

**CENTRAL BUCKEYE LEAGUE
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

2023-24

CBL

REVISED 12/2022

CENTRAL BUCKEYE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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CENTRAL BUCKEYE LEAGUE
SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

2023-24

CBL

PREAMBLE

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY AND GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY

The member schools of the Central Buckeye League believe that interscholastic competition involving member schools should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to ensure that all members have a common understanding of those basic principles.

We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors, and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players. An additional component to consider is in the area of coaches' ethics. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. We therefore expect member school administrators, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

1. Respect should be demonstrated for an athletic opponent and for their school at all times. Host schools should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration all human beings deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
2. Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be and accepted as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their jobs and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
3. Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest, and good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules.
4. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
5. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

I. COACHES

The coaches bear the greatest responsibility for the development of sportsmanship as they have the greatest influence on the attitudes and behaviors of players, the student body, and the community. Coaches must value sportsmanship and teach it through their words and through example. Therefore, coaches should embrace the following appropriate behaviors:

1. Instruct their players in the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Teach the value of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
3. Make sportsmanship behavior a matter of team discipline, with appropriate consequences for team members who display unsportsmanlike behavior.
4. Remind the student body at every opportunity that visiting teams are guests, and, as their hosts, they should be polite and courteous.
5. Respect the officials' judgment and interpretation of the rules.
6. Demonstrate publicly the ideals of good sportsmanship by such acts as shaking hands with officials and opposing coaches before and after contests.

Coaches should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

1. Use of profanity.
2. Ejection from contest.
3. Berating officials or players.
4. Inciting spectators/players to behave inappropriately.

Suggested disciplinary actions:

1. Conference/hearing with school officials.
2. Growth plan for improvement.
3. Possible suspension/termination.

Mandatory disciplinary action:

If ejected, the minimum suspension should be as determined by OHSAA regulations for the current school year. Refer to the current issue of the OHSAA Handbook for specific regulations

II. PARTICIPANTS

A. PLAYERS

Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. It is important that players:

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow human beings.
2. Shake hands with opponents and wish them a good game when appropriate.
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the officials as just that, the best judgment they could make given what they know and see. Never argue or make gestures indicating lack of respect for the official judgment.

4. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
5. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

B. CHEERLEADERS:

Cheerleaders are representatives of the student body. By setting a good example, the cheerleaders can influence and control the actions of the student spectators. They should:

1. Establish standards of desirable behavior in keeping with the fundamentals of good sportsmanship for the cheerleaders and pep club.
2. Use positive cheers that encourage their own team without demeaning the opponents.
3. Use discretion in deciding when to cheer and which cheers to use. Give encouragement to injured players on both sides.
4. Never attempt to distract opposing players or in any way to interfere with their performance.
5. Serve as hosts for visiting cheerleaders.

Participants (players and cheerleaders) should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

1. Taunting officials, opponents or spectators.
2. Violation of bench rule: If an athlete leaves the bench area and is involved in an altercation on the playing field/area the OHSAA policy relative to this must be enforced.
3. Ejection from contest.
4. Use of profanity.
5. Damage/destruction of school property.
6. Theft of school or personal property.

Suggested disciplinary actions:

1. Benching of participants.
2. Removal from contest.
3. Suspension of a portion of the season.
4. Restitution.
5. Conference/hearing with school officials.

Mandatory disciplinary actions:

If ejected, the minimum suspension should be as determined by OHSAA regulations for the current school year. Refer to the current issue of the OHSAA Handbook for specific regulations

C. SPECTATORS

Partisan spectators by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded too, that the contest should be between the

teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.
3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unsportsmanlike.
4. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
5. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Spectator inappropriate behavior:

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials.
2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators using: chants, signs or cheers
3. Interruption of contest by: throwing objects on playing area, entering playing area, or displaying disruptive behavior

Suggested disciplinary actions:

1. Removal from contest.
2. Conference/hearing with school officials.

We believe that each member school of the CBL is committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is in this spirit that the suggested disciplinary action is proposed. We also recognize the importance of communication and cooperation between member schools when incidents of inappropriate behavior arise. The quality of our conference depends upon this natural respect. We also believe that being proactive is vital to the education of our students and spectators and therefore offer the following suggested related activities:

P.A. Announcements at contest

Letter to community

Insert in game programs

Team night promotion of sportsmanship

Coaches in-service...ethics and sportsmanship

Beginning year assemblies

Sportsmanship awards

CENTRAL BUCKEYE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Central Buckeye League (CBL). All policies and by-laws apply to all member schools.

ARTICLE II Purpose and Powers

Section I – Purpose

The CBL is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The purpose of this non-profit organization shall be to promote pure, wholesome competition in the high schools or member schools; and to foster and perpetuate a high standard of sportsmanship among all participants.

Section II - Power

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the CBL shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an association exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by an association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

ARTICLE III School Membership

Section I - Good Standing

Any school of secondary grade and their affiliated school of middle school grades accredited by the State Department of Education, and in good standing in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, shall be eligible for membership.

Section II - Entry

Any school may petition to become a member of the league by its administrative head filing an application through the League Commissioner and accepted after two readings, by a 75% vote of the current member schools who will be members of the league at the time the new school enters the league. (Note: If there are schools that will be withdrawing from the league prior to the new school joining, they will not have a vote on the acceptance of the new members.)

Voting privileges for a school formally accepted for membership in the CBL whether through expansion or replacement, commences when that school begins competitive participation in the league. The school will be invited to attend and participate in all scheduled Executive Committee meetings occurring between the time the school is formally accepted into the league and the year it begins competition. New member schools may hold positions on planning committees, but have no vote until they are competing in the league.

Section III – Affiliate Membership

By 75% majority vote of member schools, a non-member school may be approved as an Affiliate member of the league. An Affiliate member of the league is joining for scheduling purposes only. An Affiliate member will not be included in league standings, will not be eligible for All League honors and will not have voting privileges. The Affiliate member will agree to follow CBL guidelines in the sport(s) in which they are participating.

Section IV - Withdrawal

A school may withdraw from the League by one of four methods as follows:

1. By filing a request for/notice of withdrawal with the League Commissioner by August 15 two years prior to their last year in the CBL.
2. By official action by the Executive Committee, a motion may be made to waive the two-year requirement. This requires a motion, a second to the motion and a majority vote of approval.
3. The two-year notice requirement may be waived if an acceptable replacement is secured to fulfill the obligations of the school wishing to withdraw.
4. A school may negotiate a “buy-out” of remaining contracts scheduled with other league schools in place of the two-year withdrawal notice. The breach of contract in Article III, Section X of this document will serve as the guideline for the buy-out.

Example to clarify the two-year notice: If a team would like to declare that their last season of interscholastic competition in the CBL will be the 2025-26 school year, they must notify the league by August 15, 2023.

Section V – Replacing Schools

At the direction of the Executive Committee, the League Commissioner will prepare a press release announcing the opening. The press release will include a detailed time frame with respect to when applications are to be submitted, the desired school year in which the new school will begin competition, when interviews of prospective schools will take place, and when a final decision will be made.

Section VI – Removal From League

A member school (or schools) may submit a request from the Superintendent/Head of School to the League Commissioner to have a school removed from the league. The request would require two readings and an 75% majority vote to approve the request. If the request is approved, the removal would take effect at the start of the second school year after the vote was approved. If the school being removed chooses to leave at the end of the current school year, there will be no financial consequences for breach of contract for league contests.

Section VII - Suspension

Any member school of this League may, by 75% vote of member schools, be suspended for a documented violation of the CBL Constitution, By-Laws, or Sports Regulations. Based on the type of violation, the school may be suspended by sport, by season, or by year. Documented violations of OHSAA rules and regulations will be a violation of the CBL's constitution.

Section VIII - Violations and Penalties

When there is an alleged constitution, by-laws or policy violation by a member school, the alleged violation will be put in writing and submitted to the League Commissioner. The Commissioner will review the allegation with the Rules and Standards Committee (President, President-elect, and Commissioner). The accused school will be notified in writing by the commissioner of the allegation and be given the opportunity to present evidence, including witnesses, to clarify their position to the Rules and Standards Committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Rules and Standards Committee, the Executive Committee, at a regularly scheduled or special meeting, will review the allegation and rebuttal of the accused school. The Executive Committee may, by a three-fourths (75%) majority vote, place a school on probation for a school year. The commissioner will state this action and the conditions for returning to regular status in writing.

When a school has been on probation for a year, the Executive Committee must review the matter and may take one of the following courses of action:

- a. Continue the probation for another year and declare the sanctioned school ineligible for conference championships during that year. This action requires a three-fourths (75%) majority vote.
- b. Expel the sanctioned school from the conference. This action requires a three-fourth (75%) majority vote.
- c. Restore full membership rights and privileges if “A” or “B” does not occur.

Section IX- Scheduling Formula (See Appendix A)

CBL schedules will be established by the League Commissioner following the formulas outlined in appendix A. Schedules will be published for a minimum two years in advance.

By May of every odd year, the League Commissioner will randomly assign new numbers to member schools to be applied in the scheduling formula for all sports except football.

Schedules on a two-year rotation will have their first year begin with odd number school years. Schedules will be determined based on the following guidelines.

Baseball – double round

Basketball – double round.

Bowling – season ending tournament

Cross Country – a season ending league meet

Football – single round. (Note - Grandview and Worthington Christian will be independent members for football only.) Weeks 6-10 will be used for league games.

Field Hockey – Single round

Boys Golf – the schedule will consist of four 18-hole tournaments. Ideally the first two will be scheduled prior to school starting, one on a Saturday and the final on a weekday during the week prior to OHSAA Sectional tournaments.

Girls Golf - Preseason tournament (before school starts), a double round of dual/tri matches and a post season tournament (held on a weekday the week during the week prior to the OHSAA Sectional tournament.)

Girls Lacrosse – Single round

Boys Lacrosse - Single round

Soccer – Single round

Softball – Double round

Swimming – Season ending league meet.

Tennis – Single round

Track – Season ending league meet

Volleyball – Double round

Wrestling – A league tournament held on the first Friday of February. The Middle School meet will be held on Saturday the day after the Varsity meet at the same site.

Section X – Breach of Contract Fees

Breach of Contract fees:

A. Varsity Level Sports:

Football	\$ 5000.00
Volleyball	\$ 1000.00
Basketball	\$ 1000.00
Wrestling	\$ 1000.00
Soccer	\$ 1000.00
All other Varsity sports:	\$ 500.00

B. Lower level sports (MS through JV)

The *breach of contract* fee will be the cost of officials for the contest.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Committee

Section I - Membership

The Executive Committee membership shall consist of the superintendent or his/her assigned designee and be chaired by the League Commissioner.

Section II - Function

The function of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- (a) Make policies, impose and enforce penalties;
- (b) Make decisions on all issues involving league schools;
- (c) Examine the monthly financial reports with projections presented by the League Commissioner. Seasonal league assessments to be set as needed based on these reports and projections. Such assessments are to be paid to the League Commissioner. It is expected that assessments and other invoices shall be paid within thirty (30) days of distribution.
- (d) Meet monthly from August through May. Special meetings may be called at any time by the League Commissioner. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the membership plus one. Each member school shall be entitled to one vote. Action may be taken only by a majority vote of member schools present;
- (e) Approve the calendar of events for the league
- (g) Issue league passes to all schools for athletic events;
- (h) Meetings will follow a general order of sequence. (See Editorial note)
- (i) Robert's Rules of Order will be consulted when procedural questions arise.

Editorial Note: Suggest order of sequence for Executive Committee Meetings:

- (1) Call to order
- (2) Roll call/Agenda Additions
- (3) Reading and approval of minutes
- (4) Financial report
- (5) Assigner's Comments
- (6) Commissioner's Report
- (7) Old Business/Committee Reports
- (8) New Business/Agenda Additions
- (9) Liaison reports- Liaison needs to submit, in writing, any proposed sport regulation change.
- (10) Member Comments
- (11) Adjournment/ Announcement of next meeting date and time.

Section III - Committees

The League Commissioner shall appoint all standing committees and all special committees as needed. All committees shall have at least three members. Standing committees shall study the specified areas and make reports and recommendations to the executive committee at their regular meetings.

The committee is not a decision-making body.

A. Constitution Review Committee

1. This committee will include the President-elect and two others assigned by the commissioner.
2. This committee will:
 - a. Meet every September and February to review the constitution,
 - b. Submit recommendations for any constitutional changes at the October and March Executive Committee meetings for consideration by the membership.

B. Rules and Standards Committee

1. This committee will include the President, President-elect and League Commissioner.
2. This committee will review alleged violations of the constitution, by-laws, and sports regulations and report findings to the Executive Committee.
3. Meet in April each year to discuss current year's sportsmanship
4. Review sportsmanship issues
5. Plan the sportsmanship/leadership conference

C. Finance Committee

1. This committee will include the President, President-elect, and League Commissioner.
2. This committee will review league finances on a regular basis.
3. Review officials pay rates – annually in March/April.

ARTICLE V Officers and Duties

Section I - Number

The officers of the League shall be elected from the Executive Committee and shall be two in number: President and President-elect. The President-elect will become the next President.

Section II - Elections

Selections for vacant offices shall be held annually at the May meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section III - Duties of the President

- A. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee in the absence of the League Commissioner.
- B. Review and approve all league expenditures prior to them being paid by the League Commissioner.
- C. Serve as a member of the Rules and Standards Committee.
- D. Conducts an annual evaluation conference with the League Commissioner with input from the Executive Committee.
- E. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

Section IV - Duties of the President-Elect

- A. It shall be the duty of the president-elect to serve in the same capacity as the president at such times as the president is absent.
- B. Serve as a member of the Constitution Review Committee.
- C. Serve as a member of the Rules and Standards Committee.
- D. The President Elect automatically becomes the President in the succeeding year.
- E. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee.
- F. Is able to answer questions about Parliamentary procedures and order of business.

Section VI - Duties and Responsibilities of the League Staff

There shall be a staff selected and under contract as independent contractors with the Executive Committee at a fee determined by the Executive Committee. The Staff will include a League Commissioner, League Secretary/Webmaster and Official Assigners as needed by the league.

A. LEAGUE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner is responsible for:

- 1. Presiding over all Executive Committee meetings.
- 2. Preparing the agenda for all Executive Committee meetings.
- 3. Printing the minutes from the previous meeting and including them in the mailing of the next meeting's agenda.
- 4. Sending Executive Committee meeting announcements to member school Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors at least one week prior to the meeting date. Announcement to include a copy of the proposed agenda, minutes from the previous meeting and any other materials relevant to the meeting.
- 5. League finances:
 - A. Opening checking and savings accounts as needed for the league and has the authority to sign for payments and deposits to the accounts.
 - B. Preparing the annual budget.
 - C. Preparing a monthly Treasurer's Report detailing revenues received and expenses paid out.
 - D. Determining the need for and seeking approval of the establishment of a Reserve Fund to assist with league cash flow.
 - E. Authorized to process payment of league expenditures up to \$500.00. Payments over \$500.00 must be approved by the League President.
- 5. League schedules
 - A. Prepare all league schedules following the guidelines set forth in the constitution.
 - B. Communicate with member schools to make sure the master league schedules are updated with schedule changes.
 - C. Prepare schedules at least two years in advance.
 - D. Provide assigners with copies of current schedules.
- 6. Keeping an updated copy of the Constitution, By-Laws, Sports Regulations and related Appendices on file and providing each member school with, at least, one printed copy at the August Executive meeting. The master file will be transmitted electronically to each member school to use as necessary.
- 7. Overseeing the Assigners and conducting an annual evaluation of each with input from the Executive Committee.
- 8. Overseeing the coordination of seasonal All-League Award presentations with the host school.

9. Serves as a mediator between member schools when a grievance is filed that cannot be settled between the schools. If unable to come to a resolution, the Commissioner will forward the complaint to the Rules and Standards committee.
10. Overseeing expansion review and discussion.
11. Coordinate, with the assistance of the League Secretary, the selection of the Scholar Athlete in May of each school year.
 - a. Collect Scholar Athlete nominations at the April meeting.
 - b. Provides copies of all nominations to member schools within one week of the April league meeting.
 - c. Prepare a ballot for voting purposes for the May meeting.
 - d. Oversee the counting of ballots, along with the Secretary.
 - e. Mail scholarship check to the recipient upon receiving proof of enrollment.

B. LEAGUE SECRETARY/ WEBMASTER

1. Record minutes of all regular and special meetings
2. Provide a copy of the minutes to the commissioner within one week of the meeting so minutes can be sent to member schools.
3. Financial responsibilities
 - a. Listed as a secondary signer to league bank accounts.
 - b. Authorized to sign checks if the league commissioner is not available.
4. Maintain a current record of all media outlets, contact person(s) and email address covering all member schools.
5. Coordinate the collection of All-League teams from sport liaisons.
6. Coordinate the preparation of printed programs for All-League recognition nights.
7. Keep written record of the following league records:
 - a. All League selections (First and Second team, including year in school.)
 - b. Final league standings for all varsity sports including league and non-league records
 - c. Head coaches for each sport.
 - d. Keep a written record of special honors (All-District, All-State) earned by league athletes and coaches.
 - e. Keep a record of State Championships won by league schools while a member of the league
8. Releasing names of First Team, Second Team, and Honorable Mention honorees, Coach of the Year, Players of the Year, and Academic All-League to all media covering the league after each season
9. Awards – Overseeing the ordering of awards, preparing distribution for league awards presentations, and providing necessary awards to sport liaisons.
10. Assist in the selection process of the Scholar Athlete Award.
11. Oversees of all aspects of league website

C. ASSIGNERS

Assigners are *contracted* by sport and are responsible for:

1. The assignment of all high school level officials for league, non-league and scrimmage contests.
2. A master list of approved officials to be updated by schools and assigners each year.
3. Officials are to be scheduled as per assignment deadlines identified below.
4. Responsible for rescheduling officials for make-up games.
5. The CBL assigner will make assignments for officials in lower level tournaments. Assignment duties include reassignments as necessary. *Varsity level (Class I)*

officials should be assigned to championship level contests in Volleyball and Basketball and will be paid an additional \$10.00 per game.

6. Assignment procedures:
 - a. At the conclusion of the current season, assigners will communicate with athletic directors through email and request a list of preferred officials, as well as a list of officials, they prefer not to see. Once the deadline to submit lists have passed, assigners may assign as needed.
 - b. Assigners will enter assignments in Arbiter as “Pending” and will notify athletic directors they are available to be reviewed and will provide a deadline to request any changes. Once the deadline has passed, assigners may “publish” the assignments to officials.

NOTE – This procedure applies to the initial assignment of officials. As weather leads to rescheduled contests or last-minute schedule changes are made, assigners will assign as necessary.
7. Assigners are to make officials aware of the league’s “Conflict of Interest” of policy listed in Appendix C.
8. **Middle School Assignments** – The Executive Committee may choose to contract an assigner(s) for Middle School sports. Middle Schools will have the option to use the league contracted assigner or make their own assignments. If the Executive Committee does not contract a sport specific assigner, schools may choose to use the high school assigner for an additional fee.

Yearly Assignment Deadlines for Assigners

<u>SPORT/LEVEL</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
Football –Varsity	DECEMBER Executive Committee meeting for the next season.
Soccer – JV/Varsity	MAY Executive Committee meeting for the next season.
Volleyball Fr/JV/Var	FEBRUARY Executive Committee meeting of each year for the next season.
Basketball Varsity	MAY Executive Committee meeting for the next season.
Basketball JV	NOVEMBER Executive Committee meeting for the current season.
Baseball Varsity	JANUARY Executive Committee meeting for the current season.
Baseball JV	MARCH Executive Committee meeting for the current season.
Softball Varsity	JANUARY Executive Committee meeting for the current season.
Softball JV	MARCH Executive Committee meeting for the current season.

Section VII – Length of contract /Fee Schedule for the Commissioner/Assigners

<u>Position</u>	<u>Length of contract</u>	<u>Compensation & Date</u>
Commissioner	July 1 through June 30	Equal monthly installments
Fall Assigners*	July 1 through June 30	Per schedule (Aug/Oct)
Winter Assigners*	July 1 through June 30	Per schedule (Nov/Feb)
Spring Assigners*	July 1 through June 30	Per schedule (Mar/May)
League Secretary/WebMaster	July 1 through June 30	Semi Annual (Dec/May)

*Individuals may elect to receive the entire contract amount at the end of the season.

Refer to Appendix B for Commissioner/Assigners Contract

Refer to Appendix C for Commissioner/Assigners Fee Schedule – The fee schedule for league staff will increase 5%, rounded to the next \$25.00, every two years. *Per school fees will increase 5% rounded to the next \$5.00.* (First year of increases will be 2025-26)

Section VIII – Evaluation of League Staff

- A. Evaluation of the Assigners, League Secretary/Webmaster and other paid league officials will be completed by the member schools, under the direction of the League Commissioner.

November - Fall Assigners
March - Winter Assigners
May - Spring Assigners, Secretary

- B. The League President will oversee the evaluation of the League Commissioner in March of each year. The evaluation instrument will be distributed and collected by the league President.
- C. Evaluations will be distributed prior to the above date and will be used by the President/ League Commissioner to tabulate results. Completed evaluation forms will remain only in the possession of the President/League Commissioner and will not be distributed directly to the individuals being evaluated. A summary report will be provided to each individual evaluated.
- D. The league president will conduct an evaluation conference with the League Commissioner and the League Commissioner will conduct evaluation conferences with each individual evaluated in the month named above in order to address issues or concerns raised by the member school's evaluation.
- E. Decisions to renew the Commissioner, any Assigner, secretary/webmaster or any other individual paid by the league will be subject to a majority vote of the member schools.

Refer to Appendix D for copies of the individual evaluation forms for each position.

ARTICLE VI League Participation

- A. All member schools that are registered with the OHSAA to participate in post season tournaments, must participate within the league in all Varsity sports in which they are registered.
- Exception 1 – Grandview Heights and Worthington Christian will be independent schools in football during the 2023-24 -2026-27 school years. This status will be reviewed at the conclusion of the 2024 football season.
- Exception 2 – A school may submit a written request not to participate in a league recognized sport. The request must be approved by a 75% vote of the member schools.
- B. Schools that establishing a new program may choose to field only a junior varsity or freshman team, but it will be designated a club level program. Once a team enters the league varsity schedule, they are expected to field a varsity team each year. A school that chooses not to play a varsity schedule but has the minimum numbers to field a team will be subject to league breach of contract fees.

- C. Lower level participation – Member schools shall commit themselves to lower level (JV, Freshman, Middle School) participation in specific sports for each season (Fall, Winter, Spring) no later than one week prior to the OHSAA start date for regular season contests in the given sport. Special circumstances shall be considered as an exception to this requirement with proper documentation from the school.
- D. Canceling a contest after the above defined deadline could result in Breach of Contract fees being enforced.

ARTICLE VII Amendments

Section I - Constitution and By-Laws

Amendments to this constitution and by-laws may be proposed by a member school of the League at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments must be subject to a 1st reading, 2nd reading, and 3rd reading. By majority vote of the Executive Committee, the need for a third reading may be waived in situations considered to be urgent in nature. Votes on changes to the constitution and by-laws will be taken only in December and May. A majority vote by member schools shall be required for passage of amendments to the constitution and by-laws, unless a greater majority is required by the constitution.

Section II - Sports Regulations

Amendments to the sports regulations may be proposed by a member school of the League at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments are subject to a 1st reading and must be carried over to a subsequent regular meeting of the Executive Committee. A majority vote by member schools shall be required for passage of amendments to the sports regulations.

BYLAWS

In all interscholastic contests, all regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) must be adhered to. If there is anything in these by-laws that contradicts the OHSAA, the OHSAA regulation takes precedence. Updating/correcting league by-laws to agree with the OHSAA does not require a vote by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE I General Policies

Section I - Host School

- A. The home team shall make every attempt to provide a dressing room which can be locked or provide a means of securing the visitors valuables.
- B. A school representative of the home team should be available to meet the visiting school on arrival.
- C. It is recommended that police protection be provided at football, boys basketball, girls basketball, and wrestling. The number present should be based on the host school's experience as to what is necessary.
- D. It is recommended that the home school have an emergency squad present at all varsity football contests.
- E. It is recommended that an Athletic Trainer be present/available at Varsity level contests
- F. The home school is expected to provide water for the visiting schools' team bench or access to a water source for the filling of their water cooler.
- G. The home team is responsible for calling off a game and contacting the officials in case of inclement weather. This should be done before school is dismissed on the afternoon of the game in question. In case the visiting school has extenuating circumstances and request a postponement of the contest, their request should be honored.
- H. Communicate, in advance of game day, if there are any special recognition ceremonies that may affect the start time of the contest.

Section II -Visiting school

The visiting school will communicate with the host school if there are any transportation issues or extenuating circumstances that will cause their school to arrive late for the start of the contest.

Section III - Liaison/Sport Meeting

Liaisons will meet with all head coaches of their sport at the end of each season to review sport regulations and selection of all league teams. Meetings may take place virtually or in person. Exception: Track coaches will meet prior to their league meet for seeding purposes

Refer to Appendix E for the liaison assignments for the current school year.

Section IV - Liaison/Sport Meeting Agenda

A. The following format will be used at liaison and individual sports meetings:

1. All League Selections

- First team and class (i.e. Sr., Jr., So., Fr.)
- Second team and class (i.e. Sr., Jr., So., Fr.)
- Honorable Mention and class (i.e. Sr., Jr., So., Fr.)
- Player of the year
- Championship Coach of the year

2. Review future schedules

3. Review any sport regulations

4. Announce release date of award recognition.

5. Other

B. Liaisons are responsible for providing the league commissioner and league secretary, with all-league selection information and final league standings, including won/loss records, within three days after the all-league selection meeting. Information is to be submitted on the league reporting template provided by the league commissioner or league secretary.

ARTICLE II Gate Receipts

Section I - Admission

The uniform price of admissions for league sponsored contests shall be determined by the CBL Executive Committee. Once established, admission shall not be changed during the school year. An annual review of admission prices for all levels of league sponsored sport activities shall be held in the spring. Proposals will be made in March and voted on in May. Any change made would be effective at the beginning of the following school year in August. Revenue generated from all CBL sponsored meets, tournaments, and previews shall be retained by the CBL treasury.

Refer to Appendix F for admission fees for the current school year.

Section II – Pre-Sale Tickets

For events with limited seating: The host school may hold a pre-sale of tickets for an upcoming contest. The athletic director of the host school must contact the athletic director of the visiting school at least two weeks prior to the contest to inform them of that desire.

The host school will make available to the visiting school tickets representing 40% of the seating capacity.

If the visiting school chooses not to participate in the pre-sale opportunity, the host school is still permitted to hold a pre-sale.

Section III – Golden Buckeye Card Holders

Schools may have a local policy that permits senior citizens free admission at their home events.

Section IV – Free Admission

Preschool children (K and under) will be admitted free to all CBL sponsored contests.

Section VI - League Passes

All member schools will accept league passes at all league and non-league contests. These passes will be given to coaches, coach's guests, and school officials as set forth in the Constitution. Each school will be given twenty (20) limited season passes to be distributed at their discretion. (Limited passes admit one person to the event)

Each school will receive five (5) Season passes designated for use by School Board members. Each school will be provided with seven (7) Administrator passes to be used by the superintendent, principals, assistant principals, and the athletic directors. School Board and Administrator passes are good for the holder plus 1.

Requests for additional School Board and/or Administrative passes must be submitted in writing to the league commissioner for consideration. Bus drivers will be admitted free of charge by showing their trip ticket at the gate

ARTICLE III Player Eligibility

All schools must have a written policy regarding school attendance and participation in athletic competition.

ARTICLE IV Official Fees

The CBL Finance Committee will complete an annual review of official fees for all levels of league sponsored activities in the spring. Suggestions for changes will be submitted to the Executive Committee for review no later than the April meeting.

Refer Appendix G for the official fees for the current school year.

ARTICLE V

Postponements and Cancellations

Section I - Calamity Postponements

If either school (one or both) is not in session on the day of a game due to a calamity, the contest may still be played as scheduled with the mutual consent of the schools involved.

Section II - Illness

Guidelines for the cancellation of league contests due to illness will be as follows:

- A. If the High School District is out of school due to illness, the game will be rescheduled.
- B. If there are not enough players on the varsity level, then reserve players will be moved up. The reserve game would be canceled if there are not enough players to field a reserve team.
- C. If there are not enough players by combining the reserve and varsity teams to play a varsity game, then the game will be rescheduled.
- D. The principal or designee will make the final decision for a cancellation or rescheduling.

Section III – Rescheduling contests

- A. *All Varsity level contests are to expected to be rescheduled and played.* If a league championship is affected, the game **must** be rescheduled.
- B. If a school chooses not to make up a Varsity contest, by OHSAA regulations it will be considered a “No Contest” and will not count as a win or loss for either team. If this occurs in league sport in which “points” are earned for winning, the points will be forfeited by the school refusing to reschedule the contest. (Soccer, tennis, lacrosse)
- C. Sub-Varsity level contests - Member schools shall make every attempt to try to play the full league schedule. By mutual agreement, schools may choose not to reschedule a contest. If a game, match, or meet affects determining the league champion, all attempts should be made to reschedule the contest.

ARTICLE VI

Sub-Varsity Level Schedules

Section I - Regular Season Schedule

Sub-Varsity level schedules will follow the Varsity scheduling formulas.

Section II - League Tournament competition

Sub-Varsity league tournaments will be conducted according to guidelines listed in the sport regulations.

ARTICLE VII

League Calendar

The League Commissioner will draw up a league calendar to be followed. The calendar for the next year will be proposed in April and approved at the May meeting. The calendar shall include the following:

- A. Executive Committee meeting dates, times, and locations
- B. All-League Selection Dates, times, and locations
- C. Tournament host, dates, and location

Refer to Appendix M for the calendar for the current School Year.

ARTICLE VIII

All-League Recognition

At the conclusion of each season, the CBL will recognize All-League athletes with certificates. The athletes will be recognized on the official Central Buckeye League website and social media outlets. The following information will be publicized:

- A. First Team, Second Team, Honorable Mention and Academic All-League athletes and year in school
- B. Player of the Year
- C. Championship Coach
- D. Final league standings, including win/loss records
- E. Updated All Sport points standing

ARTICLE IX

General Sport Guidelines

Section I - New and Current Sport Regulations

The CBL will acknowledge a sport for the purposes of preparing a schedule, recognizing a league champion (through head to head competition or tournament play), selecting all league teams, sponsoring a trophy when at least three of the member schools are sponsoring a sport.

Editorial Note: The following sports satisfy Section I of this article and are recognized by the league schedules and championships except where noted.

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| Fall: | Cross Country – Boys, Girls |
| | Field Hockey |
| | Football |
| | Golf – Boys, Girls |
| | Soccer – Boys, Girls |
| | Tennis -Girls |
| | Volleyball - Girls |

Winter: Basketball – Boys, Girls
Bowling – Boys, Girls
Swimming/Diving – Boys, Girls
Wrestling

Spring: Baseball
Lacrosse – Boys, Girls
Fast pitch Softball
Tennis - Boys
Track and Field – Boys, Girls

Section II - Schools Adding Sports

Schools must declare their intent to field a new team in a recognized sport for the next school year by the end of the current season for the same sport.

Section III - All-Sports' Champion **ALL SPORTS CHAMPION AWARD**

The CBL will acknowledge an All-Sports' Champion at the conclusion of the school year. Schools will receive points in each varsity sport recognized by the league based on their place of finish.

The formula for awarding points-will be:

- a. There must be at least half of the schools within the league sponsoring a sport for it to be included in calculating all sport champion points.
- b. First place will receive one point for the total number of schools sponsoring the sport. Second place will receive one point less than first; third will receive one point less than second and so on. Schools will receive at least one point for sponsoring a team.
- c. Ties will result in awarding an average of the tied teams total points to each school.

See Appendix K for the form used in tallying the results as the school year progresses.

Section IV – Freshman Level Teams (JV -B)

Freshman level teams may be a blended team of Freshman and Sophomores. Schools are to communicate with opponents in advance of the contest if they are using a blended roster.

Section V– Middle School Sports participation regulations

If a school only offers one combined (7/8 grade) middle school level team, it is recommended the team will participate at the 8th grade level.

OHSAA guidelines will be followed with respect to the make-up of team rosters during the regular season (7th graders may play on 8th teams; 8th graders may play on 7th grade teams). Each school is responsible for monitoring all participation limits established for each sport. (i.e. quarter limitations, game limitations.) Schools are to communicate in advance of the contest if they are using blended rosters, particularly at the 7th grade level.

MS Tournament rosters – 8th graders who have participated on a 7th grade team for the entire season may continue to participate with the team during the tournament provided OHSAA guidelines are followed. A student who has shared time during the regular season can only play on one team in a postseason tournament.

Schools are encouraged to use discretion when playing 8th graders on 7th grade teams.

If there is a member school whose affiliated middle school is not a member of the OHSAA, the OHSAA member schools may choose to compete with the non-OHSAA member school during the regular season, or they may choose not to compete with the non-member school. If over half of the OHSAA member schools within the league agree to participate with the non-OHSAA member school during the regular season, the non-OHSAA member school may also participate in the CBL post season tournaments. Before an OHSAA member school can choose to compete against a non-OHSAA member school, the non-OHSAA member school must require that all their coaches satisfy the coaching requirements established by Ohio law and the OHSAA.

The same coaching requirement would also apply to “club teams/non-school teams” that are scheduled in place of school sponsored teams when the school does not sponsor the specific sport.

Non OHSAA member schools and club/travel teams will agree to follow all NFHS and OHSAA regulations with respect to playing rules and eligibility with the exception of permitting 6th grade participation.

ARTICLE X

Tournament Sites

Section I - League Tournaments

The CBL will sponsor tournaments in the following sports:

- A. Cross Country – Varsity, Middle School
- B. Golf – Varsity (as part of their schedule)
- C. Volleyball – 7th, 8th,
- D. Basketball – Boys/Girls 7th, 8th
- E. Bowling – Boys/Girls – Varsity
- F. Wrestling – Varsity/Middle School
- G. Swimming – Boys/Girls
- H. Track – Varsity, Middle School

Section II - Tournament Site Assignments

CBL tournaments will rotate among the schools with adequate facilities. If a school does not currently sponsor a specific sport or level of sport, they will be skipped in their turn of the

rotation.

Refer to master league athletic schedules for tournament host assignments.

Section III - League Tournament Sponsorship

Operation of League tournaments:

- A. Follow set guidelines for allowable expenses.
- B. All profits will be returned to the league.
- C. Any loss over allowable expenses will be shared equally by participating schools.
- D. If the host school rents an “off-site” facility to host the tournament event, all costs related to the rental will be charged equally to the schools participating.

Refer to Appendix J for tournament related information.

ARTICLE XI Trophy and Plaque Distribution

Member schools will receive a trophy for championships earned in a recognized varsity sport. Championship trophies should be available for presentation presented at all tournaments/meets where the champion is determined at that event. (Cross Country, Bowling, Swimming, Wrestling, Track and Field.) Schools will be invoiced for each championship trophy.

Regular season championship trophies for sub-varsity level recognized sports may be purchased by the school directly from the providing vendor. The school is responsible for contacting the vendor and ordering the trophy. (Exception: trophies for Middle School Cross Country, Wrestling and Track/Field will be available at those events and the winning school will be invoiced for the trophy)

Championship trophies for Middle School level tournaments will be an expense of the tournament, paid by the league. Trophies will be ordered by the league awards liaison and available for presentation at the tournament site the day of the championship game.

Championship coach and Player of the Year plaques will be purchased by the league and distributed to the Athletic Director(s) of the winning coach and player.

ARTICLE XII Scholar Athlete Award

The CBL will the recognize the following for the Scholar Athlete Award:

- A. **Senior Awards** - A senior male and a senior female will be selected from each school as the Senior Scholar-Athlete. Each individual will receive a plaque and \$1000.00. The \$1000.00 will be paid in two \$500.00 installments. Payments will be sent to the candidate after the recipient provides proof of enrollment in a post-secondary institution to the Commissioner by September 1st of the year the award was won and evidence of continued enrollment by September 1st the succeeding year. In the event the athlete

chosen for this award does not attend college or receives a full scholarship, the \$1000.00 will be awarded to the runner-up in the voting for the award. Should the runner-up not use the money, the \$1000.00 will not be awarded for that year.

Exceptions to this guideline can be made by approval of the Executive Committee.

- B. **Junior Awards** - A junior male and a junior female will be selected from each school as the Junior Scholar Athlete. Each individual will receive a plaque.
- C. Scholar Athlete award honorees will be recognized on the Central Buckeye League Website and Social Media.

The following criteria need to be met by nominees:

- a. The nominee must have a cumulative 3.5 grade average through the semester preceding nomination.
- b. The nominee must have earned a varsity letter in two varsity sports during the year of nomination.
- c. In order to be eligible for this award, the student athlete applications must be in the hands of the League Commissioner no later than the April Executive Meeting. Nominating schools will bring ten copies of the completed nomination form to the April Executive committee meeting; one copy for each school in their respective division, one copy for the League Commissioner and one copy for the League Secretary. (Nomination forms may be sent to all electronically)

Each member of the Executive Committee shall be prepared to cast the vote of their school for the Scholar Athlete Awards during the May meeting of the Executive Committee. A ballot will be prepared of all nominees by the Commissioner.

The candidate must receive at least 50% of the member votes to receive the award. If no candidate receives 50% of the votes on the first ballot, then a run-off of the top two candidates will be conducted. This procedure will continue until a candidate receives at least 50% of the votes. Should a 4-4 vote exist, two plaques will be awarded as Co-Scholar Athletes and any monetary award will be split equally. These awards will be paid out of the Central Buckeye League treasury.

Refer to Appendix K for Scholar-Athlete application form.

ARTICLE XIII

Dissolution of the Central Buckeye League

Upon the dissolution of the CBL, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Thomas N. Couhig
League Commissioner - Printed

League President – Printed

League Commissioner – Signature

League President - Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____