before, during, or after practice or games.

When school is canceled due to bad weather, athletic practices shall not be scheduled before 1:00 pm and must be completed by 8:00 pm and are only permitted when permission is granted by the Athletic Director or Principal. These practices are not mandatory.

A decision to cancel a game shall be made by 1:00 pm the day of the event.

#### **V. ATHLETIC LOCKERS:**

All athletes using school gym lockers are encouraged to select a locker in the locker room, purchase a combination lock and keep their personal items locked up. Students using locker room lockers need to report the locker number and their combination to their coach. If a key lock is used, the coach must be provided with a spare key.

#### **VI. COACHES OFFICE AND PHONE USE:**

Student(s) or athlete(s) are NOT to be in the coaches' office unless a coach is present.

Practice and game schedules are issued to any and all people involved with the athletic program, therefore, continued use of the phone is discouraged. The office phone is for emergency and coach use. We realize an occasional problem may occur and we'll make allowances for use.

#### **VII. PLAYING TIME, LEVEL OF PLAY & TEAM SELECTION:**

Playing time, level of play, and team selection will be based on talent, effort, and ability to learn the game. The coaches will decide the number of athletes who will complete the roster at the senior high level. Coaches will inform the student what the criteria for team membership will be and on what day the cuts will be made. If and when cuts are needed, student athletes will be notified on the cut date at the end of practice.

All junior high athletes will be required to play on their grade level team. This will only be compromised when there are five or fewer eighth grade players and/or at the discretion of the AD in order to keep a competitive balance.

#### **VIII. DUAL SPORTS IN A SEASON:**

Each athlete, if approved by the coach, must declare a primary sport in writing before the first regular season game.

1. The primary sport would take precedence over the secondary choice in all conflicting situations except:
  - a. OHSAA sponsored events such as state tourneys
  - b. League playoffs
2. Playing time may be affected due to missed practices

3. If any situation comes up not covered by the listed criteria, the building principal and athletic director will resolve the concern.

## **IX. CONCERNS, PARENT CONDUCT AT GAMES AND QUESTIONS:**

If an athlete or parent has a concern, they will need to be carried through the chain of command. The chain is as follows: coach, head coach, Athletic director and high school principal.

Discussions will take place in that order. Post game meetings can be emotional and anti-productive. Therefore, before, during, or after all games, only athletes, their coaches, and school personnel will be permitted into the locker rooms unless the parent's presence is requested in the locker room. Parents who violate this rule and cause a disturbance in the locker room may not be permitted to attend the next two home games. If it happens a second time, the parents may be barred from athletic events for the remainder of the school year. Please call the school and make an appointment with the appropriate person if you want to meet with school personnel. We want to do everything possible to address any concerns held by students or parents.

It is very important for our parents to show good sportsmanship at our games. If a parent is removed from a game the following may happen:

1<sup>st</sup> offense- Two (2) game suspension from attending.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Suspension from attending games for the rest of the season.

## **X. VARSITY LETTERS**

The awards system at Frontier High School is structured to honor participation in performance in sports. The letter will be awarded to students who have played in more than half of the total contests of the scheduled varsity games or 40 quarters in basketball and 20 quarters in football. In volleyball it's determined by games and not individual matches; in Track the athlete must earn 12 or more points. In golf athletes will need to place in the top four during matches fifty percent of the season. The coach can also make a recommendation to the Athletic Director and High School Principal for an athlete to be awarded or denied a varsity letter. The coach must make sure that the decision is best for the individual, the sport, and the school.

1. Varsity Award—A student may receive only one varsity block (F) letter. A sport symbol of other sports will be given to attach to the letter in which he/she participates and successfully meets requirements necessary to win the award.

2. The second year award is a bar.

3. The third year award is a bar.

4. A senior who has been a faithful member of an athletic squad but failed to make the necessary requirements to earn a letter may, upon recommendation to the Athletic Director and Principal by the head coach, receive a Varsity "F" only.

5. Fourth Year Award—A senior who letters three or more years in the same sport upon graduation receives a plaque. A senior who letters in one sport for the first time receives a letter. A senior who letters in three sports in one year receives a plaque.

6. Manager Awards—Same regulations that are used as in the Athletic Award System.

7. The student must participate until the end of the season in order to be eligible for any participation award or have a doctor's excuse indicating that they can't finish that season.

8. Varsity Jacket—Varsity jackets may be purchased by athletes only after they

receive a varsity letter. After receiving a letter the athlete must get a permission slip from the Athletic Director before purchasing a jacket.

#### **XI. DUE PROCESS**

The following procedures will be followed prior to denial of participation in contests, suspensions, or expulsions from athletics.

1. Principal investigates allegations of violation.

2. The principal along with the coach(es) and/or athletic director, conducts a hearing with the athlete to permit him/her to state his/her side of the story.

Upon review of the facts, the principal will make a recommendation as to whether the athlete will be denied participation from contests, suspended or expelled from athletics.

The school principal shall, after a hearing with the athlete, make a final determination.

3. The athlete and parent have the right to appeal any denial of participation to the superintendent.

The decision may be appealed by providing a written notice of the appeal to the superintendent. This written appeal must be received by the superintendent within three workdays of the decision of the principal, or the right to appeal is waived. The appeal will be heard within five (5) working days of its presentation to the superintendent. The superintendent shall notify all parties as to the time and date of the hearing. Appeal of the decisions by the principal will be heard by the superintendent. Appeal of the decision by the superintendent will be heard by the Frontier Local Board of Education.

4. Verification of Violations: violations will be determined by the appropriate administrator upon review of the facts and/or circumstances.

## **XII. BEHAVIOR:**

Any athlete violating the Student Code of Conduct listed in the current Frontier High/Middle School Student handbook is subject to expulsion, suspension, emergency suspension or denial of participation from curricular or extra curricular activities pursuant to Section 3133.66 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Emphasis shall be upon teaching through activities in addition to teaching of skills of activities.” Students involved with sports teams and/or athletes or Frontier Local Schools whose behavior is such that an ejection is administered or a blatant refusal to comply with the school policy as outlined above will be immediately removed from the contest until at least its conclusion and mandatory OHSAA regulations will be administered.

If the penalty does not exclude the athlete from the remainder of the season, the student may practice with the team. If they do practice, they will attend contests in street clothes and sit on the end of the bench or in areas designated by the coach.

Violations will accumulate during the period the student is in junior high or high school but the violation (s) will not carry over from junior high to high school.

Athletes or students having earned positions on a team roster will participate to the sport’s season conclusion. If an athlete stops participating for any reason other than medical, his/her penalty will begin with the next sport he/she chooses to participate in.

Athletes 18 years of age or older are not exempt from rules and regulations.

## **XIII. DRESS AND HAIR STYLES:**

Athletes will present a positive image of our school and community. Students participating in athletic contests will wear the approved uniforms and dress will be the same. Any additions to the uniform are prohibited, with the exception of physician’s prescribed supports, wraps and braces. The complete school issued uniform and other supplies will be returned to the head coach upon request before an athlete will receive their awards. Athletes' dress attire on the day of the contest is determined by the coach.

During competition, hair should be worn off the face and secured with an appropriate device. The cheerleading advisor will be selecting the uniform, warm-up, and all accessories to be worn by the cheerleaders.

## **XIV. TRAVEL:**

Athletes will ride on the bus or school arranged transportation to and from the game. **Students not returning from the game on the bus or school arranged transportation must be signed out by their parent or guardian after the game. Coaches will have the sign out sheet.**

There will be no food or radios without headsets on the busses. Talking, if any, will be kept at a reasonable volume as not to interfere with the bus driver's safety of all passengers. Decisions as to the meals before and after games will be made by the coach. These decisions will be communicated to team members prior to the game. All athletes are to vacate the bus when a food stop is made and all students are to eat at the same place, accompanied by their coach. Students traveling on the bus may be picked up and left off only at FHMS, B&J, and ParMar. Any other location must be pre-approved by the building principal.

#### **XV. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:**

The Frontier Local School District recognizes its responsibility to provide all students with an environment conducive to the development of their maximum learning potential. The use of drugs and/or alcohol or possession of counterfeit controlled substances is a handicap to the student athlete. The district is concerned about the health of its students. The Frontier Local Board of Education recognizes student use of drugs and alcohol as wrong and harmful. It recognizes that alcohol and drug use can lead to addiction, a treatable medical disease. In response, not just discipline but positive action to address alcohol and other drug use and/or dependency shall be employed.

This code of conduct and all related guidelines in this section are to be followed by all student athletes grades 7-12 and will be enforced twenty-four hours a day all year long.

Athletic helpers and athletes of Frontier Local Schools shall not use or possess drugs, alcohol, or counterfeit controlled substances during the previously mentioned time frame. The penalties for breaking this rule are as follows:

**1. First Violation:** The student athlete will not be allowed to participate in 100% of the scheduled contests in any sport. This penalty is to be served in contests immediately following the infraction including post-season play. The 100% suspension is based on the total of games scheduled, not the number of games left in the season. Game suspensions from the season which equal a fraction will be rounded up. If fewer than the prescribed percent of the contests remain, the remaining percentage will be carried into the athletes next sport season and served to conclusion.

The 100% denial of participation can be reduced to 20% if the athlete undergoes weekly counseling sessions on the health risks of drug and/or alcohol use provided by Life and Purpose or Hopewell during the remaining 80% of the season or equivalent time period. Any game suspension/counseling that is not completed by the end of that sport will carry over to the next sport season. This suspension may be inclusive of Article III "Attendance". The athlete and parents or guardians must agree to sign a release form in order for the principal to receive updated information on the student's progress. If any of these requirements are not met, the athlete will revert to the full penalty.



**Second Violation:** The student athlete is denied participation for a minimum of 50% of the season and is required to have counseling.

**Third Violation:** The student athlete is denied participation for one calendar year from the date of the violation and is required to have counseling.

**Fourth Violation:** The student athlete is permanently denied participation in Frontier Athletics and clubs.

#### **XVI. TOBACCO PRODUCTS:**

Athletes using or possessing any tobacco products including lighters, e-cigarettes and vapor cigarettes on school property, at home or away practices and contests will follow Frontier High and Middle School Code of Conduct and may also be suspended from future contexts.

#### **XVII. VIOLATION OF CIVIL LAW OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity of violations (misdemeanors VS felonies), consequences for involvement may result in minor reprimand to the denial of participation for a calendar year depending upon the nature of the offense. Consultation between the head coach, Athletic Director and Principal will be conducted before the denial of participation.

#### **School Closing Guidelines for Athletics**

When school is canceled for the school day due to hazardous weather conditions, the following guidelines will be followed:

- All building usage by non school organizations such as little leagues will be canceled.
- All Junior High games are canceled.
- Varsity games can be played if the roads are in good condition and athletes can get to the school.
- Practices for JV/Varsity sports are not mandatory and start after 1:00 pm

## SIGN OFF ON HANDBOOK

My child and I have read this handbook. I agree that my child  
\_\_\_\_\_ will abide by the rules and  
regulations contained herein.

Students will not participate until this statement is signed and returned.

**Please sign on the appropriate line below:**

Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## INSURANCE RELEASE FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student

This is to certify that the above named student is covered by our accident insurance policy, and that this policy will be kept in force during this student's participation in interscholastic competition.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company

\_\_\_\_\_

Policy #

\_\_\_\_\_

Agent's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Agent or Company Address

# Frontier High/Middle School

44870 State Route 7

New Matamoras, Ohio 45767-9756

Phone: 740-865-3441

Fax: 740-865-2011

## RELEASE of LIABILITY

We, the undersigned student and parents/guardians of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Frontier Local School District Board of Education, its individual members, Superintendent, principals, administrators, employees, agents, or anyone acting on its behalf, from any and all liability, claim, demand, action or cause of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity, arising from or by reason of any bodily injury, personal injury or mental injury, known or unknown, including death, result from, or to result from \_\_\_\_\_'s participation in sports and/or any other extracurricular activities on behalf of or in the name of Frontier Local School District Board of Education.

We hereby assume full responsibility for and risk of bodily injury, personal injury or mental injury or death due to \_\_\_\_\_'s participation in sports and/or extracurricular activities on behalf of or in the name of Frontier Local School District Board of Education.

We expressly agree that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Ohio or any other state in which said student may be injured and that if any portion of this release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, nevertheless, continue in full force and effect.

We further state that I/we have carefully read the above release and sign this release as our own free act.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_