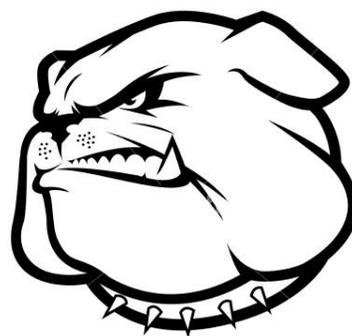


# EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



# ATHLETIC POLICY STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

## TO THE PARENT:

This handbook is presented to you because your son/daughter has expressed a desire to participate in interscholastic sports at **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/ BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**. Your family interest in this component of our school program is important to us. We believe participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal growth and adjustments. It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the squad. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team. There is no place in high school athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want to compromise with mediocrity.

It is the role of the athletic department, in cooperation with administration, to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook for students and parents.

It is the role of the parent/guardian to set a good example for **sportsmanship** for the athlete. The fundamentals are to show respect for the opponent and officials at all times to know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest; to maintain self-control at all times; and, to recognize and appreciate skills in performance, regardless of the team affiliation. Each parent wants their son/daughter to do well, but not at the expense of the team members. It is a parent's responsibility to encourage the athlete in a positive manner and not to belittle the other team members or the officiating crews at that event. Too many times, parents get caught up in the winning mentality and forget the importance of integrity and ethics. If we are to see our athletes succeed, parents need to stress the importance of integrity, moral values, and ethics. Good sportsmanship is viewed by **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. Sportsmanship is characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.

## TO THE ATHLETE:

Being a member of an **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** athletic team is a fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a student/athlete at **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our schools, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over the years, our teams have achieved more than their share of league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and achieved many awards.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the colors of our school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

- ◆ **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit possible from your athletic experiences.

Your academic studies, your participation in extracurricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

- ◆ **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in the activity in which you engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.
- ◆ You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field.
- ◆ Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school and community pride. Make **EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL / BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** proud of you, and your community proud of your school, by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.
- ◆ **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a squad member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday, and that you have played the game “all out,” you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.
- ◆ Younger students of the **BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS** are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them or yourself down. Set good examples for them. Sportsmanship in contact with other teams cannot be emphasized enough. Sportsmanship is an essential element of all sports programs.

Give 100% in your sport for your team and toward the other team. You, as a team member, can and should promote sportsmanship to your team members and to the members of other teams. Respect the opposing team, the officials and yourself at every contest. Maintaining self-control at all times requires discipline. Sportsmanship is characterized by generosity and a genuine concern for others both on and off the playing field. Sportsmanship is definitely a “follow the leader” activity.

The following extracurricular athletic activities are available at the high school: baseball, basketball (boys and girls), cheerleading, cross country (boys and girls), football, golf (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), softball, swimming (boys and girls), tennis (boys and girls), track (boys and girls), volleyball and wrestling.

The following extracurricular athletic activities are available at the middle school: football, volleyball, tennis (boys and girls), basketball (boys and girls), wrestling, track (boys and girls), cross country (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), weightlifting, and cheerleading.

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

### STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/BRADEN MIDDLE SCHOOL athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at any cost.” It discourages any and all pressures, which might lead to neglecting good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way that it is an educational activity. **IT IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS!**

### ATHLETIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our goal—the student-athlete shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

Our Specific Objectives—the student-athlete shall learn:

- a) To work with others—In a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- b) To be successful—Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- c) To develop sportsmanship—To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- d) To improve—Continual improvement is an essential component of good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to achieve that goal. Try to improve the skills and knowledge required and those personal traits that enhance the success of a team.
- e) To enjoy athletics—It is necessary for athletes to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to persevere and improve the program.
- f) To develop desirable personal health habits—To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed. It is necessary to make athletes aware of the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on their daily lives and their athletic performances.
- g) To encourage athletes to become multi-sport athletes—It is a proven fact that athletes who are involved in numerous sports throughout the school year will be better athletes.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

### A. BEHAVIOR

You are a student first and an athlete second. As a member of a team, you are expected to represent your team and school at all times. This means in the classroom, during extracurricular activities and in the community. It is a privilege to participate in athletics and you should be proud to be associated with a team and your teammates. Please follow these simple guidelines:

- ◆ I will respect the property of others as I would my own;
- ◆ I will respect adults (school personnel who deal with me on a daily basis and any other adult); and,
- ◆ I will conduct myself in an exemplary social manner at all times.

### B. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A yearly physical examination is required. The physical card must be completed by the physician, signed by the parent and the athlete and submitted to the coach or Athletic Director PRIOR to participation. **NO ATHLETE IS PERMITTED TO PRACTICE WITHOUT A CURRENT PHYSICAL.** The physical card is good for one full year from the date of the exam. The form will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office in the main office for middle school students. We strongly recommend you have the physical in the summer, even if you will not be participating in a sport until the winter or spring months.

### C. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Each parent must fill out an emergency consent form for each sport. That form gives permission to treat your son/daughter in the event of an injury and the parent is not present at the event. A form is needed for each sport.

### D. INSURANCE

The school district provides the opportunity for parents to purchase student accident insurance to cover student athletic injuries. This insurance is a supplemental insurance to the parent's coverage. In the event of an injury, parents are to notify the Athletic Director within 7 days of the injury for the appropriate forms. It is the parent's responsibility to file these forms and communicate with the insurance company.

### E. SCHOLASTIC AND AGE ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes must meet the scholastic requirements of the OHSAA which requires that the athletes pass a minimum of the equivalent of five (5) credits toward graduation immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible the following grading period. Middle School athletes must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five of all subjects carried during the preceding grading period. Changes of eligibility will become effective on the START of the fifth school day after the end of the nine weeks (usually Friday). **All student-athletes in grades 7-12 must also earn a 1.8 GPA for the preceding grading period to be eligible.**

When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, he/she becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics. There is an exception to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review this exception.

A student has eight semesters of eligibility commencing with his/her freshman year. If the student is detained in a grade for more than one year, the eligibility is still for eight semesters. In this case, the student will be ineligible for their senior year.

## F. GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR ELIGIBILITY

Grade point average for eligibility will be calculated as noted below.

- ◆ Grades will be assigned the following value: A = 4 points; B = 3 points; C = 2 points; D = 1 point; F = 0 points.
- ◆ The point values for each grade will be added together and then divided by the total number of credits.
- ◆ Incompletes will be counted as an F (0) until made up.
- ◆ No letter grades will be changed after the end of each grading period.

## G. PARTICIPATION

An athlete should participate in only one sport per season. Permission from both head coaches and the Athletic Director is necessary if the athlete wishes to participate in more than one. (Note: Cheerleaders may participate in a sport during a cheer season).

## H. DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS

Before an athlete quits a team she/he must speak to her/his coach and the athletic director. If an athlete quits a team after the first contest she/he will not be eligible to participate (practice, play, condition) until the beginning of the next sports season. If an athlete quits a team before the first contest she/he may try out for another team during the same season. The athlete will be required to practice an equivalent number of days equal to the number of days at the beginning of the season before participating in an actual athletic contest. An athlete must hand in all equipment before beginning another sport. It is the responsibility of the coach of the new team to collect the equipment from the athlete's previous team.

## I. EQUIPMENT

**School equipment checked out by the student is his/her responsibility.** He/she is expected to keep the equipment clean and in good condition. Loss or damage of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. An athlete should not, under any circumstances, trade or loan equipment to other team members without permission from the coach. End of season awards will not be issued until equipment has been turned in, or lost and stolen equipment has been paid for.

**Note: Students must sign-off for all equipment. STUDENTS MUST RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE FINAL CONTEST; OTHERWISE THE ATHLETE WILL NOT RECEIVE THEIR AWARD UNTIL AFTER THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED.**

## J. MISSING PRACTICE

An athlete should always consult his/her coach **BEFORE** missing practice, unless ill. Each athlete must communicate with his/her coach when it is necessary to miss a practice. Do not assume your coach knows where you are. If an athlete misses the practice the day before a game, without prior approval from the coach or athletic director, he/she will be ineligible to participate in that game. College visits and field trips are excused absences. Student athletes will be permitted one tardy to school for each sport season they are participating in (unless medical documentation for the tardy/absence has been turned into the office/coach).

## **K. TRAVEL**

All athletes must travel to and from out-of town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless parents make previous arrangements for an exceptional situation.

- ◆ Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
- ◆ Athletes that miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances. An athlete may not drive to an event and participate in that event.
- ◆ All regular school bus rules will be followed.
- ◆ Permission to ride home from an event may be granted by a coach. The athlete may only ride home from the event with their PARENT. The parent must sign the travel release form with the coach of the event. The travel release form must be turned in to the coach prior to the contest. The athlete is responsible for his/her own equipment if he/she chooses to ride home with a parent.

## **L. PICK UP FROM EVENTS AND PRACTICE**

The athlete is to be picked up immediately following practice or an event in a timely manner. Beginning and ending practice times will be given to the athlete at the beginning of each season. Please consult these times for pick-up. If the event is away, the coach will give the athlete an approximate pick up time. Please be considerate of the coach's time and pick your athletes up promptly.

## **M. COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY**

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Coaches should be contacted as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the athletic office. NCAA registration forms, standards, and eligibility clearinghouse forms are available online and to students and families in the Athletic Director's Office.

## **N. CONFLICTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities may create conflict of obligations and interests. The athletic department recognizes that each student has the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Student-athletes have a responsibility to do everything possible to avoid continuing conflicts. Positive efforts might include being cautious about joining too many activities where conflicts are unavoidable. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when conflict arises. When a conflict situation arises, the advisor/coach will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- ◆ the relative importance of each event to the student;
- ◆ when each event was initially scheduled;
- ◆ the importance of the event to the school;
- ◆ the relative contribution that student can make; and,

Once a decision has been made and the student has committed to that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either advisor/coach.

## **O. ATTENDANCE**

***Students who are tardy to school first period are permitted one tardy for each sport season.***

The second, third, fourth, etc. tardy will result in non-participation in practice or contest on that day, unless a doctor's medical note is submitted to the coach/office. Students missing school part of the day or all day may not participate in practice or the contest, including Saturday matches if school is missed on Friday, unless a doctor's medical note is submitted to the coach/office. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal or designee.

## **P. EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASSES FOR AWAY CONTESTS**

It is the responsibility of an athlete to see their teacher(s) and get their work at least one day before the class(es) they will miss due to an athletic contest. All work should be made up at the convenience of the teacher(s).

## **Q. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR SCHOOL VIOLATIONS AND CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS**

If an athlete violates the school Code of Conduct, the principal/coach will have the authority to determine what disciplinary action will be taken regarding the athlete and his/her sport. Depending upon the violation, the principal/coach may dismiss the athlete from the sport or authorize a suspension. If the athlete has been charged with an alleged criminal violation, that athlete may be suspended pending investigation. If the athlete is found guilty of the offense, the athlete may be dismissed from the sport.

## **R. VACATION POLICY**

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged during season competition. Athletes wishing to take a vacation during a season of athletic participation may wish to reassess the commitment to being an athlete. In the event of an unavoidable absence due to a vacation, an athlete must:

- ◆ Contact the coach prior to the vacation; and
- ◆ Be willing to assume the consequences related to status on the team (starter, reserve, etc.)

## **S. SQUAD SELECTIONS**

In accordance with our philosophy and our desire to see as many students participate in the athletic program as possible, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, safety, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. **IT IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO BE ON A TEAM.** Coaches will meet with individual players to discuss the athlete's strengths and weaknesses when squad sizes are reduced.

## **T. REPORTING AN INJURY**

All injuries that occur during athletic participation **MUST** be reported to the coach and athletic trainer within 24 hours and an injury report must be filed. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity. Each coach will fill out an injury report. The school district provides the opportunity for parents to purchase student accident insurance. Parents need to notify the Athletic Director and fill out the appropriate forms within seven days of the injury. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to deal with the supplemental insurance company.

## **U. AWARDS**

See Appendix 1 (page 16)

**V. PAY TO PARTICIPATE (PLEASE NOTE ... Fee was waived for the 2024-2025 school year)**

To assist in defraying the costs of running the athletic programs at Edgewood Senior High School, athletes are charged a "Pay to Participate" fee. This fee must be paid by the start of the first practice. If the fee is not paid, athletes will not be permitted to participate in either practices or contests. Payments must be made at the Treasurer's Office at Braden Junior High School or online at the Buckeye Local Schools' website ([www.buckeyeschools.info](http://www.buckeyeschools.info)). Proof of payments shall be requested prior to student athlete participation.

**W. RETURN CHECK POLICY**

All returned checks will be submitted to e-Collect and your account will be debited electronically for both the full amount and the returned check fees.

**X. PARTICIPATION IN NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

**An athlete cannot compete in a non-interscholastic sport** (ex: Senior League, AAU, Jr. Olympics, etc.) during the season if they are currently participating in a sport at the high school level. For example: If the athlete is playing baseball, **may not PRACTICE, SCRIMMAGE, OR PLAY IN A NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC GAME during the high school baseball season.** The athlete will forfeit their eligibility for that season.

If an athlete participates in a tournament outside their season, he/she may not accept gifts, prizes, travel money, meal money, etc. over the monetary amount set by the OHSAA. Before an athlete enters a tournament, he/she should check with the athletic director to make sure he/she will not forfeit their amateur status at the high school level.

**Y. OHSAA-REQUIRED PRE-SEASON MEETING**

Athletic Eligibility Brochures and all OHSAA Authorization Forms will be handed out at this time. If the parent/guardian cannot attend the scheduled meeting, he/she must make special arrangements to meet with the Athletic Administrator before the student-athlete may participate.

**Z. SPECIAL NOTE**

The information included in this handbook is the district policy for athletics in the Buckeye Local Schools. Each individual sports team will be also provide their athletes with team rules for their individual sport. The inability to follow those rules could lead to individual team discipline.

## BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS

### ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct applies to all interscholastic activities. Violations of this code will lead to disciplinary actions affecting students' participation in interscholastic activities in the Buckeye Local Schools.

- A. The participant is expected to follow attendance and school behavior policies, as stated, in the Student-Parent Handbook.
- B. The participant is to report to every practice or activity unless excused, in advance, by the coach/advisor.
- C. The participant must be prepared to receive constructive criticism and still maintain emotional control.
- D. The participant will use the mode of transportation approved by the Buckeye Local Schools unless he/she is permitted to use another means of transportation by the coach/advisor. Parent, guardian, or appropriate representative request must be submitted, in advance, to the coach/advisor.
- E. Appointments and work schedules should not be made during practice schedules or events. Each participant is expected to be in attendance in school, on time, and remain all day, in order to be eligible to practice or participate in an event. (Exception would be when there is medical or court documentation submitted, or an immediate family funeral.)
- F. The participant is to follow individual coach/advisor's rules and regulations.
- G. Participation in any action resulting in the filing of criminal charges is subject to disciplinary actions.
- H. Violation of hazing and/or sexual harassment policies. Hazing is defined as an act, including physical, mental, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him/her, or which may, in any fashion, compromise his or her integrity as a person. Hazing can also be a form of initiation into a particular club or group.
- I. Any act or gesture which is considered by the administration or board of education to be rude, obscene or immoral and/or reflects poorly on the Buckeye Local Schools could result in disciplinary action.
- J. The participant is never to steal or vandalize property when representing the Buckeye Local Schools.
- K. All actions will be determined and action will be taken when:
  - 1. A Buckeye employee/coach witnesses the offense
  - 2. Athlete's offense is confirmed by a law enforcement agency, or
  - 3. Athlete admits to the offense.

- L. During the calendar year (24 hours a day, seven days a week) a participant in grades 7-12 shall not possess illegally, use, consume, buy, sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol other controlled or counterfeit substance, or any non-prescribed drug. Also, to willingly attend and remain at activities where illegal consumption of alcohol or drugs is taking place is unacceptable behavior. The rule applies to the entire calendar year year.
- M. During the calendar year (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) a participant in grades 7-12 shall not use or possess tobacco in any form.

### **SUSPENSION PROCEDURE**

Participants will be informed when being considered for suspension from interscholastic participation. This hearing includes the reason(s) for the possible suspension. In all cases, the decision will be made by the athletic administrator. Due process will be guaranteed.

### **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

1. Parent/guardian may appeal the athletic suspension. This appeal must be communicated to the high school / middle school administration within 5 days of the suspension being issued.
2. An appeal hearing will be set which allows the parent/guardian an opportunity to present their concerns to the proceeding administrator. *Middle school appeals will be presented to the middle school principal and high school appeals to the high school principal.*
3. The administrator hearing the appeal will issue their decision and the parent will be notified.
4. All decisions following the appeal will be final.

### **DISMISSAL PROCEDURE**

Prior to the dismissal of a participant a meeting will take place. The student, parent, guardian, or appropriate representative, principal, assistant principal, coach/advisor or athletic director will review the case. When a decision is reached, the participant will be notified in writing by the athletic director and by telephone by the coach.

## **VIOLATION OF THIS CODE WILL LEAD TO THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:**

### **First Offense:**

1. The student athlete will be suspended for 20% of the regularly scheduled contests in the season in which the infraction occurs.
  - If the violation occurs at a time when the student is not participating in athletics, the 20% applies to the next athletic season in which the student has previously participated.
  - During the suspension, it is under the discretion of the athletic administrator if the student athlete is permitted to practice with the team.
2. The athlete shall be required to have a professional assessment and follow the recommendation of that assessment. Any cost of this assessment is the responsibility of the parent/athlete/guardian.
  - Student cannot participate in scheduled contests until the assessment is complete.
  - Failure to comply with the recommendation of the assessment will result in dismissal from the team.

### **Second Offense:**

1. The student athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the current sports season.
  - An athlete will be required to have another professional assessment and will be required to follow the recommendation of that assessment. Any cost of this assessment is the responsibility of the parent/athlete/guardian.

### **Third Offense:**

1. The student athlete shall forfeit the remaining eligibility to participate in ALL Buckeye Local Schools programs for the remainder of their high school career.

### **Point of Emphasis:**

With any suspension from athletic participation, the student athlete must maintain membership on the team (unless told otherwise by administration) through the last regular season contest or the penalty/suspension will be assessed during the next sports season.

## **PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen.

The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue:

1. Contact the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, call the Athletic Director.  
An appointment with the coach will be arranged for you.

### **IMPORTANT**

Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and in fact often escalate the issue. Also, restrict your meetings to non-public areas.

### **THE NEXT STEP**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Administrator to discuss the situation. The next appropriate step will be determined.

### **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

The Buckeye Local School District in conjunction with its' Department of Athletics follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any concern you may have with regard to the athletic program.

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Manager
4. Athletic Administrator
5. Principal
6. Superintendent
7. Board of Education

We hope that the information provided in this "Communication Guide" will help you and your student/athlete have a rewarding and enjoyable athletic experience.

# APPENDIX 1



## AWARDS

### VARSITY LETTERING REQUIRMENTS

Edgewood High School offers the following sports:

Cross Country	Volleyball	Football	Golf	Cheerleading
Basketball	Wrestling	Track	Tennis	Bowling
Baseball	Softball	Swimming	Soccer	

Student-Athletes can achieve the following awards:

- ◆ All non-letter winners will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- ◆ In addition to a Varsity Certificate, all Varsity Letter winners will receive the following:

First Year	Varsity "E" with metal sport insert.
Second Year	Varsity Patch (only one will be issued)
Third Year	4" X 6" Plaque
Fourth Year	8" X 10" Plaque
- ◆ Numerals are only awarded to freshman boys and girls who complete a season during their freshman year.
- ◆ Please note: Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee a letter. Final decisions regarding lettering are made at the coach's discretion, considering overall contribution, conduct, and team commitment."

#### FOOTBALL

- ◆ Participate as a senior after having participated for four (4) years;
- ◆ Participate in no less than 20 quarters of offense or defense. A quarter is defined as 2 consecutive plays or 5 total plays in one quarter;
- ◆ Participate in no less than 5 games as a kick specialist, (long snapper, place kicker holder, punt by return man).

#### BOYS/GIRLS TENNIS

- ◆ Participate in one half of the varsity matches; or accumulate 3 varsity wins
- ◆ Be a senior who has been in the program four years.

#### VOLLEYBALL

- ◆ Participate in one half of the varsity matches;
- ◆ Be a senior who has been in the program for four years.

#### BOYS/GIRLS SOCCER

- ◆ Must participate in a minimum of 50% of the halves in varsity matches;
- ◆ Four years in the program.

#### BOYS GOLF

- ◆ Participate in one half of the varsity matches (10).
- ◆ Be in the program for four years

### **GIRLS GOLF**

- ◆ Participate in one half of the matches;
- ◆ Be in the program four years.

### **BOYS CC**

- ◆ Get a point in one half of the meets including Districts (Regionals and State would be bonus meets); Coach's note: In a dual meet, a point constitutes a finish in the top ten versus only that team or beating the opponent's #5 runner. In Invitationals, a point constitutes finishing in the top one half of the race or, if you ran in the open or JV race, having a time equal to that of the top half of the varsity race. Some years, there is an odd number of meets so I round down (in other words if you were in 15 meets you would only need seven points).
- ◆ Be in the program four years.

### **GIRLS CC**

- ◆ Get a point in one half of the meets including Districts (Regionals and State would be bonus meets); Coach's note: In a dual meet, a point constitutes a finish in the top ten versus only that team or beating the opponent's #5 runner. In Invitationals, a point constitutes finishing in the top one half of the race or, if you ran in the open or JV race, having a time equal to that of the top half of the varsity race. Some years, there is an odd number of meets so I round down (in other words if you were in 15 meets you would only need seven points).
- ◆ Be in the program four years.

### **WRESTLING (Boys and Girls)**

- ◆ Participate in a minimum of 10 varsity matches;
- ◆ Wrestler places at the end of the season tournament (EOWL, or other as stated by head coach);
- ◆ Coaches discretion regarding specific situations.

### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

- ◆ Any varsity athlete who has participated in one-half of all quarters played, excluding tournament games;
- ◆ A senior basketball player not meeting quarters played requirements shall be awarded a letter if this award will be the first he receives for basketball at Edgewood;
- ◆ Four years in the program.

### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- ◆ Must have participated in a minimum of half the varsity quarters (two quarters per game);
- ◆ Four years in the program.

### **BOWLING**

- ◆ Participate in half of the matches as a varsity bowler
- ◆ Four years in the program

### **GIRLS TRACK**

- ◆ Four years in the program;
- ◆ Earn 15 points in meets;
- ◆ Attendance to all the meets and events unless excused by the coach;
- ◆ Participate in Regionals as an individual.

## **BOYS TRACK**

- ◆ Must score a minimum of 15 points throughout the season;
- ◆ Must be a member of the track team for a minimum of 3 years;
- ◆ Head coach discretion on special circumstances.

## **SOFTBALL**

- ◆ Play in one half of the games;
- ◆ Four years in the program.
- ◆ Play in a sectional or district tournament

## **BASEBALL**

- ◆ Play in half of the games;
- ◆ A pitcher with 3 decisions on the mound
- ◆ Four years in the program;
- ◆ Head coaches discretion on special circumstances.

## **GYMNASTICS**

- ◆ Must be enrolled as a student at Edgewood High School;
- ◆ Must be an optional level gymnast;
- ◆ Must have competed in a championship meet throughout the fiscal school year.

## **SWIMMING AND DIVING**

- Swimmers must remain in good standing with the team and maintain eligibility throughout the entire season.
  - Swimmers must attend promptly ALL practices and competitions unless excused by the coaching staff (sickness, family emergency). Unexcused absences will affect the swimmer's ability to earn a Letter. The athlete must swim the entire practices if they get out and miss on a regular basis will have an effect on lettering.
  - If a swimmer chooses to participate in an activity after the season starts, that conflicts with practice and meets participation will affect eligibility for a Varsity letter.
  - Swimmers that swim on a club team can practice with the club team Monday- Wednesday and must attend Thursday with high school.

### **The swimmer must meet the following criteria:**

1. Score a minimum of five (15) Points (in relays or individual events) at no less than four (4) regular season meets.
2. Score a minimum of five (5) Points (in a relay or individual events) at Conference Meet.
3. Swimmers must finish in the top half of the swimmer's events in five (5) regulars season meets.
4. Participate in all practices and Meets for the entire season
5. All swimmers must stay at all Meets until the end of the meet unless approved ahead of time.
6. The athlete must practice and swim for the entire season. Decisions on swimmers injured during the season will be up to the discretion of the coach
7. If and athlete is a senior with long standing to the team, the coach may waive the point system and award a letter.

### **Coaches Recommendations and Special Consideration**

A swimmer may qualify for a varsity letter under the head coach's special consideration.

## **CHEERLEADING**

- ◆ See Appendix 2 for Edgewood High School Team Rules and Criteria for lettering requirements.
- ◆ See Appendix 3 for Braden Middle School Team Rules and team requirements.

## **Flag Football**

- Participate in half the season (games)
- Four Years in program
- Head Coach discretion on other special circumstances

## **ESPORTS**

### **Fortnite**

- Played in at least 60% of the matches for the Varsity team in the competitive season.
- Have at least 10 takedowns in Varsity matches  
OR
- Place top 10 ranking for a competitive season match in our Premier Group

### **Super Smash Bros. Ultimate**

- Played in at least 60% of the matches for the Varsity team in the competitive season.
- Took 12 Stocks in Varsity matches  
OR
- 3 Match Wins (Finishing Wins)

### **Rocket League**

- Played in at least 60% of the matches for the Varsity team in the competitive season.
- Scored at least 10 goals in Varsity matches  
OR
- Provide 10 assists in Varsity matches/Provided 15 saves in Varsity Matches

\*Seniors who have played 4 competitive seasons with the team will earn their Varsity letter at the end of the senior season.

## **WARRIOR OF THE YEAR**

This award goes to one senior boy and one senior girl. See the Athletic Administrator for guidelines.  
(Note: If a student violates the Code of Conduct, he/she will not have the opportunity to be nominated for Warrior of the Year honors.)

## **AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAMS**

All awards are handed out during the Awards Recognition program at the end of each season. All athletes are expected to attend this program. This program is a part of the season in which the athlete participated. Failure to attend this program or to be excused in advance by the coach of the athlete's sport may result in the forfeiture of all awards that were earned that season.

**Note:** Each coach has his/her specific requirements to earn a varsity letter. Student-athletes need to check with the coach at the beginning of each season on these requirements.

# APPENDIX 2



# Edgewood High School Cheerleading Handbook

Edgewood Athletic Department



**Purpose:**

- To strive to maintain enthusiasm, good sportsmanship, and school spirit at all athletic games through the execution of cheers and chants.
- To develop and learn leadership skills as well as those skills necessary for working as a member of a squad, such as tact, understanding, and the ability to follow as well as lead, mutual respect for others, responsibility, and tolerance.
- To understand the rules and regulations of the sports for which cheerleaders perform in order to lead the appropriate type of cheer or chant.
- To be a good school leader and be a living example of good conduct, character, and citizenship.

**Qualifications for Tryouts:**

- Tryout eligibility will be determined by the most recent completed grading period. A 1.8 GPA is required.
- A physical examination must be on file with the school.
- Must have school insurance or some form of insurance through parents that covers accidents away from home.

**Qualifications for Maintaining Position**

- Year-end eligibility will be determined by the fourth quarter grading period. A 1.8 GPA is required
- Maintain at least 1.8 GPA
- Current physical examination
- Current school insurance
- Maintain good standing as described by the points system below

**Season Points System**

- All points will start over at the start of the new season
- Not dressed properly for practice including no shoes = 1 pt
- Not dressed properly for game day @ school = 1 pt
- Not dressed properly for game ( including hair, shoes, socks, bra)= 1 pt
- Late to practice w/out proper notification to coach = 1 pt
- Leaving early w/out prior notification to coach = 1pt
- Missing practice w/out notifying coach or for unexcused reason = 1 pt
- Missing game w/out notifying coach or for unexcused reason = 3 pts
- Late to game or missing bus = 2 pts
- Disrespectful to teammate, coaches, administration, opposing team members = 5 pts

## Consequences

- 5 pts = sit 1 quarter in following game (must come on time and sit with coach) and conference with coach
- 8 pts = sit 1 quarter in following game (must come on time and sit with coach) and conference with coach
- 10 pts = sit 1 game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 12 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 14 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 16 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 18 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 20 pts = conference with coach and parents and Athletic Administrator and possible release from squad

## **Cheerleader Duties and Responsibilities**

- All cheerleaders are encouraged to attend summer camp at one's own expense
- Attendance to all practices and games throughout preseason and season are required. Absenteeism and tardiness are not tolerated. **You are an Edgewood Cheerleader first. Other non-school activities will come second to our practices and games.** Please see points system above.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for the care of uniforms. They must be kept clean and neat at all times. They are only to be worn to school on game days and to games.
- Cheerleading shoes will be purchased at one's own expense. Shoes will be picked out by advisor/warriorette's during the summer. All cheerleaders will wear these shoes.
- Squad members are to be prepared for each performance. Failure to do so will result in removal from the performance or game. This is to the discretion of the advisor.
- Cheerleaders must be team members. The advisor has the responsibility to make any decision that is for the good of the team and school. Team members shall follow the advisor's decision without engaging in open criticism with other members of the team or the student body.
- All cheerleaders must participate in organized team programs and fundraisers. Failure to do so will result in non-performance.

## **Conduct and Policies**

- Only stud earrings will be worn as far as jewelry when in uniform.
- Hair must be worn to advisor/Warriorette's specifications for games and other events.
- Chewing gum in uniform is not permitted.
- Cheerleaders must be on time for bus departures and games. Failure to do so will result in being benched for the entire game.

- Basketball games: Varsity will sit together and cheer during the JV Game and JV will sit together and cheer during the Varsity game. Varsity may leave during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the JV game to practice. JV shall remain in uniform for the Varsity game. Cheerleaders are expected to support each other's games.
- One must attend school for a full day to cheer at that night's game. Attendance rules are defined in the EHS Handbook. A student will be offered consideration for a verified doctor's appointment, college visitation, or court hearing.

### **General Expectations**

- Be an excellent leader and role model for EHS
- Be an excellent citizen of the school and community (respect, responsibility, integrity, willingness to cooperate, and loyalty to the school)
- Be early for home games. Welcome the visiting squads, led by the Warriorette
- Ignore crowd hecklers; try to start something positive.
- Know the game and the rules of the sport you are cheering for
- Use appropriate material and motions
- Display good sportsmanship even if the other team does not
- Do not talk to friends or people in the crowd while cheering
- Be alert at all times as to what is happening on the field, court, or around the cheering area
- Keep smiling and always have showmanship
- Always look into the crowd when performing or cheering
- Be enthusiastic
- Give the advisor and Warriorette the respect as you would expect for yourself

### **Transportation**

- Cheerleaders are responsible for getting themselves to the stadium or school on time for practices, home games, and away bus departures.
- Arrangements must be made to leave the school or field within ten minutes after the scheduled practice or game ends.
- Cheerleaders shall ride assigned buses to any away game. Student athletes are not permitted to drive to any contest.
- Any cheerleader who misses a game bus will not cheer at that game.
- In order for a squad member to ride home with her parents from an away game, the following will be strictly adhered to
  - Written permission through the "sign-out" sheet passed out by advisor near the end of the game
  - No parent may assume the responsibility of a student athlete other than his own or her own child unless written consent is given by both parents.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for bringing all items needed with them, and to return from the event with them.

## **Practices**

- Absenteeism and tardiness will not be tolerated. Please see the above points system.
- Each unexcused absence (work or non-cheer activity is unexcused) will result in being benched for one quarter of the next scheduled game. While benched, the cheerleader must sit in the stands with the advisor. She may resume cheering when the quarter is finished, only if she is prepared. Being unprepared will result in non-performance for the entire game.
- Appropriate attire must be worn to practice, including tennis shoes.

## **Criteria for earning a letter/special patches**

- 1st year cheering will earn their class numbers
- 2nd year cheering:
  - If on JV they earn the cheer megaphone
  - If on Varsity they earn a cheer letter
- 3rd year cheering:
  - If they have previously earned a megaphone, they earn a cheer letter
  - If they have previously earned a cheer letter, they earn a megaphone
  - If the previous cheered JV, they earn a certificate
- 4th year cheering:
  - If they have cheered JV, they earn a cheer letter
  - If this is their 2nd year on Varsity, they earn the warrior shield
  - If this is their 3rd year on Varsity, they earn a plaque

## **Causes for Dismissal or Suspension**

- Not maintaining eligibility (suspended until it improves)
- Behavior unbecoming to a lady.
- Inability to get along with others.
- Not following any of the handbook rules or regulations and/or school policy.
- If dismissed, suspended, or quits during the season or pre-season, cheerleader cannot try out for the following year.

## **Disciplinary Measures for Violating Drug, Alcohol School Policy**

- Ultimately it is the Policy of the Buckeye Local Schools as well as the governing administration that will assess and administer the appropriate punishment for rule infractions.

## **Responsibility of the Advisor**

- Organize and attend cheerleading tryouts and aid in the selection of the new cheerleading squads.
- Prepare and organize for summer camps or clinics if applicable.
- See that all squads practice during the summer months.
- Attend the season's football games, basketball games, cheerleading practices, pep assemblies, and any other organized event.
- Collect and store all uniforms, poms, and equipment owned by the Athletic Boosters.
- Prepare for and attend tournament games.
- Decorate and attend banquets if applicable.

- Provide a complete inventory list to the Athletic Director at the beginning and end of each cheerleading season.
- Supervise fundraising activities and handle all money collected.
- Attend Athletic Booster meetings.

### **Warriorette Selection Process**

The role of **Cheer Captain** is an important leadership position that requires dedication, strong communication skills, and a positive attitude. To ensure the best leader is chosen, the captain will be selected through a **team vote**, following a period where all potential leaders have had the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities

- Evaluation Period – Before voting, all cheerleaders will have time to observe and experience each potential leader's:
  - Leadership and ability to motivate the team
  - Communication skills with teammates and coaches
  - Work ethic, responsibility, and commitment
  - Attitude, sportsmanship, and ability to handle challenges
  - Teamwork and willingness to support others
- Voting Process – After the evaluation period, a majority vote will determine the captain.
  - Each team member will vote anonymously for the cheerleader they believe is best suited for the role.
  - The coach(es) will oversee the voting process and may provide input if necessary.
- Announcement – this selection will take place **before the beginning of the season**, ensuring the team has time to evaluate leadership qualities, communication skills, and overall dedication.
  - In the event of a tie or concern, the coach and athletic director will make the final decision.
  - If the selected captain is unable to fulfill their duties, an alternate may be chosen.

### **Duties of the Warriorettes**

- One girl shall be football Warriorette and one girl shall be basketball Warriorette. The same girl shall not be both.
- Warriorettes chosen must meet with the advisor within the first week after tryouts to begin organizing for next year.
- Maintain leadership of the squad.
- Be prepared for practices.
  - Lead warm-ups such as running and stretching
  - Lead jumps/motion workshops
  - Assist with Braden Cheer
- Work with the advisor on the master chant list and organized cheers and dance routines to be used during the season.
- Arrange and plan for pep assemblies along with the captains of sports, advisors, principal, Athletic Director, or any school official.
- Will assist, as needed, in communication to all EHS cheerleaders for practices, outfits, changes in time, schedule or games and any other passing of information.
- Lead other squad members to meet and greet opposing squads during pregame.
- Set a positive example for the squad through behavior, attitude, and performance.
- Motivate and encourage teammates, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

- Represent the team at school events, fundraisers, and community activities.
- Work with the student body, sports teams, and administration to promote school spirit.

### **Warriorette Uniform Requirements**

To recognize and honor the leadership role of the **Cheer Captain**, they will have the option to personalize their uniform in a way that distinguishes them while cheering. This may include:

- Having "**Captain**" or "**Warriorette**" embroidered on their uniform.
- Other approved modifications, such as a designated patch, emblem, or accessory that sets them apart.

Since this is a new change, we are open to additional ideas on how to best highlight the Cheer Captain's role while maintaining uniformity and team spirit. Any modifications must be **approved by the coach and athletic director** before being implemented.

### **Tryouts**

- Cheerleaders must tryout every year regardless of previous experience.
- All candidates must have a signed waiver, permission slip, zero balance owed to school for cheerleading or other sports, and have grade eligibility to tryout.
- Squad eligibility is as follows:
  - Varsity
    - 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible
    - 1 year of high school cheer experience or letter of recommendation from cheer program needed
  - JV
    - 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders eligible.
      - 11<sup>th</sup> Graders will be given the option if they do not make the varsity squad.
- Warriorette eligibility
  - A cheerleader must be of senior status.
  - 2 years of high school cheer experience needed
- Tryouts will consist of:
  - Teacher evaluation
  - Prelims consisting of jumps
  - Performance on tryout day including original cheer, original chant, required cheer and required dance
- Judges for tryouts will be adults knowledgeable in cheerleading motions, jumps, and expectations
- Judges shall be assigned by the advisor

- All decisions made on the night of tryouts shall be final
- Scoring
  - Points shall be added together from all segments of the tryouts
  - The candidates scoring the highest points shall comprise next year's squads
  - The top twelve scores within each age group will make up the squads
    - The top two to four scoring girls will make both squads if desired for JV
    - Four girls will make the Football squad only, and four girls will make the Basketball Squad only
  - Squads will be posted the same night as tryouts
  - JV Football cheerleaders may be asked to cheer during Varsity Football games, including but not limited to Homecoming and BMCFL Recognition Night. **This is up to the discretion of the advisor.**

**Edgewood High School Cheerleading Handbook**  
*Parent/Guardian Communication and Permission Form*

I have read, understand, and accept the Edgewood High School Cheerleading Handbook, its regulations, and their necessary enforcement and agree to all decisions made by the judges, advisors, and administration at the 2024 EHS cheerleading tryouts. I will obey all EHS administration rules and expectations, and those of this handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, if chosen as an EHS Cheerleader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheerleader Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheerleader Signature

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to participate in the 2025-2026 EHS Cheerleading Program. No monies are owed to the Buckeye Athletic Boosters or to EHS for previous camps, uniforms, or equipment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

***\*\*Please return this last form only to Mrs. Pocci at Edgewood High School at tryouts.***

# APPENDIX 3



# Braden Middle School Cheerleading Handbook

Edgewood Athletic Department



**Purpose:**

- To strive to maintain enthusiasm, good sportsmanship, and school spirit at all athletic games through the execution of cheers and chants.
- To develop and learn leadership skills as well as those skills necessary for working as a member of a squad, such as tact, understanding, and the ability to follow as well as lead, mutual respect for others, responsibility, and tolerance.
- To understand the rules and regulations of the sports for which cheerleaders perform in order to lead the appropriate type of cheer or chant.
- To be a good school leader and be a living example of good conduct, character, and citizenship.

**Qualifications for Tryouts:**

- Tryout eligibility will be determined by the most recent completed grading period. A 1.8 GPA is required.
- A physical examination must be on file with the school.
- Must have school insurance or some form of insurance through parents that covers accidents away from home.

**Qualifications for Maintaining Position**

- Tryout eligibility will be determined by the most recent completed grading period. A 1.8 GPA is required.
- Maintain at least 1.8 GPA
- Current physical examination
- Current school insurance
- Maintain good standing as described by the points system below

**Season Points System**

- All points will start over at the start of the new season
- All points will start over at the start of the new season
- Not dressed properly for practice including no shoes = 1 pt
- Not dressed properly for game day @ school = 1 pt
- Not dressed properly for game ( including hair, shoes, socks, bra)= 1 pt
- Late to practice w/out proper notification to coach = 1 pt
- Leaving early w/out prior notification to coach = 1pt
- Missing practice w/out notifying coach or for unexcused reason = 1 pt
- Missing game w/out notifying coach or for unexcused reason = 3 pts
- Late to game or missing bus = 2 pts
- Disrespectful to teammate, coaches, administration, opposing team members = 5 pts

## Consequences

- 5 pts = sit 1 quarter in following game (must come on time and sit with coach) and conference with coach
- 8 pts = sit 1 quarter in following game (must come on time and sit with coach) and conference with coach
- 10 pts = sit 1 game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 12 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 14 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 16 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 18 pts = sit another game (must come to game and sit with coach) and conference with coach and parents
- 20 pts = conference with coach and parents and Athletic Administrator and possible release from squad

## **Cheerleader Duties and Responsibilities**

- All cheerleaders are encouraged to attend summer camp at one's own expense.
- Attendance to all practices and games throughout preseason and season are required. Absenteeism and tardiness are not tolerated. **You are a Braden Cheerleader first. Other non-school activities will come second to our practices and games.** Please see points system above.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for the care of uniforms. They must be kept clean and neat at all times. They are only to be worn to school on game days and to games.
- Cheerleading shoes will be purchased at one's own expense. Shoes will be picked out by advisor during the summer. All cheerleaders will wear these shoes.
- Squad members are to be prepared for each performance. Failure to do so will result in removal from the performance or game. This is to the discretion of the advisor.
- Cheerleaders must be team members. The advisor has the responsibility to make any decision that is for the good of the team and school. Team members shall follow the advisor's decision without engaging in open criticism with other members of the team or the student body.
- All cheerleaders must participate in organized team programs and fundraisers. Failure to do so will result in non-performance.

## **Conduct and Policies**

- Only stud earrings will be worn as far as jewelry when in uniform.
- Hair must be worn to advisor's specifications for games and other events.
- Chewing gum in uniform is not permitted.
- Cheerleaders must be on time for bus departures and games. Failure to do so will result in being benched for the entire game.
- Cheerleaders are expected to support each other's games, if 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade games are at the same location on the same day. This means that one squad will sit together while the other cheers on their classmates, and vice versa.
- One must attend school for a full day to cheer at that night's game. Attendance rules are defined in the Braden Handbook. A student will be offered consideration for a verified doctor's appointment or court hearing.

## **General Expectations**

- Be an excellent leader and role model for Braden
- Be an excellent citizen of the school and community (respect, responsibility, integrity, willingness to cooperate, and loyalty to the school)
- Be early for home games. Welcome the visiting squads, led by the advisor
- Ignore crowd hecklers; try to start something positive.
- Know the game and the rules of the sport you are cheering for
- Use appropriate material and motions
- Display good sportsmanship even if the other team down not
- Do not talk to friends or people in the crowd while cheering
- Be alert at all times as to what is happening on the field, court, or around the cheering area
- Keep smiling and always have showmanship
- Always look into the crowd when performing or cheering
- Be enthusiastic
- Give the advisor the respect as you would expect for yourself

## **Transportation**

- Cheerleaders are responsible for getting themselves to the stadium or school on time for practices, home games, and away bus departures.
- Arrangements must be made to leave the school or field within ten minutes after the scheduled practice or game ends.
- Cheerleaders shall ride assigned buses to any away game. Student athletes are not permitted to drive to any contest.
- Any cheerleader who misses a game bus will not cheer at that game.
- In order for a squad member to ride home with her parents from an away game, the following will be strictly adhered to

- Written permission through the “sign-out” sheet passed out by advisor near the end of the game
- No parent may assume the responsibility of a student athlete other than his own or her own child unless written consent is given by both parents.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for bringing all items needed with them, and to return from the event with them.

### **Practices**

- Absenteeism and tardiness will not be tolerated. Please see the above points system.
- Each unexcused absence (work or non-cheer activity is unexcused) will result in being benched for one quarter of the next scheduled game. While benched, the cheerleader must sit in the stands with the advisor. She may resume cheering when the quarter is finished, only if she is prepared. Being unprepared will result in non-performance for the entire game.
- Appropriate attire must be worn to practice, including tennis shoes.

### **Causes for Dismissal or Suspension**

- Not maintaining eligibility (suspended until it improves)
- Behavior unbecoming to a lady.
- Inability to get along with others.
- Not following any of the handbook rules or regulations and/or school policy.
- If dismissed, suspended, or quits during the season or pre-season, cheerleader cannot try out for the following year.

### **Disciplinary Measures for Violating Drug, Alcohol School Policy**

- Ultimately it is the Policy of the Buckeye Local Schools as well as the governing administration that will assess and administer the appropriate punishment for rule infractions.

### **Responsibility of the Advisor**

- Organize and attend cheerleading tryouts and aid in the selection of the new cheerleading squads.
- Prepare and organize for summer camps or clinics if applicable.
- See that all squads practice during the summer months.
- Attend the season’s football games, basketball games, cheerleading practices, pep assemblies, and any other organized event.
- Collect and store all uniforms, poms, and equipment owned by the Athletic Boosters.
- Prepare for and attend tournament games.
- Decorate and attend banquets if applicable.
- Provide a complete inventory list to the Athletic Director at the beginning and end of each cheerleading season.
- Supervise fundraising activities and handle all money collected.
- Attend Athletic Booster meetings.

## Tryouts

- Cheerleaders must tryout every year regardless of previous experience.
- All candidates must have a signed waiver, permission slip, zero balance owed to school for cheerleading or other sports, and have grade eligibility to tryout.
- Squad eligibility is as follows:
  - Current 6<sup>th</sup> graders can try out and make 7<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleading
  - Current 7<sup>th</sup> graders can try out and make 8<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleading
- Tryouts will consist of:
  - Faculty evaluation
  - Prelims consisting of jumps
  - Performance on tryout day including original cheer, original chant, required cheer and required dance
- Judges for tryouts will be adults knowledgeable in cheerleading motions, jumps, and expectations
- Judges shall be assigned by the advisor
- All decisions made on the night of tryouts shall be final
  
- Scoring
  - Points shall be added together from all segments of the tryouts
  - The candidates scoring the highest points shall comprise next year's squads
    - Squads will be selected based on highest scores, season preference and number of overall tryout participants.
  - Squads will be posted the same night as tryouts

**Braden Middle School Cheerleading Handbook**  
*Parent/Guardian Communication and Permission Form*

I have read, understand, and accept the Braden Middle School Cheerleading Handbook, its regulations, and their necessary enforcement and agree to all decisions made by the judges, advisors, and administration at the 2024 Braden cheerleading tryouts. I will obey all Braden administration rules and expectations, and those of this handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, if chosen as a Braden Cheerleader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheerleader Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheerleader Signature

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to participate in the 2025-2026 Braden Cheerleading Program. No monies are owed to the Buckeye Athletic Boosters or to Braden for previous camps, uniforms, or equipment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**\*\*Please return this last form only to Mrs. Pocci at tryouts.**