

**2015 - 2016**  
**BIG WALNUT**  
**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
**GRADES 7 – 12**

*@bigwalnuteagles*

[www.bigwalnutathletics.net](http://www.bigwalnutathletics.net)

*“Home of the Golden Eagles”*



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# **Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Required Athletic Forms and National Testing Dates ACT/SAT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Privilege and Responsibility of Participation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. OCC Affiliations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Sports Offered BW HS/BWMS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. Academic Eligibility/ GPA Requirements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Other OHSAA Eligibility Requirements</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Code of Conduct</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Code of Conduct Appeal Procedure</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>9. The Role Of Spectators/Parents/Fans</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>10. General Information</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>11. Absences From School</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>12. Athletic Award System</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>13. Special Awards</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>14. Extra-Curricular Fee</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>15. Big Walnut Ticket Information</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>16. Glossary of Important Terms</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>17. Contact Information</b>	<b>27</b>

This **Athletic Handbook** applies to any student, or parent of a student, who tries out for or becomes a participant in any interscholastic athletic program as an athlete, cheerleader, or student trainer at Big Walnut High School or Middle School.

Each student participating in the interscholastic athletic program must complete these forms:

1. Acceptance of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and Big Walnut Eligibility and Authorization Statement Information
2. Pre-participation Physical Evaluation
3. Emergency Medical Form
- 4.

Please complete all forms online at [www.bigwalnut.finalforms.com](http://www.bigwalnut.finalforms.com)

Student trainers are not required to have physical examinations.

Until all completed forms are on file the athletes will not be permitted to practice or participate in games. These forms need to be signed once per school year.

### **2015-2016 National Testing Days**

#### **SAT Test Dates**

October 3 and 11, 2015  
November 7 and 8, 2015  
December 5 and 6, 2015  
January 23 and 24, 2016  
March 5 and 6, 2016  
May 7 and 8, 2016  
June 4 and 5, 2016

#### **ACT Test Dates**

September 12, 2015\*  
October 24, 2015\*  
December 12, 2015\*  
February 6, 2016\*  
April 9, 2016\*  
June 11, 2016\*

\*Offered at Big Walnut H.S

# Responsibility of Participation

## Privilege of Athletic Participation

Participation in athletics is a **privilege, not a right**. Students may participate and receive awards only if they meet and continue to meet the standards set by the school.

## Athletic Participation Responsibilities

The tradition at Big Walnut has been to win with **honor** and is worthy of the best efforts of students and staff. Being able to participate in the Big Walnut athletic program, like any other **privilege**, carries with it a number of responsibilities.

**To Oneself** - A most important responsibility is to broaden yourself and to develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your studies, which should receive first priority, and your participation in extra-curricular activities, both prepare you for your life as an adult.

**To Your School** - Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Our school cannot maintain its position as an outstanding high school unless you do your best in whatever activity you engage. Performing to the maximum of your ability will contribute to the reputation of your school.

**To Your Community** - You automatically assume a leadership role when you participate on an athletic squad. The student body and your school will be judged by your conduct, appearance, and attitude, both on and off the field. Your exemplary behavior will contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

**To Your Family** - You have responsibility to your family. Always attempt to live up to these ideals and make them proud of you. When you know that you have lived up to all the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability, and that you have played the game “all out,” you can then keep your self-respect, and your family can be justly proud of you.

**To the Students Who Follow** - Younger students are looking up to you. They will copy you. Do not do anything to let them down. Give them high ideals at which to aim.

**Paying the Price** - You must be willing to *pay the price* in order to be a champion. That price includes showing personal commitment and sacrifice to reach team goals and to achieve team success. Paying such a price nurtures a sense of pride and loyalty and develops leadership qualities. Make the right choices!

As a student athlete you assume many responsibilities when you wear the red and gold. We sincerely hope that you are strong enough to live up to them. There can be no place on our squads for the individual who does not make an honest effort to do so. Remember, you are building the kind of person you will be tomorrow.

# **OCC Affiliations**

Big Walnut Local Schools are a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The rules and regulations developed by the OHSAA are designed to protect the safety and welfare of the athletes and to ensure fair play. These rules and regulations are voted on by principals of schools across the state of Ohio. We agree to abide by and cooperate with all rules and regulations set forth by the OHSAA.

Big Walnut High School is one of the 32 schools in the Ohio Capital Conference and as members we agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the conference. Principals, acting upon recommendations of coaches and or athletic directors vote on each regulation with the best interest of the student athletes and member schools in mind.

There are four divisions within the OCC; they are the Ohio, Central, Cardinal, and Capital divisions. Below is an outline of how the divisions are currently aligned.



## **Ohio Division**

Gahanna  
Groveport  
Lancaster  
Newark  
Pickerington Central  
Pickerington North  
Reynoldsburg  
Grove City

## **Cardinal Division**

Dublin Jerome  
Dublin Scioto  
Hilliard Bradley  
Hilliard Darby  
Canal Winchester  
Westerville Central  
Westerville North  
Westerville South

## **Central Division**

Dublin Coffman  
Marysville  
Hilliard Davidson  
Thomas Worthington  
Upper Arlington  
Olentangy Liberty  
Westland  
Central Crossing

## **Capital Division**

Big Walnut  
Delaware Hayes  
Olentangy  
Mount Vernon  
New Albany  
Olentangy Orange  
Worthington Kilbourne  
Franklin Heights

## Big Walnut High School Sports

<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Winter</u></b>	<b><u>Spring</u></b>
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	***Competition Cheerleading
Cheerleading-Football	Cheerleading-Basketball	**Boys Lacrosse
Football	Boys Bowling	**Girls Lacrosse
Boys Golf	Girls Bowling	Softball
Boys Soccer	Gymnastics	Boys Tennis
Girls Soccer	*Boys Swimming and Diving	Boys Track and Field
Girls Tennis	*Girls Swimming and Diving	Girls Track and Field
Girls Volleyball	Wrestling	

## Big Walnut Middle School Sports

<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Winter</u></b>	<b><u>Spring</u></b>
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	**Boys Lacrosse
Cheerleading-Football	Cheerleading-Basketball	**Girls Lacrosse
Football	Wrestling	Softball
Boys Golf		Boys Track and Field
Girls Tennis		Girls Track and Field
Girls Volleyball		Boys Tennis

*\*Currently these programs are recognized as a school sponsored sports with specified support from the Big Walnut Athletic Department and the Big Walnut Local Schools. These programs are a partnership with the Big Walnut Community.*

*\*Swimming – Pay to Play Fee Applies*

*\*\*Lacrosse – No Pay to Play fee to BWLSD (\$150 PTP Fee Credit)*

*\*\*\*Competition Cheer – No Pay to Play fee to BWLSD*

Please note that all Ohio High School sports are designated as “Boy’s” and “Girl’s.”  
Collegiate sports are designated as “Men’s” and “Women’s.”

# Academic Eligibility

The following rules and regulations are in accordance with and in the spirit of those of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Big Walnut Board of Education.

## Nine-Week Eligibility

Academic eligibility will be determined at the end of each nine-week grading period. Students must maintain passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count towards graduation. Ohio High School Athletic Association by-laws state that any student not passing the necessary 5.0 credits at the end of each nine (9) week grading period will be ineligible during the next nine (9) week grading period. No special recitations or tests are to be given for the purpose of making a student academically eligible.

It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to devise and operate procedures for gathering information on student academic eligibility.

## Course Load

To be academically eligible for any given grading period, the student must have earned credit in courses during the previous grading period totaling five (5) credits per year toward graduation.

1. Any course in which credit has been previously earned cannot be used for eligibility. For example, repeating Spanish I sophomore year when a D was earned freshman year.
2. Credits earned in summer school, by tutoring, or by correspondence course **do not** count toward athletic eligibility.

**The following BWHS courses do NOT count for OHSAA eligibility:**

*Only classes that count toward graduation credit may be used for OHSAA eligibility.*

Jazz Band

Physical Education

Pep Band

Student Council

Academic Assist

Student Support Time

Any Teacher Aid or Office Aid assignments

Any course or activity accepted for credit by the BWHS Educational Options Committee

**APEX** - Students must reach the necessary benchmark that would signify adequate progress in the course and would earn a "P" for the quarter (25% completion for a 1 credit course and 50% completion for a .5 credit course).

**"Internship Work Experience" and/or "Work Program"** - Students must have turned in at least 40 hours of work to the overseeing teacher prior to the last day of the preceding quarter in order to earn a "P" for the quarter.

**College Credit Plus** - Students must be enrolled and passing the equivalent to 5 high school classes (3+ credit hours = 1 high school credit). Students are responsible for getting a progress report from each college professor to the student's BWHS School Counselor prior to the last day of the preceding quarter in order for the course to be counted for eligibility. This is not necessary for College Credit Plus courses taught at BWHS.

A student enrolled in the first marking period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed (5) credits of those subjects carried the preceding marking period in which the student was enrolled. A student who meets this requirement is automatically eligible for athletics during the first marking period of the ninth grade year, provided the GPA is met.

## **Grade Point Average**

**In addition to the GPA requirement outlined below, in order for a student to be academically eligible for athletics the student must satisfy the eligibility and course load requirements that are outlined above.**

**For seventh grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn a GPA of at least 1.25 for the marking the period that precedes athletic participation.

**For eighth grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn a GPA of at least 1.5 for the marking period that precedes athletic participation.

Students are allowed one waiver of the GPA requirement during their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years.

**Fall season participation for freshmen** is determined by earning a GPA of 1.5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> grading period of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. If the GPA is not met, a middle school waiver may be used if it wasn't used in middle school

For **ninth grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn at least a GPA of 1.25 for the marking period that precedes athletic participation. A student who earns a GPA of at least 1.25 during the fourth marking period of the ninth grade year will be eligible for athletics during the first marking period of the tenth grade year. **A freshman can use one waiver during one of the four marking periods during the ninth grade year.** The waiver is applied to a specific marking period, and the grades are then considered as having met the minimum 1.25 GPA.

For **tenth grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn a GPA of at least 1.25 for the marking period that precedes athletic participation. A student who earns a GPA of at least 1.25 during the fourth marking period of the tenth grade year will be eligible for athletics during the first marking period of the eleventh grade year.

For **eleventh grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn a GPA of at least 1.50 for the marking period that precedes athletic participation. A student who earns a GPA of at least 1.50 during the fourth marking period of the eleventh grade year will be eligible for athletics during the first marking period of the twelfth grade year.

For **twelfth grade** eligibility to continue a student must earn a GPA of at least 1.75 for the marking period that precedes athletic participation.

**An additional waiver can be used one time for one of the marking periods in grades 10-12.**

A student's G.P.A. will not be reassessed or refigured during the 9 weeks for the purpose of reinstating eligibility. Students who have an Individualized Education Programs (I.E.P.) are not exempt from meeting the G.P.A. requirements. A course in which a letter grade is not given shall not be figured into the G.P.A. computations. Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades in the preceding grading period in order to meet the minimum G.P.A. requirements. The G.P.A. is to be determined based on the preceding grading period grades that a student-athlete achieves. It is not based on a cumulative G.P.A. Only courses for which a letter grade is given may be used to determine the G.P.A.

Therefore, a student-athlete will need to be certain whether courses taken at a Post-Secondary Options Program (PSEO) should be taken for a letter grade or the pass/no-pass option. Students enrolled exclusively in a PSEO Program must obtain at least one letter grade at the end of each BWHS grading period.



## **Denial of Participation**

Failure to comply with these eligibility requirements will result in the automatic **denial of participation and awards for the interscholastic athletic program** until the deficiencies have been corrected. The appeals procedure outlined for the student code of conduct does not apply. Denial of Participation is a minimum of one contest.

## **Other OHSAA Eligibility Requirements**

### **Age**

High school students (grades 9-12) who turn 19 years of age prior to August 1, 2015, are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students who turn 15 years of age prior to August 1, 2015, are ineligible for 7th-8th grade athletics but are eligible to participate in high school athletics.

- There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

### **Semester Eligibility**

Athletes are permitted a max of eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility for HS and 4 semesters of eligibility for MS.

- The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established.
- Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.
- There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

### **Home Schooling**

If you are home schooled and also enrolled in an OHSAA member school in accordance with the school's board-adopted partial enrollment policy, you may be eligible for interscholastic athletics participation at the school where you are enrolled and attending. Please contact the athletic director for more information.

### **Transfers**

Once you establish your eligibility at a high school, a transfer to a different high school will mean you will be ineligible for athletics for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

- There are many exceptions to this regulation. To see if you qualify for an exception, you and your parents should arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator.
- If your parent or legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the exceptions to the regulation is met. These exceptions to the out-of-state residency rules are found in Bylaw 4-6.

### **Awards**

You may receive awards valued at \$200 or less as a result of athletic participation in interscholastic athletics from any source. You may never accept cash awards, however.

## Non School Teams

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball) may not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-school squad in a team sport in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season.

- In individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling, however, you may practice and try out for a non-school team but may not compete in a contest.

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball) may try out, practice and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season provided:

1. The number of students from the same school on the roster of the non-school team is limited to five (5) students in the sports of soccer, field hockey and ice hockey; four (4) students in the sports of baseball and softball; three (3) students in the sport of volleyball, and two (2) students in the sport of basketball. School football team members are prohibited from competing on non-school teams except from June 1 to July 31.
2. **Note:** Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport season. In addition, there is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-school team from June 1 to July 31.
3. You have no contact with school coaches while on a non-school team other than the 10 days permitted between June 1 and July 31.

- You may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the school season for violating these rules during the school season.
- You may be declared ineligible for the next season for violating these rules outside the school season.
- A senior may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the school year for violating these rules.

**Note:** Check the OHSAA Sports Regulations (available on the OHSAA web site) for the date you must cease participation on non-school teams in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition along with penalties for non-compliance with this date.

# Sporting Behavior / Ejections

You are expected to accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in interscholastic athletics. You are expected to:

- Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect.
- Display no behavior that could incite fans or other participants in the contest or which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.
- Remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving your skills, making friends and doing your best are also important.

The OHSAA has established a policy for students ejected or disqualified for unsporting behavior or flagrant fouls. If you are ejected or disqualified:

- You will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and
- You will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football).

If you are ejected or disqualified a second time in a season, you are subject to additional, stiffer penalties, including suspension from play for the remainder of the season in that sport.

- **If additional questions concerning these regulations remain, school principals or athletic administrators should contact the OHSAA.**

# Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics is an **honor** and **privilege** that must be earned. As a participant you should expect no special favors or considerations. You are expected to contribute more than the average student to your school and community. By being a participant in this program, you are indicating you will work harder than the average student and display good self-discipline in everything you do.

All students must, besides remaining **eligible for the interscholastic athletic program**, remain in ***good standing*** during the particular sport season. A season is defined as beginning with the first practice and ending after the sport's banquet or final contest, whichever is last.

**To assist in maintaining the standards necessary to promote a good program, the following Code of Conduct has been adopted. Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in loss of *good standing*. This may mean denial of participation on a team for a specified period of time, and/or the denial of awards, and/or removal from the team.**

## Athlete's Responsibility

**All athletes** should conduct themselves with pride and respect at all times so as not to discredit themselves, their coaches, or the school that they represent.

Should an occasion arise where an athlete has a concern that relates to the actions of a coach, it is strongly encouraged that the athlete, in a timely manner, request a meeting with the coach at an appropriate time and place. If the student athlete does not feel comfortable in this type of situation or setting, then the meeting could certainly involve the parent, student and coach. It is the desire of the Board of Education that athletes and coaches seek to rectify any misunderstandings by direct discussions of an informal type among the interested parties. It is only when such informal meetings fail to address the concerns or resolve the situation should more formal procedures be employed, starting with the involvement of the Athletic Director.

# Head Coach

**Each head coach** has the right to determine reasonable team rules (approved by the Athletic Director) and reasonable expectations of conduct for his/her team. The coach has the right to determine the consequences for the violation of the team rules and/or for the expectations of conduct. These rules, expectations, and consequences will apply to each athlete who is a member of the team. The rules must be reviewed every season with the Athletic Director for approval.

**Violations** of team rules and/or the expectations of conduct by an athlete may result in, but not be limited to, an indefinite suspension from the team, and/or removal from the team.

**Due Process** – When a student-athlete is being considered for suspension/removal from a team by the coach:

1. The student-athlete will be informed of the potential suspension/removal and the reasons for the proposed action in a timely manner.
2. The student-athlete will be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension/removal and to explain his/her actions in a timely manner but not on the same day as the initial incident.
3. The coach will reconsider if the suspension/removal is still necessary and after discussing the issue with the coaching staff will come to a final decision. The coaching staff will then confer with the Administrative team which includes but is not limited to the Athletic Director and Principal before a final decision is made.
4. Parents or guardians will be notified when a decision is made.
5. If suspension or removal from the team is recommended by the coach, the coach will confer with the Athletic Director or Administrative Team (Principal or designee) before a final decision is made. Once a decision is made, there will be no further appeal.

Note: Denial of participation remains in effect throughout the above process.

## **The following offenses are specifically prohibited at any time.**

6. Use or possession of any tobacco or smoking products, including snuff.
7. Drinking or possession of any alcoholic beverages.
8. The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, or substance termed illegal by the laws of the State of Ohio unless directly prescribed by a licensed physician.

**First Violation** – The athlete will be denied to participate in 40% of the sport season as defined by the OHSA. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. Athletes who choose to participate in a drug screening will have their suspension reduced 10%. In addition, athletes who complete 16 hours of community service will be awarded one game back from their denial to participate total games. Athletes who choose to complete 16 hours of community service, must be have their work completed 24 hours prior to the last game of the season. For example: An athlete who participates in a 10 game season is found to be in violation and will be denied participation in 40% of the season (4 games). Athlete in violation completes a drug screening therefore the total denial to participate is reduced by 10% (30% of the season or 3 games). Athlete in violation completes 16 hours of community service (3 game denial to participate is now reduced to 2 total games).

**Second Violation-** The athlete will be denied to participate in 50% of the sports season as defined by the OHSA. The number of contests will be rounded down to the next nearest whole number. No reduction is available.

**Third Violation-** The denial of participation is for one year from the date of the third violation. No reduction is available.

**Interpretation for denial of participation-** When participation has been denied by the Athletic Board practice may be allowed at the discretion of the Athletic Board. The athlete may, at the discretion of the Athletic Board, he/she may be allowed to travel and sit with the team, but not be in uniform. When participation has been denied the participant must follow all rules and requirements of the activity. When denial has not been served due to the conclusion of the season, the remaining percent of time will carry over to the next sports season during which the athlete participates. The athlete must complete that sports season in good standing or the denial again carries over to the next sports season in which he/she participates.

**Student/Parental Self-Referral Policy-** If prior to an infraction of the athletic code, a parent, guardian, or student athlete seeks assistance for dealing with tobacco, drug, or alcohol problems by self-referral to a coach, teacher, athletic director, or school administrator, and the athlete agrees to participate in an educational or treatment program approved by the school administration, there shall be no denial from participation. All costs for the program will be the responsibility of the student.

# Hazing and Bullying

**Hazing** in athletic activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No student athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices, competition, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

**Bullying** and other forms of aggressive behavior (harassment, intimidation or bullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff or third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined as any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment to other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

**Violations** may result in denial of participation for the remainder of the sport season and/or denial of awards at the sports banquet.

Since athletics are a **privilege**, Big Walnut holds athletes to a higher standard of conduct. Therefore, anytime an athlete is being disciplined by the school administration or charged with a misdemeanor or felony by the legal system, the Athletic Board will review the case to determine what the consequences will be in regards to the athlete's participation. Illegal behavior includes, but is not limited to theft, vandalism, assault, and the sale of drugs, narcotics, or substances termed illegal by the State of Ohio. **This section of the Code is in effect for the entire calendar year.**

## Violations Defined

**Violations** may result in denial of participation in practice and/or games for the length of time the Athletic Board deems appropriate.

An athlete may be denied participation and reception of awards by the following procedures:

1. When a violation is proven without question (as deemed by the Athletic Director), the Athletic Director will notify the athlete, his/her parents, and the coach immediately. Removal is immediate and no hearing will be held.
2. If the violation is alleged
  - a. The student is to be personally notified in writing by the Athletic Director of the alleged violation within five (5) school days. If the violation occurs during the summer months the

Athletic Department reserves the right to waive the five (5) day notification period and will notify the athlete of the violation on or before the first day of school.

- b. If the alleged violation is disputed, a hearing before the Athletic Board is to be held within five school days of notice to the student and the student's parents or guardians. The athlete shall be notified by any reasonable means of the time and place of the hearing.
  - c. No testimony shall be admissible except by personal appearance.
  - d. Those present at the hearing shall be the Athletic Director, coaches, the student, the student's parent/guardian, and any witnesses called by either the school or student.
  - e. The question of denied participation will be decided by the Athletic Director upon the recommendation of those school personnel present at the hearing.
- 1. When an athlete has been **denied participation and receipt of awards**, a notice of denial of participation will be sent to the legal guardian, and a copy shall be handed to the student personally or sent by certified mail. After this, notification of ineligibility shall be considered fulfilled.
  - 2. Certified mail returned to the Athletic Director, as "refused" will be forwarded by regular mail, fulfilling the obligation of proper notification.

## **Appeal Procedure For Code of Conduct Violations**

**Note: Denial of participation remains in effect throughout the appeals procedure.**

- 1. The athlete may appeal **Denial of Participation** by requesting a hearing before the Appeals Committee of the Athletic Board. This committee shall consist of the assistant principal, athletic director, two head coaches who were not in attendance at the initial hearing, and two faculty members chosen by the assistant principal. See page 27 for definition of "Athletic Board".

The request for appeal must be made in writing to the Athletic Director within five (5) school days after receipt of the notice of ineligibility.

- 2. The Athletic Director will convene the Appeals Committee within five (5) school days unless the student or legal guardian requests an extension. The Athletic Director will notify the legal guardian and student by certified mail of the time, date, and place of the hearing. Certified mail returned to the Athletic Director, as "refused" will be forwarded by regular mail, fulfilling the obligation of proper notification.
- 3. The hearing of the Appeals Committee will be conducted as follows:
  - a) Relevant facts presented by the student, legal guardian, and the Athletic Director to the Appeals Committee.



- b) Deliberations by the Appeals Committee members after all visitors have been excused, resulting at that time in a decision in the form of a recommendation to the principal.
- c) Quorum shall be at least one-half (1/2) the members of the Appeals Committee.
- d) The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be by majority vote of those members present throughout the entire hearing, and shall be delivered within 24 hours to the principal.
- e) The principal shall reach a final decision within two (2) school days of receipt of the Appeals Committee's recommendation and shall notify the athlete and the legal guardian within **two (2)** school days of his decision.
- f) The decision of the principal may be further appealed to the Big Walnut Superintendent or his designee. The decision of the Superintendent will be final.

## **The Role of Spectators/Parents/Fans**

Spectators/Parents/Fans by their behaviors and reactions, play an important role in their school's reputation for sportsmanship. Everyone 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/Parents/Fans 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 everyone embrace the following:

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 inappropriate.
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.

Spectators/Parents/Fans are to refrain from inappropriate behaviors:

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials and coaches.
2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators through chants, signs and/or cheers.
3. Interruption of contest by behaviors such as throwing objects on the playing area, entering the playing area and/or disruptive behavior.

Disciplinary actions include:

1. Removal from contest
2. Conference/hearing with school officials
3. Removal from future athletic contests
4. Entering the playing area may result in a suspension from all athletic contests for a period of up to one year.

# General Information

## Transportation Guidelines

When leaving school grounds for athletic contests each coach is responsible for their athletes. If a stat, manager, cheerleader, helper, or athlete wants to ride home with a parent, they must have a signed transportation release form. This form is to be signed by the coach and the parent. A coach **will not release** a student to ride home with either another parent or student. Athletes **do not drive** to and/or from away games or scrimmages. Forms will be given out on game days by the coach or parent rep.

If parents do take students home from away contests according to the adopted procedure, the students are not covered under the catastrophic insurance policy of the OHSAA.

## OHSAA Catastrophic Insurance

**Eligibility**-All student athletes, student managers, student trainers, student cheerleaders and other students as participants of an interscholastic sports competition are eligible.

**Covered Events**-Eligible insured are covered while participating in interscholastic competitions authorized, sanctioned or scheduled by the OHSAA and governed by the regulations of the OHSAA in sports in which the OHSAA conducts tournaments. Covered events also include: school-supervised tryouts, practice, game day related activities (including award banquets), tournaments, and covered travel, between the starting date and ending date of the respective sports season as determined by the OHSAA.

## Eligibility for Participation in College Sports

Many college programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions—Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was established by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent application of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions. For more information contact the guidance department.

## Out-of-Season Athletic Activities

It is prohibited for a coach to require an in-season athlete to attend activities for another athletic season. If the in-season and out-of-season coaches reach a mutual agreement, the athlete can attend activities related to an out-of-season sport.

## Weight Room Supervision

Athletes are not to be in the weight room without the proper supervision of a board-approved coach/volunteer. Athletes in season have priority over athletes who aren't in season.

# **Participation**

A. After participating in practice for one week or more, a student may not switch to another sport during that sport season without permission of the head coaches of both sports and the athletic director. An athlete may not switch to another sport or begin a new sports season until all equipment has been returned or the athletic department has received payment for the lost or damaged equipment. If an athlete quits or is dismissed from a team, he/she may not begin conditioning with another team until the conclusion of the season that he/she started, unless they receive permission of the head coach of both sports and the athletic director.

B. An athlete may participate in only one sport per season unless the coaches reach a mutual agreement regarding the athlete's obligations and commitment to each sport.

# Absences from School

Guidelines for athletic participation in practice and contests as a result of illness or other absences are as follows:

1. **Practice** - If an athlete is ill and comes to school, he/she is to be here at least 3 periods in order to practice. If an athlete leaves school anytime during the day as a result of illness, he/she is not to return for practice that evening.
2. **Practice** - Students who are absent from school for a reason other than illness may practice at the discretion of the coach. Each coach is to develop guidelines to cover absence from practice for reasons other than illness. The guidelines are to consider reasons and courses of action for unexcused absences. The rules are to be fair, consistent, and administered equally to all.
3. **Game** - Athletes must be in school at least three periods of the school day on the day of an athletic contest or the preceding day if the contest is played on a Saturday.
4. **Game** - Students who did not attend at least three periods on the day of a game or the preceding day, if the contest is played on a Saturday, must secure permission from the athletic director in order to participate in the athletic contest.
5. **Tardiness to School** - Arriving home late on a school night because of an athletic event or practice is no excuse to be late to school on the following day.

# Athletic Award System

**Middle School Awards** - All participants will receive a certificate and a pin for each sport played, and a onetime letter after completing their first sport of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Freshmen Awards** - All participants will receive a certificate, three inch numerals indicating their year of graduation, and specific sports pin.

**JV/Freshman Awards** – Will receive a five-inch interlocking “BW” and an emblem for the sport. Only one five-inch “BW” will be issued to each participant.

## Varsity Awards

- a. A bronze medallion is given for the first varsity award
- b. A silver medallion for the second varsity award
- c. A gold medallion for the third varsity award
- d. The fourth year award is a senior blanket

Criteria for earning varsity awards at Big Walnut High School are as follows:

**Baseball** - participated in one-half of the total games played by the varsity team during the entire season. The head coach can make an exception for pitchers.

**Basketball** - participated in one-half or more of the total games played.

**Bowling** – participation in one-half of contests played.

**Cheerleading** - participate in one-half or more of the total quarters of scheduled varsity games during the entire season. Cheerleaders will receive separate letters for football and basketball seasons.

**Cross Country** - score in one-half of the total meets.

**Football** - playing in one-half of the quarters of scheduled varsity games. Exceptions can be made for specialists.

**Golf** - must play in one-half of the varsity meets.

**Gymnastics** - participation in 1/2 of the regularly scheduled meets or competing in the district meet.

**Lacrosse** - playing in at least one-half of the total halves

**Soccer** – participated in one-half of the total contests played.

**Softball** - participated in one-half of the total games played by the varsity team during the entire season. The head coach can make an exception for pitchers.

**Swimming/Diving** - participation in 1/2 of the regularly scheduled meets or competing in the district meet.

**Tennis** - must participate in one-half of matches or place in the OCC or District.

**Track** - score enough points to average two points a meet or place in the OCC or District.

**Wrestling** - need 10 total points to letter, earning 1 point per participation.

**Volleyball** -play in one-half or more of the total played games of the varsity team during the entire season.

**Managers** - will receive a certificate and a “Manager” pin for every year of satisfactory service.

**Statisticians** - will receive a certificate and a “Stat” pin for every year of satisfactory service.

**Student Trainers** - will receive a certificate and a medallion for every year of satisfactory service as recommended by the athletic trainer.

### Specific Situations

- 1) A senior athlete who has been out for any of the above sports for two years or more and has failed to earn a varsity award will receive a first year medallion in the participating sport.
- 2) Any athlete who is a starter or plays regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coaches judgment, he/she would of met the lettering requirements

# Special Awards

**School Varsity Jackets** - The Big Walnut varsity letter jacket may be purchased by varsity award winners only—bronze, silver, gold medals.

**Varsity Plaque** - is issued to senior athletes who have earned three varsity awards in one sport or four varsity awards in any combination of varsity sports. Cheerleaders are issued a varsity plaque by earning 3 varsity cheerleading letters in 3 different school years.

**Varsity Blanket** - is issued to senior athletes who earn four varsity awards in one sport or six varsity awards in any combination of varsity sports.

**Golden Eagle Award** - will be presented to a senior with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better and is based on the following criteria:

- 40% - character
- 30% - scholarship
- 30% athletic ability

The award is based on the decision of the coaching staff.

**Big Walnut Scholar Athlete** - is issued to all 9-12 athletes who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2. A certificate and medallion will be awarded.

**OCC Scholar Athlete** – is issued by the OCC to one Senior Varsity Athlete per sport, per season that has earned an accumulative 3.5 GPA.

**Individual Sport Awards** – particular awards for each sport will be issued at the coach's discretion.

# Extra-Curricular Activity Fee

The Big Walnut Board of Education has approved the following extra-curricular fees.

## High School

Athletics                      \$150 per season  
District Family Cap      \$300 per year

## Middle School

Athletics                      \$75 per season  
Middle School Family Cap    \$150 per year

### **Checks are to be made payable to Big Walnut Local Schools.**

The intent of the extra-curricular fee is to help defray the cost of the extra-curricular programs. If a student qualifies for free lunches, the fee is waived. If a student qualifies for reduced lunches, the fee is reduced by half. There is no payment plan, however if you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the High School or Middle School Athletic Director. We pride ourselves on not denying participation for financial reasons.

The participation fee for athletics must be paid (or the approved application for free or reduced lunches must be on file) before an athlete can compete as defined by the Athletic Director. The fee is non-refundable except in cases where the student/athlete becomes physically unfit to perform as designated by a physician or other reasons deemed appropriate by the athletic director. Refunds will be pro-rated.

The following items pertain to clarification regarding the extra-curricular activity fee:

- **Does not guarantee playing/participating time.**
- **Does not result in control over any conditions of the team or activity.**
- **Is non-refundable except as indicated above.**
- **Does not alter policies of Big Walnut High School, Big Walnut Middle School, the Big Walnut Board of Education, or the Ohio High School Athletic Association.**
- **Does not alter or affect the district's athletic code or individual team/activity rules.**

Questions regarding the policy or its procedures should be directed to:

Big Walnut High School	Brian Shelton	740-965-7778
Big Walnut Middle School	Josh Frame	740-965-3006



# Ticket Information

## 2015-2016

### Senior Citizen Ticket Policy

- Free With Big Walnut Pass
- Student Price Without Pass

### BWHS/BWMS Home Athletic Events Pass

#### Full Year Passes

Adult - \$70.00

Student - \$45.00

Family - \$230.00

#### Winter Only Season Pass

Adult - \$30.00

Student - \$20.00

Family - \$100.00

### Fall Sports Season

#### Football (V)

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Football (JV)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

#### Football (Frosh)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

#### Football (M.S)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

#### Volleyball (V/JV/Frosh)

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Volleyball (M.S)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

#### Boys Soccer

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Girls Soccer

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

### Winter Sports Season

#### Boys Basketball (V/JV/Frosh)

Adult \$6.00

Students \$4.00

#### Girls Basketball (V/JV)

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Basketball (M.S.)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

#### Wrestling

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Wrestling (M.S.)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

### Spring Sports Season

#### Track

Adult \$6.00

Student \$4.00

#### Track (M.S.)

Adult \$4.00

Student \$2.00

# Glossary of Important Terms

**Athlete** - An athlete is defined by the board as any student who has tried out for or participated in the Interscholastic Athletic Program, either as a player, cheerleader, or student trainer.

**Athletic Board** - consists of the athletic director and the coaches who have been approved by the Board of Education for the current school year.

**Big Walnut Club Sport** – Board Approved. No expenses paid through the BWLSD or Athletic Department.

**Big Walnut School Sponsored** – Board Approved Partnership. Some expenses are paid through the BWLSD and/or Athletic Department

**Days** - The Big Walnut Board of Education, in approving the student handbook, wanted to make it clear that all references to “days” in this handbook refer to “school days” whether or not the present wording of the handbook says so specifically.

**Good Standing** - denotes compliance with any provisions of the athletic handbook.

**Possession** - means either (A) physical control of alcohol, mind-altering chemicals, build-altering chemicals or tobacco; or (B) permitting other persons to possess the aforementioned substances in locations (automobile, home, etc.) for which the student has responsibility, in the absence of a responsible adult to exercise meaningful supervision.

**Sport Season** - begins with the first practice and ends after the sport’s awards banquet or final contest.

# **Big Walnut Athletic Department Contact Information**

**Brian Shelton – BWHS Athletic Director**

**740-965-7778**

**[brianshelton@bwls.net](mailto:brianshelton@bwls.net)**

**Teresa Piper – BWHS Athletic Admin Assistant**

**740-965-7778**

**[teresapiper@bwls.net](mailto:teresapiper@bwls.net)**

**Josh Frame – BWMS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director**

**740-965-3006**

**[joshframe@bwls.net](mailto:joshframe@bwls.net)**

**Michele Steitz – BWMS Athletic Admin Assistant**

**740-965-3006**

**[michelesteitz@bwls.net](mailto:michelesteitz@bwls.net)**

**Big Walnut High School**

**555 South Old 3c Highway**

**Sunbury, OH 43074**

**Big Walnut Middle School**

**777 Cheshire Road**

**Sunbury, OH 43074**