

Oliver Ames High School

Student-Athlete Handbook

2023-24

ATHLETIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Easton Public Schools Vision Statement:

The Easton Public School System educates children to become motivated, lifelong learners who, as confident and creative individuals, function to their full potential, understand and value differences, and are contributing members of their community able to meet the challenges of a global society.

MIAA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is to serve member schools and the maximum number of their students by providing leadership and support for the conduct of interscholastic activities which will enrich the educational experiences of all participants. The MIAA will promote interschool activities that provide lifelong and life-quality learning experiences to students while enhancing their achievement of educational goals.

Sportsmanship Responsibility:

Integrity, fairness, and respect are the principles of good sportsmanship, and these are lifetime values taught through athletics. You are the spokesperson for your school when you attend an athletic event. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your display of good sportsmanship will demonstrate the most positive things about you and your school.

Oliver Ames High School Athletic Program Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for physical, mental and emotional growth.
- To develop confidence and self-esteem.

- To develop and improve time management skills.
- To develop and understand the concepts of individual and team play.
- To develop a sense of commitment, loyalty, cooperation and fairness.
- To learn that good sportsmanship means winning and losing with grace and dignity.
- To learn to make decisions under pressure.
- To foster town pride.

To obtain these objectives, the Oliver Ames administration has based the athletic program on sound principles. The following are most important:

- **Extensive Offerings:** Our program tries to include as many participants as possible. We offer a program that includes many sports, so that a boy or girl will discover a sport or sports in which they have both interest and ability. Varsity and junior varsity competition is offered at the high school level.
- **Trained Personnel:** Oliver Ames High attempts at all times to have the most qualified and well-trained coaches available. Each coach realizes that all sports sponsored by the school are part of the school program. As a result those in charge of such activities must utilize educational principles and educational aims if athletics are to be a worthwhile part of the overall school program.
- **Controlled Competition:** Life is competition, and the competition starts almost at the moment we were born. Competition is a life-long experience, and positive attitudes toward competition are developed through our athletic programs.

Varsity Sports Offerings:

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball | Golf | Softball |
| Basketball | Gymnastics | Swimming/Diving |
| Cheerleading | Ice Hockey | Tennis |
| Cross Country | Lacrosse | Track (Spring/Winter) |
| Field Hockey | Skiing | Volleyball |
| Football | Soccer | Wrestling |

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Oliver Ames High School athletes are bound by MIAA rules for Interscholastic Athletics. Although a coach may have additional rules for their athletes playing on their team, the following rules apply to all athletes participating in all athletic programs at Oliver Ames High School:

Physical Examination:

Athletes must have a valid physical examination before participation in any sport. No athlete will participate in organized practice or scheduled games until their physical has been cleared by the school nurse.

In order for a physical exam to be considered current and valid, it must have been given within 13 months of the date of any athletic involvement, have a "cleared for sports" or similar notation on the form, and must be signed by a doctor. Most doctors' offices provide suitable physical exam forms. However, if needed, they may be requested from the OA Athletic Department.

Online Registration:

Online registration includes the following components which are all required in order for an athlete to participate: Participation Agreement/Parental Permission, Code of Conduct, Mass. Hazing Law, MIAA Chemical Health Rule, Concussion Training Verification, ImPACT Testing Permission, Transportation Waiver, Medical Questionnaire, Pre-Participation Concussion Form, and Emergency Treatment Permission.

Parents/guardians of each participating athlete must complete the online registration provided by Easton Public Schools before they are allowed to try out. These disclosures, agreements and forms are part of the online registration process and must be completed for each season (Fall, Winter, Spring) of participation.

Activity Fee:

The Easton School Committee established an Activity Fee for students' participation in the Oliver Ames High School Athletic Program during the school year. The Activity Fee account will provide the supplementary funds required to maintain the athletic programs currently provided and will avoid the necessity of eliminating any sport from the program.

The fee approved by the School Committee for the current school year is \$175 per student per sport (\$250 for Basketball, Football, Ice Hockey and Gymnastics) with a family cap of \$700.00 per year. Fee payment should be made as part of the online registration process via credit or debit card.

Activity fees are due prior to the first contest in a season. Failure to pay by the first contest without making accommodations in writing with the Oliver Ames athletic director will render an athlete ineligible.

A fee waiver is granted to athletes eligible for free or reduced lunch. Neither the athletic director nor the principal have the authority to waive athletic fees for any other reason. Other evidence that a hardship is involved should be brought to the school superintendent's attention.

Students who did not make a team or quit prior to the first contest are eligible to receive an activity fee refund. Students who are on a team roster and quit after the first contest of a season are not eligible for a refund.

Academic Eligibility (MIAA Rule 58):

All athletes must meet all school and MIAA eligibility requirements which include but are not limited to:

58.1 A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility) a passing grade, and full credit, in the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses. A transfer student may not gain academic eligibility if they were not, or would not be, eligible at the sending school, unless transfer was necessitated by a move of parents and then eligibility would be determined by receiving schools eligibility standards. (see Rule 57.7.1)

58.2 A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses which would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to four traditional year long major English courses.

58.3 To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed and received full credits for the previous academic year, the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses.

58.4 Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined on the published date when the report cards for that ranking period are to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class.

Note: The MIAA academic eligibility standards are designed to ensure that a student is fully enrolled in school and actively engaged in their academic life on a consistent basis throughout the school year. When utilizing a 4 x 4 block schedule, a student must pass at least two of the four required 'major' courses (or equivalent) in each academic marking period.

58.5 Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility until they are made up following school policy.

58.6 A student who repeats work upon which they have once received credit cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.

58.7 A student cannot count for eligibility for any subject taken during the summer, unless that subject was pursued and failed during the immediately preceding academic year.

58.8 All cooperative team athletes must meet the eligibility standards of their own school as

well as the host school.

Code of Conduct:

Student-athletes are considered representatives of Easton Public Schools and the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook will apply to student-athletes as they participate in tryouts, practice, and competition. Participation in EPS athletic programs is a privilege that carries with it serious personal commitment and responsibilities, and can be revoked at any time if school rules are broken.

Discipline:

- Courtesy and obedience must be shown to all staff members, coaches, and officials. Insubordination or insolence will not be tolerated. Any such violation shall result in suspension or dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the violation. If any athlete strikes out against another player, coach or fan through physical violence, uses obscene language, gestures or unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she shall be suspended or dismissed from the team, depending on the seriousness of the act. Such acts during a scheduled game could result in a full-year ban from competition in that sport (MIAA rule).
- Any willful assault, either physically or verbally, on a coach, or a staff member by one of his or her team members out of season will be referred to the school principal for disciplinary action.
- Any athlete suspended from school will not be allowed to practice or compete during the suspension. School suspensions could result in dismissal from the team.
- Conduct embarrassing to the school and community and/or conduct off school grounds and/or during non-school hours that violate team training rules during the season, will result in suspension or dismissal, depending on the severity of the act. Any conviction in a court for such an act will result in immediate dismissal from the team in that season.
- Destruction, vandalism, or theft of personal, athletic, or school property could result in suspension or dismissal from the team, depending on the severity of the act.
- In addition to any disciplinary action, students involved in drug/alcohol situations will be placed on administrative probation. A student on probation is forbidden to attend any school sponsored activities or be on school grounds after school for any reason except for authorized make-up work or detention.
- Decisions for dismissal or suspensions from a sport for infractions of the Athletic code will be made by the head coach, athletic director and principal.

School Discipline - Detention:

An athlete with a school discipline obligation or detention is expected to fulfill the discipline obligation before reporting to practice and/or game. Students cannot expect and should not request discipline action to be postponed or canceled for any athletic reason. An athlete may be removed from the team for excessive disciplinary problems, but may be reinstated upon

sufficient evidence of improvement. It is expected that athletes at Oliver Ames High School be model citizens both in and out of school.

Attendance Requirement for Interscholastic Athletics:

All students must be in attendance at school the entire day in order to participate in a practice or game scheduled for that day. Any student athlete who accrues an unauthorized absence from a class will not be allowed to participate in a practice or game scheduled for that day. Students absent on the day preceding a holiday may not participate on that day or the holiday. Any student absent the day preceding a contest may be ineligible to participate in the contest unless the coach and athletic director/principal agree the absence was excused. Exceptions to the above policies may be granted only by the principal, assistant principal or athletic director. Any student who is absent from school and participates in a contest/practice without the aforementioned authorization shall be suspended from that team for five days. This suspension shall be imposed by the athletic director.

A student that is tardy or misses any part of the school day resulting from not feeling well, being tired, or any illness, regardless of whether or not they have a doctor's note, is **NOT eligible** to participate in athletics that day. Example: a student comes in late because they didn't feel well in the morning, went to an urgent care center and got a doctor's note. That student is not eligible that day.

A student who has a preset doctor's appointment and misses part of the school day **is eligible** provided they meets the following criteria:

- a) The student must be in school as much of the day as possible. They must come to school in the morning if the appointment is later and come back to school after the appointment. Consideration will be given based on the location of the doctor's office and travel time.
- b) The student must provide a signed doctor's note approved by the athletic director or principal verifying the visit. The note needs to include either a clearance to participate in athletics, or that it was a well visit (i.e a physical).

The school nurse has eligibility discretion for any student they send home or to the doctor for an issue requiring immediate attention (ex: suspected serious contagious illness like strep, cellulitis, unidentified rash or any other similar urgent medical issue). The eligibility decision by the school nurse will be based on the following:

- a) The Student returns to school that day with minimal school time missed including timely return from home or the doctor visit.
- b) Whether the suspected illness or injury is ruled out by a doctor (ex: strep throat). A doctor's clearance note is required.
- c) Whether the issue treated by the doctor is resolved and does not affect the student's ability to compete. A doctor's clearance note is required.

Attendance at practices and games is mandatory. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action up to and including one or more contest suspensions and may result in

dismissal from the team. Continual unexcused absences may result in a meeting with parents, athlete, and athletic director, to address the situation. Missing a practice due to school detention is not an excused absence.

It is the Easton Public School Administration's position that a student's association with co-curricular programs is voluntary. The student willingly undertakes certain obligations and commitments that transcend those of the ordinary student. Students are not guaranteed positions in co-curricular activities but rather earn their positions through demonstrated ability, hard work, and competition. Practice and events during vacation periods must be considered part of the whole program as well as part of the competition to earn and maintain membership in the activity. During vacation periods, students may be excused from participation to accompany parents or to participate in family activities, on a written request of the student's parent or guardian to the coach or athletic director. Students who miss activities during vacation periods will be required to attend as many practices as they missed before being eligible to resume participation in contests and take the chance of losing their positions to other competitors. However, they will not otherwise be penalized.

Physical Education Attendance:

An athlete excused from physical education class due to illness, may not participate in a practice, scrimmage, or game for that day.

School Suspensions:

Any athlete suspended from school may not practice, play, or be with the team on the days in which they are serving the suspension.

Captains:

Team captains who violate any MIAA, OAHS or team rules in or out of season, during school and non-school hours, including summer and school vacations, holidays, or weekends will lose that title indefinitely. The final decision on dismissal will be made by the coach, athletic director and principal and is not subject to appeal.

Any conviction in a court for such an act will result in immediate dismissal from the team in that season.

Any captain may have his or her captaincy revoked at any time for displays of: poor sportsmanship, disrespect or lack of cooperation with coaches, poor work ethic during practice or games, bad attitude, negative leadership, missing competitions, selfish/boorish behavior and any other behavior not consistent with the leadership expectations of an Oliver Ames High School team captain.

In order to be eligible for selection by teammates as a captain at the end of a season for the next school year, athletes cannot have been suspended or involved in disciplinary matters that would have resulted in a captaincy being removed as described previously in this section

Any violation that may have happened in the distant past but has now just come to light is treated as if the violation just occurred. Accordingly, a violation that occurred in the freshman year but has come to light in the junior year would render that athlete ineligible to be on the captain's ballot or to serve as a captain the following year.

If one or more captains are elected and later deemed ineligible to serve due to rule violations, the replacement of those captains is at the discretion of the coach, athletic director and principal.

Senior Games, Awards and Banquets:

Student-athletes must be in good standing at the time of the senior game, or post season awards/banquet in order to be eligible to attend those events. "Good standing" means a student-athlete is in compliance with all MIAA, OAHS and team rules.

Additional MIAA Eligibility Rules:

The MIAA has established student eligibility rules pertaining to:

- a. Membership in School (MIAA rule 55)
- b. Transfer Students (including Foreign Exchange Students) (MIAA rule 57)
- c. Time Allowed for Participation After First Entering Grade Nine (MIAA rule 59)
- d. Age (MIAA rule 60)
- e. Graduation (MIAA rule 61)

These rules are followed by Oliver Ames High School when applicable to a student's specific situation. For further information, check the MIAA Handbook found at www.miaa.net.

MIAA Eligibility Rule Waivers

The MIAA has established a due process procedure which provides a full and multifaceted review of all requests to set aside an eligibility requirement for an individual high school student.

- Initially, a student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) should notify the high school principal of the student's desire to participate in the school's interscholastic athletic program in spite of being ineligible by virtue of an MIAA rule. The principal may then initiate the MIAA "waiver request" process as outlined in the MIAA Handbook.

- The waiver process is defined in Section 85 of the MIAA Handbook which can be downloaded at www.miaa.net.

GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ATHLETES

Academic Expectations:

Oliver Ames High School athletes are expected and encouraged to maintain the highest level of academic achievement possible. Extra help sessions and make-up work are expected to be completed as soon as possible. On a practice day, athletes should stay after school to make up work whenever necessary. Students should inform coaches in advance when practice time will be missed due to academic obligations. Once the obligations are completed, athletes are expected to report to practice as soon as possible. If advance notification was not given to the coach, students should ask their teacher for a note explaining their tardiness. Students arriving late to practice due to make-up work or extra help will *not* suffer an athletic team penalty provided they inform the coach in advance or bring a note from their teacher. On game days, if time allows, students should ask their classroom teacher if make-up work or extra help may be postponed to a practice day. A classroom teacher may or may not grant a postponement.

Daily Commitment:

Athletes should plan to make a daily commitment of two or three hours per day, five or six days a week, to participate in a varsity sport. At the sub-varsity level, some teams may not practice or play on weekends. It is important that a coach be notified if an athlete is not going to be present at a practice or game. All coaches expect team members to be present at all team related activities. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action up to and including one or more contest suspensions and may result in dismissal from the team. All athletes are excused from team activities for illness, injury, academic assistance, family emergencies, or religious holiday observation reasons. Prior notification of an absence is expected in most instances.

Tryouts:

Some teams require tryouts and may need to make cuts to manage roster sizes. During the tryout period, the coach will provide an explanation of their expectations. It is the athlete's responsibility to demonstrate to the coach that they can meet those expectations. Athletes

cut from one team are encouraged to try out for other teams that season which may not limit the number of athletes participating. Coaches are to provide athletes with an explanation as to why they did not make the team.

Playing Time:

There are many benefits to be gained by participation in athletics at the high school level. Athletes learn discipline, to perform under stress, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, effort, accountability, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, and to play within the rules. Although there are many measures of success in the minds of each athlete, perhaps the most emotional is “playing time” during games. The playing time of each participant is the prerogative of the coach of the sport. There is no assurance that each squad member will receive equal playing time nor is there a guarantee that a student will participate in any contest.

If an athlete has a question about the amount of playing time they are getting, they should be encouraged to discuss it with the coach. Being a member of a team at Oliver Ames High School does not guarantee playing time, but there are some guidelines:

Freshman and Junior Varsity Teams:

These are developmental level teams where athletes learn skills and strategies to prepare them for varsity competition. The coaching staff will play all team members for as much time as is practical. There are many factors that govern an individual’s playing time. Some of the most important are: attendance at practice, effort, attitude, commitment, and athletic skill. These are the competition levels for athletes to show their potential and demonstrate to the coaching staff that they are ready for varsity level competition.

Varsity Teams:

This level of competition has similar factors affecting playing time as the sub-varsity teams. However, there is one additional major factor. The varsity teams compete against opponents at the highest possible level of competition with a greater emphasis on winning. To reach this goal, the most competitive, skilled team members will get the most playing time. It is important to note that teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes or backup players. These athletes have to be ready to step up when needed, and practice hard to help make the teams competitive. They should constantly strive to move up to a starting role. There are many decisions made by the coaching staff during the course of a season. These include which athletes should be starters, who should play what position, and how long each athlete should play. These decisions, often difficult to make, are made only by the coaching staff, and are approached with the best interest of the team as the top priority.

Communication and Conflict Resolution:

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional. From time to time conflicts and issues between

a student athlete and their coach may arise. It is imperative that conflicts and/or issues be addressed as soon as possible so that it can be resolved promptly. ***The following is the order in which the chain of command should be followed. Every effort should be made to resolve issues at the lowest possible level in the chain of command. In order for this to happen, coaches are to make team members feel they are approachable and reasonable. No punishment will result from a player approaching a coach respectfully regarding an issue or concern.***

1. Student athlete contacts the coach.
 - **Important note:** One of the most important teaching and learning opportunities in educational athletics is for young people to learn to address and resolve issues affecting them and to advocate for themselves. Therefore, unless there are extenuating circumstances, parents should ***only*** approach a coach regarding an issue ***after*** the student-athlete has spoken to the coach and attempted to resolve the issue.

2. Parent of athlete contacts coach.

In order for the discussion between a parent and coach to be productive, parents should request an appropriate time to speak to the coach about an issue. It is ***not*** appropriate to approach a coach to discuss an issue in any of the following situations:

- Either prior to or immediately following a game
- During a practice session
- During a time when other teammates are present
- A time when it is apparent that there will not be sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion

3. Athlete or parent contacts Athletic Director

Contact at this level should only be made after steps 1 & 2 above have been completed in an attempt to resolve the issue. The Athletic Director will inform the coach that this meeting will take place. If the discussion between the parent(s) and Athletic Director does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled with the parent(s), student, coach and athletic director in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.

4. Student and/or parent(s) contacts Principal

Contact at this level should only be requested after steps 1, 2 & 3 above have been completed. The Principal will inform the Athletic Director that this contact has been made.

5. When conflicts arise which cannot be resolved by the building principal, the conflict will be submitted to the Superintendent and/or the School Committee in a timely fashion for appropriate action.

Changing Sports During a Season:

The Athletic Department discourages changing from one sport to another after a season begins. Athletes will only be allowed to change teams if they are a member in good standing after notifying both coaches involved and receiving permission from the athletic director.

However, athletes cut from a team are encouraged to join another team that season, if another sport of that athlete's interest has roster space available.

Appearance:

Appearance while representing the school shall at all times be reasonable and neat. The athletic dress code pertains to both home and away games. Coaches may refuse to take a player to any away game if their appearance would dishonor the school.

Equipment and Uniforms:

All athletes are responsible for the equipment (which includes school uniforms), issued to them during the course of the season. Athletes are expected to return all school owned equipment & uniforms immediately at the termination of team membership or at the end of the season, whichever comes first. Athletes failing to turn in all issued equipment, or returning equipment damaged through misuse are responsible to pay to the athletic department an amount equal to the current replacement cost. In the event that the equipment is found and/or returned after the payment, a refund will be made.

1. Parents/Guardians will be notified by coach and/or the athletic director of collection for payment for equipment not returned.
2. An athlete will be denied participation in any other Oliver Ames High School co-curricular activity until equipment has been returned or paid for.
3. A senior athlete who has failed to return equipment or failed to pay for lost items may have their high school diploma withheld.

Health Insurance:

All athletes must be enrolled in an HMO or health insurance plan. Families may purchase a health insurance policy through the school system. Applications for this coverage are given to each student at the beginning of the school year.

Transportation:

Oliver Ames High School provides transportation to most away games/events. All team members are required to travel to and from all away games/events on transportation provided by the Athletic Department. Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing to the athletic director by an athlete's parent prior to the event. Under certain circumstances licensed students with written parental permission will be allowed to transport themselves to and/or from away contests. Under no circumstances are students allowed to transport other students to or from away events. Any practice venue will be treated like a home venue for these purposes.

Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner on all bus trips. Yelling at passing cars, obscene gesturing, unruly conduct, or other forms of inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Injuries:

All athletic injuries, even though minor, must be reported to the athletic coach/advisor and athletic trainer. In the case of serious injury, the athletic trainer's judgment with regard to the playing condition of a player will be final. No player may continue to play against the athletic trainer's advice.

When a student-athlete has been advised to discontinue participating in practice or a game because of a serious injury, that athlete will not be allowed to resume participation without a signed permission slip from his or her physician.

Nutritional Needs of Athletes:

It is essential that all athletes are educated regarding their nutritional needs and the consequences that may result from poor nutrition and eating disorders. Eating disorders are serious conditions which compromise one's health and wellbeing. Athletes concerned with eating behaviors, need to seek professional medical assistance. The coaches, athletic trainer, guidance counselor, school psychologist, clinical counselor, and school nurse are good resources for counseling and advice.

An athlete who practices or plays in a high school game during the day should eat a nutritional dinner, study to maintain good grades, and go to bed at a reasonable hour. Proper diet and rest are essential for maintaining good academic and athletic performance.

Season Limits:

The fall season must not begin before the MIAA sets guidelines. The fall season must end with the completion of the regular season schedule except for the teams or individuals completing participation in MIAA Tournaments.

Winter season will begin on the first Monday after Thanksgiving and conclude on the last scheduled competition unless a team qualifies for the MIAA post-season tournament.

Spring season begins on the third Monday in March and concludes with the last scheduled competition unless a team qualifies for the MIAA post-season tournament.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is a top priority at Oliver Ames High School. The Athletic Department expects all parties present at an event to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials, and visiting spectators with respect.

All athletic events are conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the MIAA, the NCAA or the National Federation. Any form of baiting or taunting of officials, players or fans will not be tolerated at any Oliver Ames High School athletic event. Likewise, profanity, objectionable cheers, or gestures have no place at an athletic event, be it at Oliver Ames High School or at an away game/event.

Any Oliver Ames student-athlete who engages in the use of inappropriate or unsportsmanlike social media directed toward another person, team, or school is subject to suspension from the team and other possible disciplinary action.

The MIAA reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation, or suspend up to one calendar year any player, team, coach, game, school official or school determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Oliver Ames High School, in turn, reserves the right to impose the same penalties on spectators displaying poor sportsmanship at any athletic event, *home or away*.

Attendance as a Spectator at School Activities:

Students and their guests are expected to maintain high standards of behavior and sportsmanship before, during and after athletic events.

These standards include appropriate use of social media. Students who engage in the use of inappropriate or unsportsmanlike social media directed toward another person, team, or school will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who violate these standards will have their privilege of attending school activities denied for a period of one month or more. A student's permission to return to school activities may be conditioned on being accompanied by and sitting with their parent(s)/guardian(s). In addition, the student may be placed on administrative probation for a specified period, and subsequent problems could result in the loss of the privilege of attending all activities for that year.

Oliver Ames Fan Code of Conduct

- Tolerance
- Integrity

- Goodwill
- Enthusiasm
- Respect
- Spirit

Acceptable Fan Behavior

- Be respectful of game officials, players, coaches, opposing fans and facilities
- Recognize outstanding performances on both teams.

Unacceptable Fan Behavior

- Making derogatory chants, songs, or gestures
- Negative cheering and chants directed towards the either team
- Calling out an opponent's name or number
- Calling opponents derogatory nicknames
- Using horns or noise makers of any kind
- Throwing objects into a crowd or at an individual
- Distracting participants, obstructing vision, or directly affecting play

Consequences

In addition to all local ordinances and policies, Oliver Ames school officials may enforce upon unruly fans the following:

1. A warning for the behavior that is considered unsportsmanlike
2. Ejection from the contest
3. Suspension from future Oliver Ames contests, both home and away
4. Report made to the MIAA and/or local police

DIRECTIONS TO SPORTS VENUES

For directions to all opposing school sports facilities, go to "Member School Lookup" at www.miaa.net. Select the opposing school from the drop-down menu. Then click the link to "Directions to Sports Facilities".

SCHEDULING

For up-to-date scheduling, cancellation or postponement information please visit the Athletics

Section at oliverames.org and click the link to “Schedules and Updates”.

APPENDICES

The following policies and laws are included in, and apply in their entirety, as part of the Oliver Ames Student –Athlete Handbook:

Appendix SAH-1: Student & Coach Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco (MIAA Rule 62); and Serving Chemical Health Suspensions (OAHs Policy)

Appendix SAH-2: Sportsmanship – Athlete, Coach Disqualifications/Suspensions (MIAA Rule 49.3-49.10)

Appendix SAH-3: Taunting (MIAA Rule 48)

Appendix SAH-4: Bona Fide Team Member (MIAA Rule 45)

Appendix SAH-5: Hazing Law (Mass State Law 269 Sections 16-19)

Appendix SAH-6: Concussion and Suspected Head Injury Policy (EPS)

Appendix SAH-7: Policy Prohibiting and Addressing Bullying (EPS)

Appendix SAH-8: Harassment Policy (EPS)

Appendix SAH-1: Chemical Health; Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco (MIAA Rule 62) & Serving Chemical Health Suspensions (OAHs Policy)

As a member of the MIAA, Oliver Ames High School will strictly enforce the following rules:

62.1 From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, VAP pens and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; drug paraphernalia; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer,” inhalants (defined as any substance that produces a mind-altering effect when inhaled), and misuse of over-the-counter medications and substances used for the purposes of altering one’s mental state. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by their doctor.

This MIAA statewide minimum standard is not intended to render “guilt by association”, e.g. many student-athletes might be present at a party where only a few violate this standard. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate

again.

Minimum PENALTIES: (also see Rule 32.8 – Ineligible Students)

First violation: When the principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and their attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. all fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

Second and subsequent violations: When the principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal parts of an event will be truncated i.e. all fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of their own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program must certify that the student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If a student does not complete the program, the penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. (e.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of the same academic year: he would serve the penalty [ies] during the fall season of the next academic year). If a student is not an athletic participant for one full year after affirmation of a violation, then the penalty period would close and the student would face no consequence. Prior to any chemical health violation a student's request for and enrollment in a substance abuse treatment shall not in and of itself constitute a violation of the chemical health/alcohol/drugs/tobacco Rule 62.

62.2 During practice or competition, a coach shall not use any tobacco product (penalty: same as students').

62.3 Anabolic androgenic steroid use and performance enhancing drugs (PED's) are of grave concern. Coaches need to send a clear, unequivocal message that unauthorized steroid use

and PED's are not acceptable. This discussion should highlight the fact that the penalties for other substance use apply. Short and long-term health effects can also motivate student-athletes to protect their future. Coaches should take a proactive role, learning about steroids, and then providing this information to their athletes.

Steroids can, with proper diet and weight training, increase muscle development; however, as is typical with most "get-rich-quick" schemes, steroid use has serious short and long term consequences.

Normal and equal musculature development can occur without steroid use. Although the natural process takes longer, muscle tone will last longer and does not carry the harmful side effects of steroids.

Most coaches would not promote steroid use intentionally. Total silence by coaches however condones use in some young people's minds. Even though steroids may not be mentioned when it is suggested to an athlete that their success is limited only by a lack of weight and/or strength, without a disclaimer the statement can be a motivation to use steroids. The pervasiveness of the drugs that allow for development of increased weight under the aforementioned circumstances is a coercive power that is difficult for young athletes to resist without knowing what the side effects of the drugs may be.

The issue goes beyond protecting the integrity of sport. The use of steroids in sports is cheating. We must oppose the use of steroids for both health and ethical reasons.

OAHS Rule Pertaining to MIAA Rule 62

In spite of the fact that student-athletes are ineligible to participate in contests during Chemical Health suspensions, they are expected to practice with the team during the suspension. Any student-athlete must complete the season in which they are serving any portion of a Chemical Health suspension in order for the suspended contests to count toward the suspension. In other words, if a student athlete quits before the end of a season in which they are serving a suspension, none of the contests in that sports season will count toward the suspension.

Student-athletes ineligible under MIAA rule 62 are ***not*** allowed to attend competitions, home or away, during the suspension.

Appendix SAH-2: Sportsmanship – Athlete, Coach Disqualifications/Suspensions (MIAA Rule 49.3 - 49.13)

49.3 Any student-athlete, who is disqualified from a competition, including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc., shall not participate in the next scheduled interscholastic competition that is

part of their regular season schedule, or in tournament play. The disqualified student-athlete is ineligible to participate in any contest at the same level of play in that sport until the next contest, or the next two (2) contests in the sports of baseball, ice hockey, and soccer, have been completed. (Note: In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified student-athlete is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next scheduled date of competition). Disqualifications in the following sports per specific sport rules: field hockey-Rule 68.3; basketball-five (5) personal fouls; girls' lacrosse (2) yellow cards; ice hockey - six (6) minutes in penalties and game misconduct (Rule 72.16); wrestling-technical disqualification, do not apply to the above prescribed penalties. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and their attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal.

49.3.1 A two (2) game suspension will be given to any student-athlete who is ejected from any contest for the following reasons:

- o Fighting
- o Punching or kicking an opposing player
- o Spitting at someone

49.4 Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) until the next contest, or the next two (2) contests in the sports of baseball, ice hockey, and soccer, has/have been completed. (Note: In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified coach is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next scheduled date of competition). During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site. Whenever a coach is disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition, the official shall file a written report of the incident with the coach's principal. The coach also shall file the completed form designated for that purpose. Both reports should be completed and forwarded by the official and coach within 24 hours of the competition. The principal should immediately forward copies of the reports to the athletic director, superintendent, and MIAA executive director. If the game official fails to file their report, the coach is still bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach ejection shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach.

49.5 A student or coach ruled out of a contest (pre-season, scrimmage, jamboree/play-day, regular season or MIAA Tournament) twice in the same season shall be suspended from further participation in that sport and in all sports during that season for a year from the date of their second disqualification. A senior and/or a student in their last year of eligibility, who has a second disqualification at any point in the season, will be penalized during the next season in which they are a participant. (Exception: See soccer rule 78.2.6 and 78.2.7).

49.5.1 A coach who is twice disqualified in a season must officially enroll in the Coaches' Education course or recognized MIAA certified program before returning from suspension. The course must be completed before the start of the next season for that sport (also see Rule

49.11).

49.6 A student or coach who physically assaults an official shall be expelled from the activity immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.

49.7 Any student in any sport who willfully, flagrantly, or maliciously attempts to injure an opponent shall be removed from the contest immediately and shall be ineligible in all sports for one year from the date of the incident. ("Fighting" does not apply to this section unless warranted in the judgment of the game official.)

49.8 Fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will be within the authority of the official at all times at the contest site. The official's authority extends to pre and post-game oversight.

49.9 Some of the reasons that an official may disqualify a student or coach from a contest that would lead to a game disqualification are:

49.9.1 Fighting

49.9.2 Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct which is defined but not limited to violent action toward a player, official, or spectator, the use of foul or abusive language, taunting, trash talk, and the like.

49.10 If a coach or student is ruled out of the last contest, or the next to last (in some sports) contest, of the season, the penalty carries over to the following year in that same sport season. However, if a team is playing in tournament competition, it is considered an extension of the sport season. A senior and/or a student in their last year of eligibility who is disqualified from the last contest, or the next to last contest, of the season will be penalized at the start of the next season in which they are a participant.

49.11 Any coach who is disqualified from an MIAA interscholastic athletic contest or had three (3) student-athlete disqualifications during their sport season will be required to attend a Sportsmanship Compliance meeting before being eligible to coach interscholastic events the following year in that sport or before coaching any other sport at any MIAA member school.

49.11.1 Any coach who fulfills the Sportsmanship Compliance meeting requirement stated in rule 49.11 and is then suspended from another MIAA interscholastic athletic contest, either in the same sport or a different sport, or had three (3) student-athlete disqualifications during their sport season, will be required to officially enroll in the Coaches' Education course or a recognized MIAA certified program. The course must be completed before the start of the next season for any sport that the coach is eligible.

49.11.2 Any third and subsequent coach contest disqualification (over their coaching career) will result in the school principal, athletic director and coach being required to meet with the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee on the coach's eligibility.

49.12 In addition to being in violation of Massachusetts General Laws, hazing is a most flagrant example of lack of respect for both self and others. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 269, section 17-19 was enacted in 1988. The law requires that secondary schools provide all school groups (e.g. athletic teams) a copy of the law. Click here to access the "hazing law".

49.13 Any student-athlete who is disqualified (see Rule 49.3) from any interscholastic contest must complete the National Federation Sportsmanship on-line course – “Sportsmanship”, before reestablishing eligibility. This course is free.

Appendix SAH-3: Taunting (MIAA Rule 48)

48.1 Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal characteristics.

Examples of taunting include but are not limited to: "trash talk", defined as verbal communication of a personal nature directed by a competitor to an opponent by ridiculing their skills, efforts, sexual orientation, or lack of success, which is likely to provoke an altercation or physical response; and physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, including "in the face" confrontation by one player to another, standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc.

48.2 Athletic participants may wear sun glare black only under their eyes.

48.3 In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike offense that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from that contest/day of competition. In addition, the offender shall be subject to all existing MIAA Disqualification Rules. A review of the MIAA taunting policy and a warning shall be given to both teams by game officials prior to each contest.

48.4 At all MIAA contest sites and tournament venues, contest management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt players, coaches, game officials, or other spectators should be ejected.

Appendix SAH-4: Bona Fide Team Rule (MIAA Rule 45)

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs. Saturday and Sunday practices ONLY may be excluded from this rule and no waiver is required.

First Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for 25% of the season (see chart on Rule 62).
Second Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation. See Rule 98 for additional tournament restriction and Rule 88 for waiver guidelines.

45.1 A student-athlete must be a Team Member for 50% of the regular season schedule for that sport to participate in any MIAA Tournament competition (team member: any student-athlete who attends practices or games for their sport teams – e.g. Freshman basketball player moved to JV and then Varsity).

45.2 If ineligible, cannot be in uniform. Attendance at event to be determined by High School Principal

OAHS Rules Pertaining to MIAA Rule 45

Although the MIAA does not require a waiver for missing Saturday or Sunday practices, OAHS policy ***does*** require it. Student-athletes who miss a Saturday or Sunday practice during the season must submit the MIAA waiver form and supporting documentation to the OA athletic director at least one week in advance of the missed practice(s). The waiver request will be reviewed and approved or denied by the principal and athletic director. Parents should be forewarned that the OA administration is generally opposed to waivers of this sort due to the disruptive effect they have on teams during the season.

Student-athletes ineligible under MIAA Rule 45.2 are not allowed to attend competitions, home or away, during the suspension.

Appendix SAH-5: Hazing Law (Mass State Law 269 Sections 16-19)

269.17 – Hazing; Organizing or Participating, Hazing Defined.

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

269. 19 – Failure to Report Hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to themselves or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

269.19 – Copy of sections 17-19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution’s compliance with this section’s requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution’s recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Appendix SAH-6: Concussion and Suspected Head Injury Policy (EPS)

The Easton Public Schools has adopted this policy to address the identification and proper handling of suspected head injury for students in grades 6-12 who are participating in school-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities in accordance with Mass. Gen. L. c. 111, Section 222 and accompanying regulations (105 CMR 201. et seq.) ("Regulations"). Affirmation of an Interim Policy was provided to the Department of Public Health on school letterhead in January 2012, with affirmation of the Final Policy to be provided by March 1, 2012. Review and affirmation of the Policy will again be provided no later than September 30, 2013, and bi-annually thereafter.

I. Definitions

The definitions of terms used in this policy are those set forth in the Regulations at 105 CMR 201.005. The following are selected for reprinting here:

Coach means an employee or volunteer responsible for organizing and supervising student athletes to teach them the fundamental skills of Extracurricular Athletic Activities. The term coach includes both head coaches and assistant coaches (and per the definition of Extracurricular Athletic Activity below, marching band directors).

Concussion means a complex disturbance in the brain function due to direct or indirect trauma to the head, related to neurometabolic dysfunction, rather than structural injury.

Extracurricular Athletic Activity means an organized school sponsored athletic activity generally occurring outside of school instructional hours under the direction of coach, athletic director or band leader. (Among the examples listed in the definition are cheerleading and marching band. Thus, any reference to Extracurricular Athletic Activities in this policy includes the Oliver Ames High School Marching Band)

Head Injury means a direct or indirect trauma to the head including a concussion or traumatic brain injury.

Second impact syndrome means a potentially lethal condition that can occur when a person sustains a head injury prior to the complete healing of a previous brain injury causing deregulation of cerebral blood flow with subsequent vascular engorgement.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by traumatic biomechanical forces. TBI may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head. TBI includes, but is not limited to, a concussion.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

Athletic Director

The athletic director shall be responsible for the general implementation of this policy and any accompanying procedures. These responsibilities include:

1. Supporting and enforcing protocols, documentation, training and reporting requirements.
2. Supervising, reviewing and properly distributing all documentation received.
3. Reviewing the policy every two years and recommending changes and/or updates to the school committee for adoption.
4. Reviewing and recommending updated training programs and student/ parent handbooks at least once every two years.
5. Coordinating outreach to parents who have not provided required pre-participation forms and documentation.

School Nurse and other School Based Staff

As reflected throughout this policy, various members of the school staff play an important role in implementation of this policy. The school nurse's role is particularly important, involving responsibilities for:

1. *Reviewing or having the school physician review completed Pre-Participation Forms indicating a history of head injury that have been forwarded to her by the AD.*
2. Communicating with athletic trainers regarding a student's history of head injury.
3. Following up with parents and students as needed prior to the student's participation in

Extracurricular Athletic Activities.

4. *Reviewing Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form which a coach or trainer submits as a result of a head injury that has occurred during an extracurricular athletic activity or that a parent submits as a result of head injury that has occurred outside of an extracurricular athletic activity but that takes place during the extracurricular activity season, with follow-up reporting requirements outlined herein.*

Athletic Trainer

The Athletic Trainer also has specific responsibilities, including but not limited to:

1. Reviewing all *Pre-Participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting for Extracurricular Activities Forms ("Pre-Participation Forms")* and forwarding to the athletic director and school nurse those forms that indicate a history of head injury and to identify students who are at greater risk for repeated head injuries.
2. Identify students with head injuries or suspected conditions that occur in practice or competition and remove them from play.

Coaches

As reflected in this policy, coaches also have a key role in its implementation. In addition to their other responsibilities listed herein, all coaches are required to:

1. Instruct students in form, technique and skills that minimize athletic-related head injury and are required to discourage and prohibit students from engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that endangers the health and safety of a student, including using a helmet or any other equipment as a weapon.
2. Identify athletes with head injuries or suspected concussions that occur in practice or competition and remove them from play.

Students

In addition to their other responsibilities listed herein, all students are required to:

1. Adhere to skills and instructions designed to minimize athletic related injuries. Students who engage in unreasonably dangerous behavior while participating in Extracurricular Athletic Activities may be excluded from the privilege of further participation and, further, may be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the code of conduct.

III. Training

The following personnel, both those employed and those serving in a volunteer capacity, shall be required to participate in an annual training approved by the Massachusetts Department

of Public

Health (MDPH) in the prevention and recognition of a sports-related head injury, including second impact syndrome: coaches (as noted above, this term includes marching band directors), certified athletic trainers, school physicians, school nurses, athletic director and game officials. In addition, students who wish to participate in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity and their parents shall be required to participate in such training annually.

Annual Concussion Training:

Required Concussion Training for school staff, parents/guardians and student athletes must be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Training courses are online, available free of charge, and last only about 30 minutes. The courses approved by the Mass DPH are listed at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

Mass DPH approved concussion training materials are also available at the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association website <https://miaa.net/concussion/> or at the Oliver Ames High School website: <https://eastonmaschools.org/highschool/>

Hard copies are available in the Oliver Ames High School Athletic Handbook.

Individuals who are required to participate in the training must submit documentation verifying their completion of the training on an annual basis to the athletic director.

IV. Prerequisites Related to Head Injuries for Student Participation in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity

Prior to a student beginning (or continuing) participation in any Extracurricular Athletic Activity, whether involving tryouts, practices, contests, or performances, the following must take place;

1. Parents and students must submit to the athletic director a certification that they have completed the training requirements described in Section III above. Once submitted, the certification is valid for one school year. This certification may be completed online.
2. Prior to a student's participation in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity, the parent and student must provide to the athletic director a completed form for *Pre-Participation Head Injury/ Concussion Reporting For Extracurricular Activities* ("*Pre-Participation Form*"). The information required in the Pre-Participation Form may be collected online and shall include:

1. A comprehensive history with up-to-date information relative to concussion history, any history regarding head, face or cervical spine injury and/or any history of co-existent concussion injuries; and

2. Signatures of both the parent and the student;
3. During the season of participation if a student sustains a head injury outside of the extracurricular activity, their parent is required to complete and submit *Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form* to the athletic director.
4. The athletic director will forward to the coach copies of the *Pre-Participation Forms* and all *Reports of Head Injury During Sports Season* for each student member of that coach's team. In addition, the athletic director will forward the *Pre-Participation Forms* indicating a history of head injury and all *Reports of Head Injury During Sports Season* to the school nurse, who will consult with the student's primary care physician and/or school physician, as needed, and athletic staff regarding whether the student will be allowed to begin (or continue) to participate and if so, whether limitations may apply.
5. In order to better manage concussions sustained by our student-athletes, the district will utilize a software tool called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). ImPACT is a computerized neuropsychological exam utilized in many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to successfully diagnose and manage concussions. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury during competition, ImPACT is used to help determine the severity of head injury and when the injury has fully healed. This non-invasive test takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. Essentially, the ImPACT test is a physical of the brain that tracks information such as memory, reaction time, processing speed, and concentration. It is not an "IQ" test. There is no charge to the student/athlete for ImPACT testing.

Students must take a "baseline" ImPACT test prior to first participating in any of the activities listed below beginning at the Middle School level and then every two years thereafter prior to the beginning of the sports season in which they are participating.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baseball | Ice Hockey (Boys & Girls) |
| Basketball (Boys & Girls) | Lacrosse (Boys & Girls) |
| Cheerleading | Skiing (Boys & Girls) |
| Field Hockey | Soccer (Boys & Girls) |
| Football | Softball |
| Gymnastics | Wrestling |

Parents of students participating in Extracurricular Athletic Activities other than the contact and collision sports listed above will have the option of having their child participate in the ImPACT test. The test will be administered upon the parent's submission of a written request to the athletic director.

If a concussion is suspected, the athlete will be required to re-take the ImPACT test prior to resuming participation.

In the event a parent and/or student has not provided the documentation set forth above to the athletic director in a timely manner, or has not taken the ImPACT test as required the student will be ineligible to begin (or continue if applicable) participation in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity until all documentation has been received and reviewed by appropriate school personnel.

V. Removal Due to Head Injury and Protocols for Reentry

Any student who sustains a head injury or suspected concussion, or exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion, or loses consciousness, even briefly, during participation in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity shall be removed from the activity immediately and may not return to the activity that day even if the condition seems to resolve itself. If there is an athletic trainer on site, the coach must immediately report the suspected injury to the trainer or on-site school nurse for a medical assessment. If no trainer or school nurse is on-site, the coach is responsible for notifying the student's parents and contacting EMS for emergency service and transport to a local hospital if in their reasonable judgment such intervention is appropriate

In all circumstances, the coach or trainer must complete a *Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form* and follow all Reporting Requirements outlined below in Section

Any student removed from an Extracurricular Athletic Activity due suspected head injury must provide a *Department Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form* completed by a licensed medical professional (physician, nurse practitioner in consultation with a physician, certified athletic trainer in consultation with a physician, or neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery) to the athletic director prior to the student's return to normal physical activities (including physical education class). The athletic director will consult with the school nurse in reviewing such forms if appropriate. In the event a student exhibits symptoms of head injury following return to participation, the coach will immediately remove the student from the activity and will inform the athletic trainer, school nurse and/or the parents in order to initiate further consultation.

VI. Graduated Reentry Plan and Medical Clearance following Diagnosis of Concussion

In the event the student has been diagnosed with a concussion, the student may not resume full participation in Extracurricular Athletic Activities until they have participated in a graduated re-entry plan and provided a completed *Department Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form* to the athletic director. If a concussion is suspected or diagnosed, the student will be required to re-take the ImPACT test, which will be made available to the student's treating physician, and used to determine when it is safe and appropriate for the injured student-athlete to return to activity.

In addition, school personnel, including but not limited to teachers, school nurse, and certified

athletic trainer, along with parents shall develop a written graduated entry plan for return to academics and other school based activities, including Extracurricular Athletic Activities. Accommodations, may include, as appropriate: provision for physical or cognitive rest; graduated return to classroom studies; estimated time intervals for resuming activities; assessments by the school nurse; periodic medical assessment by a licensed medical professional (physician, nurse practitioner in consultation with a physician, certified athletic trainer in consultation with a physician, or neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery) until the student is authorized to full classroom and extracurricular activities. The school physician and/or student's physician may be consulted as appropriate in devising the graduated entry plan.

VII. Additional Communication and Reporting

The athletic director shall disseminate to each coach copies of the completed *Pre-Participation Form* for each member of that coach's team or student group. The information required in this Form may be provided to coaches online. The athletic director shall ensure that the nurse receives a copy and reviews any forms that indicate a history of head injury, with review by the school physician and certified athletic trainer if appropriate. The athletic director shall also ensure proper dissemination and review of any *Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Forms*.

All coaches are required to report any circumstances in which the student under their supervision was removed from participation for suspected head injury, suspected concussion, or loss of consciousness and the nature of the suspected injury to the student's parent in person or by telephone as soon as is practical, and at the latest, immediately after the competition or practice, with written confirmation to the parent by paper or electronic format no later than the end of the next business day. The coach must also notify the athletic director and school nurse of the removal from play and the nature of the suspected injury no later than the end of the next business day. The coach is responsible for ensuring that a *Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form* has been completed and provided to the athletic director, parent, certified athletic trainer and school nurse.

The school nurse shall inform the principal and guidance counselor of the injury so that an appropriate academic accommodation plan can be initiated as needed.

The school nurse and/or athletic trainer may require that a student suspected of having a concussion be evaluated by a duly licensed medical professional (physician, nurse practitioner in consultation with a physician, or neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery) after the injury. Documentation regarding the results of the head injury evaluation from the duly licensed medical professional will then be required by the school nurse or trainer. This information will be reviewed by the school nurse, guidance counselor, and/or athletic trainer and utilized to help coordinate the student's recovery program. Written documentation regarding student concussions will be maintained in the student health records.

VIII. Maintenance of Records and Confidentiality

Copies of all documentation received by the school department under this policy will be maintained for a minimum of three years. Such documentation includes Verification of Training Completion, which may be submitted and stored online by the athletic director. The school nurse shall maintain copies of, *Pre-Participation Forms that indicate head injury/concussion history (which may be submitted and stored online), Reports of Head Injury During Sports Season, Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season, Department Post Sports Related Head Injury and Medical Clearance and Authorization Forms, and any Graduated Reentry Plans* that may be necessary.

Medical information received by the district in implementing this policy is part of the student health record and may be disclosed only as authorized by the laws governing student records. Generally, authorized school personnel who work *directly* with the student in an instructive (academic or athletic), administrative, or diagnostic capacity will have access to the information on a need to know basis. Authorized school personnel should be instructed not to disclose the information to others. Notwithstanding these limitations, there may be times when school officials may or must disclose health or related information to others in order to protect a student's health or safety.

IX. Notification of Policy Information to Parents and Students

The athletic director in consultation with the principal shall disseminate to parents and students on annual basis information regarding this policy, including but not limited to:

1. Pre-requisites for students to participate in Extracurricular Athletic Activities, including opportunities for students and parents to fulfill their obligations to participate in training under this policy;
2. Requirements for parents to report to the athletic director a head injury occurring outside of school;
3. Procedures for notifying parents of a student's removal from play due to head injury;
4. Protocols for medical clearance prior to return to participation;
5. Contact information for key personnel.

In addition, information regarding this policy is available in the Oliver Ames High School Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is available at: <http://www.oliverames.org/>

School staff will work with parents of limited English proficiency to facilitate effective notice of this policy and effective communication regarding suspected head injury. In the event an interpreter is needed, parents and/or staff should contact the principal's office.

X. Consequences

The Easton Public Schools takes the safety of student athletes seriously. All members of the school staff are expected to follow the policies and protocols set forth herein and in Massachusetts law to support the health and safety of students who participate in Extracurricular Athletic Activities. The underlying philosophy of these policies is “when in doubt, sit them out”. Failure to comply with the letter or spirit of these policies could result in progressive discipline for staff and/or forfeiture of games. If students or parents have concerns that the policies are being violated, they should contact the Superintendent or principal.

Parents are also expected to do their part in supporting the health and safety of students by ensuring that all documentation required by this policy is submitted in a timely manner. Each student must also adhere to the rules of safe play as instructed by their coaches. Students must also immediately inform a coach or other adult in the event the student believes they may have been injured during an activity. No student will be permitted to participate in an Extracurricular Athletic Activity unless the student and their parents have complied with their obligations under this policy.

Cross Ref: Mass. Gen. L. ch. 111, Section 222
 105 CMR 201.000 et seq.
 603 CMR 23.07 (access to student records)

Student Handbook Policies

Forms: *Pre-Participation Head Injury/ Concussion Reporting For Extracurricular Activities Form Link:*

<https://tinyurl.com/2nymvwkm>

Department Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medial Clearance and

Authorization Form Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2r5fvn7u>

Department Report of Head Injury During Sports Season Form Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3avkk72c>

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