

**WEBBERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
2010-2011 ATHLETE-PARENT HANDBOOK**



**WEBBERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

**Men's Programs**

Football  
Basketball  
Wrestling  
Baseball  
Track and Field

**Women's Programs**

Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Volleyball  
Softball  
Track and Field

The Webberville Community Schools Athletic Handbook has been written as a guide for athletes, parents and guardians. The staff of coaches and the athletic administration is dedicated to providing a quality experience for all student athletes. Student welfare and safety are our top priority as athletes enter the arena of competition.

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The interscholastic athletic program at Webberville Community Schools is a vital and integral part of the total education program. The goal of the athletic program is to:

- Build character in youth by teaching the meaning of commitment, loyalty, and sacrifice;
- Develop healthy attitudes about winning and losing;
- Foster positive interpersonal relationships among teammates and competitors.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The role of interscholastic athletics at Webberville Community Schools is to provide educational experiences within the framework of competitive athletics. By focusing on educational outcomes and student learning, athletics provide avenues for physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth.

## WEBBERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a positive image of school activities at Webberville Community Schools.
2. To provide students with opportunities for physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.
3. To experience team play along with loyalty, cooperation and fair play.
4. To create a desire to excel.
5. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity while learning to make decisions under pressure.
6. To develop an understanding of the value of extracurricular activities in a balanced educational experience.
7. To demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
8. To develop leadership qualities and skills.

This handbook has been developed to assist you at Webberville Community Schools. Please read through it carefully so that you are familiar with the guidelines and expectations. If you have questions or need further information, please contact the athletic director.

## MHSAA ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Enrollment** - Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1<sup>st</sup> semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2<sup>nd</sup> semester). The student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes.
- **Age** - A student is ineligible to participate if he or she reaches age nineteen before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.
- **Physical Examination** - A physician's statement certifying that the student is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests must be on file for the current school year. This is interpreted as a physical examination given after April 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous school year.
- **Semesters of Enrollment** - A student cannot be eligible for more than eight semesters, with the seventh and eighth semesters being consecutive.
- **Semesters of Competition** - A student is allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of competition.
- **Undergraduate Standing** - A student who is a graduate of a regular four-year high school is not eligible for interscholastic athletics.

- **Previous Semester Record** - A student will not be allowed to compete in any athletic contest during any semester who does not have to his or her credit at least twenty credit hours of work for the last semester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. A student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time, except those who had eligibility advanced, may compete without reference to his or her record in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Current Semester Record** - Academic eligibility checks of not more than ten weeks are required. If a student is not passing at least two-thirds of their classes when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next eligibility check. Please refer to Webberville Community Schools' eligibility rules for more information.
- **Transfer Students** - A student enrolled in grades 9-12 who transfers to another high school is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage for one full semester unless he or she qualifies for immediate eligibility under one or more of thirteen published exceptions.
- **Awards** - A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a value or cost in excess of \$25.00. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise, certificates or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed. A violation of this rule may lead to ineligibility.
- **Amateur Status** - After once representing a MHSAA member school in competition in any sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her school if that student (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports or games; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract.
- **Limited Team Membership** - After practicing with or participating with high school teams, a student cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season.
- **Undue Influence** - The use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.
- **All-Star Competition** - Students shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in all-star contests or national championships regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause that student to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment.

### **MHSAA ATHLETIC CODE FOR ATHLETES**

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team and a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials before, during and after contests.

## WEBBERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible to participate in athletics at Webberville, a student must meet the following standards:

1. The student must have passed two-thirds of his or her classes the previous semester. **Any student not meeting this requirement is ineligible for the 60 scheduled school days following the date grades were reported unless deficiencies are made up as defined by the MHSAA.**
2. The student must be passing at least two-thirds of all current classes to be eligible for competition.
3. Any athlete who has a grade below a C- will be required to attend Study Table until all grades have been improved to a C- or higher. A weekly study table session will be put on by the coaching staff of the program.
4. Grade checks will be performed weekly throughout the year.

### DUAL PARTICIPATION

In some instances, a student-athlete may play two sports in the same season. Priority for practices, games, and playoff games are given by Attachment 1. For this to happen, the following criteria must be met:

1. Both coaches must agree.
2. The student-athlete must be able to help both teams.
3. The student-athlete must designate one sport as a primary sport. In the event that a conflict arises that is not resolved by Attachment 1, the student-athlete will participate with the primary sport.
4. Sports must be compatible in some way.

### ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES

As representatives of Webberville Community Schools, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. This standard applies to both school and community activities. Schools and communities are judged by the actions and behavior of their students, and in particular, their athletes. It is a privilege to compete in athletics and our athletes must subscribe to certain rules and regulations. These rules and regulations have been instituted for the betterment of the athlete. Athletes are required to follow all MHSAA, athletic league and Webberville Middle/High School rules and regulations. Not following these rules could result in suspension or dismissal from a team. Each athlete, therefore, is expected to follow the training rules which specifically prohibit:

1. The use or possession of intoxicating beverages, and/or being under the influence thereof.
2. The use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products in any form.
3. The use or possession of narcotics and/or drugs unless medically prescribed.
4. All socially unacceptable behavior that detracts from the athletic program and tends to bring discredit upon the team, the school or the individual specifically cited as "conduct unbecoming an athlete" at Webberville High School. This would include suspension from school and/or misdemeanor/felony acts/convictions occurring on or off school premises.
5. Forgery of any type.
6. Hazing of any type.
7. Use of profane language and/or gestures.

All previous violations are null and void at the point in time when a middle school athlete comes to the high school. For the purpose of compiling offenses, every athlete begins his or her high school experience with a clean record. The training rules cited above will be enforced during the entire calendar year. Once the training rules are signed, they remain in effect the entire athletic career of the athlete and are subject to change on an annual basis.

#### Discipline for Training Rule Violations:

- **First Violation** – The student-athlete will be suspended one-third of the present sports season. If the student-athlete is not involved in a sport at the time of the incident, the penalty will be served in the next sport participated in by the student-athlete. Game time will be rounded to the nearest whole game.
- **Second Violation** – The student-athlete will be removed from participation in the present athletic season. If the student is not participating in a sport at the time of the incident, the penalty will be applied in the next sport participated in by the student-athlete.
- **Third Violation** – The student-athlete will be removed from competition at Webberville High School for one full year. The student may petition the Athletic Director for reinstatement after the one-year time period is completed.

The head coach for each individual sport may assign additional penalties at the coach's discretion. In all cases, the athlete must be able to perform in the penalized contests. For example, if the student-athlete were injured or academically suspended, the penalty for breaking training rules would be applied after the student-athlete was able to return to competition.

For the first violation, the suspended athlete must attend all practices and contests for which he or she is suspended and must be seated on the team bench, but not in uniform. Penalties may carry over into MHSAA tournaments. In the case of not being able to meet the penalty requirement for a violation, the rest of the requirement will be fulfilled in the next sport in which he or she competes. This includes carrying the penalty over to the next school year. Violations will be cumulative during the high school career of the athlete. Any suspension from school will result in suspension from the team until the athlete becomes eligible to attend school again. This includes practices and games.

**Appeal Process:** A student may appeal the circumstances of the alleged violation. This appeal shall be presented in writing to the athletic director within five school days of the notice of violation. Students may only appeal the determination of the facts relative to guilt or innocence. Students may not appeal the length of penalty.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

1. **Athletes are required to be in school the entire school day to be eligible for practices or games.** Exceptions must have approval from the principal or athletic director.
2. Arriving back late from a school related trip is not a reason to be absent from school the next day.
3. Athletes will not be excused from class for practice without athletic director or principal approval.
4. Athletes will be excused no earlier than fifteen minutes before the time the bus is to leave for an away game.

### **INJURIES**

1. If an athlete is injured and needs attention, the coach will contact his or her parents. If an ambulance is necessary, the coach will call for one. Webberville Community Schools is not responsible for ambulance costs.
2. The coach will report the injury to the Athletic Director.
3. In no instance shall a coach make a medical decision to allow an athlete to return to activity after a serious illness or injury without medical clearance.
4. A note from the parent/guardian which allows return to activity after serious illness or injury is not adequate. These injuries or illnesses require written clearance from a doctor (M.D. or D.O.).

### **INSURANCE**

Webberville Community Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Health care insurance forms are available in the athletic office for those without insurance coverage.

## **PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION**

Research indicates that student involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. We believe Webberville Community Schools' athletic program helps develop the character traits that promote a successful life after high school. Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other, providing greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program. If a situation arises which requires a conference between the coach and the parent, this is encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

### **Communication you should expect from your son/daughter's coach:**

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

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

As Webberville Community Schools athletes become involved in the athletic program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way an athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

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

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

It can be very difficult to accept as a parent your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.

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

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

While there are certain things that can and should be discussed with your child's coach, there are other things that must be left to the discretion of the coach.

- Playing time
- Strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

### **Procedure to follow when meeting with a coach:**

- Call the school to set up an appointment with the coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up the meeting for you.
- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation. The next appropriate step can be determined at this meeting.

### **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of school issued uniforms, warm-ups and equipment. School furnished uniforms and warm-ups are to be worn only for contests and practice. Equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season may be subject to a financial penalty.

In some cases athletes will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become their property. Items include, but are not limited to, hats, shoes, cleats, practice jerseys and various gloves.

### **RESTRICTED PRACTICE DAYS**

All practices are to be held on school days if at all possible. Saturday practices are to be minimal in number and duration. Sunday practices will be permitted only when:

- Special permission is granted by the athletic director or principal,
- When a contest has been scheduled the following day, and/or
- When a tournament or play-off contest falls on the following day.

Holiday practices are discouraged, especially by non-varsity level teams. Holiday practices will be permitted only when:

- Special permission is granted by the athletic director or principal,
- When a contest has been scheduled the following day, and/or
- When a tournament or play-off contest falls on the following day.

Mandatory practices will not be held on days when school has been cancelled due to weather. Voluntary practices may be held for varsity teams with special approval from the athletic director.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- All athletes must go to and return from the contest via the method of transportation under the supervision of the coach. Athletes will make trips as a team unit.
- Athletes may leave an away athletic event with a parent or legal guardian, providing the parent or guardian has spoken to or given written permission to the coach. Violation of this rule is a serious offense and penalties will be imposed.
- Athletes will observe transportation guidelines established by the school district regarding behavior on a school bus.

### **DRESS CODE**

Athletes are expected to project a favorable image for our school. Standards of dress for home and away contests will be outlined by the coach and are expected to be followed.

### **WEIGHT ROOM**

Athletes who use the weight room must abide by the following rules or they will be dismissed.

1. Use of the weight room as part of school athletic training must be overseen by a member of the coaching staff.
2. Coaches must supervise all activities.
3. Coaches and athletes are responsible for the care of this room and the equipment in it. Weight bars must be cleared, weights stacked, stereo and lights turned off and doors locked when the session is completed.
4. No tobacco, gum, glass, food or drinks other than water are allowed in the weight room.
5. Shirts and athletic shoes must be worn at all times, no open toed shoes are allowed.
6. Spotters must be used for any lift which the athlete may not be able to complete alone.
7. Weight belts are provided for use when needed to complete a lift safely.
8. Anyone behaving in an inappropriate manner will be removed from the weight room and may have their privileges suspended.
9. Music played in school facilities must be appropriate for school. No obscene music is permitted.
10. Rack all weights, leave no weights on the floor. There is no reason to ever set the weights on the floor for more than a minute and that is only if you are doing a super set or break down set. Never lean the weights against the wall or a machine, as it creates a hazardous environment for others.
11. Never set any weight on the cloth portion of machines. Never!!
12. Clean up after yourself if you sweat on the machines.
13. Always use collars on the bars.
14. Pick up after yourself. Do not leave paper and other trash lying around.
15. No earrings, bracelets or necklaces allowed. It not only places you at a potential risk, but it could also damage the equipment.
16. Do not throw around weights.
17. No running in the weight room.
18. Train with a championship effort.

### **SPORT PASSES**

Sport passes are available through the athletic office. These passes offer a substantial savings over the cost of buying separate tickets for each event.

- Individual passes are available for \$50 and family passes are available for \$125. Family passes are good for all home athletic events during the entire school year.
- All children who are pre-kindergarten age and younger are free of charge.
- Senior citizen passes are free of charge.
- Faculty and staff passes are free of charge.

### **PLAYING OUT OF LEVEL**

Generally speaking, freshman teams are for freshmen, junior varsity teams are for freshmen and/or sophomores and varsity teams are for juniors and seniors. If an athlete is moved one or two levels, the following criteria will be adhered to:

- I. Coaches affected by the moved student athlete will meet to discuss the following, with the outcome of that discussion being positive for the athlete.
  - A. How will the move affect the athlete academically?
    1. What kind of student is the athlete?
    2. What kind of study habits does the athlete have?
    3. Are the length and number of practices going to affect class work?
    4. Will the time and number of games affect class work?
    5. What kind of help is available for the athlete?
  - B. How will the move affect the athlete emotionally?

1. What kind of pressure will be on the athlete?
2. Is the athlete emotionally mature enough to play at this level?
- C. How will the move affect the athlete socially?
  1. Does the athlete have any friends on the team?
  2. How great is the age difference?
- D. How will the move affect the athlete physically?
  1. Is the athlete physically mature enough to play at this level?
  2. Will the chance of injury be greatly increased?
- E. How will the move affect the athlete's playing time?
  1. Will the athlete contribute to the team during the game?
  2. Will playing time be sufficient to justify the move up or down?

## II. Parent/Guardian Contact

Coaches involved in the move will contact the parent/guardian of the athlete to:

- A. Discuss the pros and cons of the move.
- B. Get input from the parent/guardian about the move.
- C. Obtain a signed Parent Consent Form from the parent/guardian supporting the move.

## III. Reevaluate

Any decision to move an athlete will be reevaluated periodically during the season. Athletes may be moved back to a lower level at any time during the season if the move will benefit the athlete and the team.

## **SQUAD SELECTION AND REDUCTION PROCEDURES**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program while at Webberville Community Schools, coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as possible within the framework of interscholastic competition. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

Prior to trying out, the following information will be made available to all candidates for the team:

- Extent of try-out period (minimum number of practice sessions)
- Criteria used to select the team
- Number to be selected
- Practice commitment if they make the team, including possible holiday conflicts and/or commitments
- Game commitments
- Season commitments

Choosing the members of the athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those teams. When a squad reduction becomes a necessity, the process will include three important elements. Each candidate shall:

- Have a predetermined minimum number of practice sessions,
- Have performed in at least one game-like setting when possible, and
- Be personally informed of the cut by the coach.

Coaches will discuss specific alternative possibilities for continued participation in the sport or in other areas of participation within the athletic program with the athlete.

## NCAA COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY RULES

Students wishing to practice and play their freshman year at a NCAA Division I or Division II college must satisfy the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 14.3 and be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Check with the counselor to obtain a Clearinghouse form and to ascertain Bylaw 14.3 requirements. **It is the responsibility of the athlete and his or her parent/guardian to meet NCAA requirements.**

### ATTACHMENT 1

<i>Category</i>	<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Choir</i>	<i>Play</i>
Level I	Practice	Practice	Practice	Rehearsal
Level II	Practice preceding a district or regional game	Practice preceding a regional competition	Practice preceding a regional competition	
Level III	Practice preceding a quarterfinal, semifinal, or final game	Practice preceding a state competition	Practice preceding a state competition	Practice the week preceding the play
Level IV	Regular season game	School performance	School performance	School play
Level V	District or regional game	Regional performance	Regional performance	
Level VI	Quarterfinal, Semifinal, or final game	State performance	State performance	