

OXFORD BLACKHAWKS



2023-24
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
(Revised June, 2022)

MISSION STATEMENT

The staff at Oxford Academy & Central School District believes that interscholastic activities are essential to the education of most youth and therefore, are an integral part of the school curriculum. We consider interscholastic activities to be opportunities for developing human relation skills as well as contributing to physical and emotional development.

The goals of all concerned with school athletics are:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all behavior which tends to destroy the positive nature of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a constructive relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and students eligibility.
8. To encourage teamwork, leadership, initiative, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game...not a matter of life or death for players, coaches, school, parents, officials, fans, community, state or nation.

OBJECTIVES FOR OXFORD ATHLETICS

Junior High

1. The school will encourage all students wishing to participate to do so within the scope of the resources available.
2. Winning will be a lower priority.
3. Fundamental skills will be taught.
4. Sportsmanship will be taught.
5. Importance of attending practice and developing good work ethics will be stressed to the athletes and have an impact on game playing time.
6. Personal hygiene will be encouraged.
7. Equal participation will be given when possible.
8. Team play will be developed.
9. A complete athletic program (number of interscholastic games) will be established to stay competitive with league opponents.
10. Students will be encouraged to participate in a variety of sports.

Junior Varsity

1. Fundamental skills will be improved.
2. Cuts may be made if necessary.
3. Winning will become more of a priority.
4. The athlete will develop an understanding of what it takes to be an athlete and part of a winning program (hard work, weight training, summer camps, participation in other sports, year round work).
5. Player roles will be developed according to individual abilities and team needs.
6. Good hygiene and personal health (diet, rest, etc.) will be encouraged.
7. Work ethic at practice and in games will be encouraged.
8. Team play will be further developed.
9. An attempt will be made to give all members of a team playing time in games.

Varsity

1. Individual and team skills will be refined.
2. The team will work toward winning the league or sectional championship.
3. Cuts will be made if necessary.
4. Top skilled athletes may be members of the team, regardless of age or grade, but physical, emotional and social development will be given careful consideration.
5. The team will play to win within the context of the Mission and Goal statements.
6. The team will make every attempt to be competitive with league opponents.
7. Athletes will be encouraged to participate in other varsity sports and out-of-season programs to achieve excellence (camps, Futures programs, AAU camps, YMCA teams, weight training, summer leagues). Coaches may wish to outline various activities which may help an athlete improve his or her performance.
8. The athlete will respect the decision of the coach as it is the coach's responsibility to determine the make up of the team on the field or court at any given time.
9. Non-league opponents will be scheduled to provide the best competition possible within reason (larger schools, know quality programs or teams).
10. The athlete will gain a further understanding of what it takes to be in a winning program.

ATHLETIC CODE

In order to assure a well-disciplined and competitive athletic program, all active and prospective athletes will be fully acquainted with the contents of this handbook. The included contract, when signed, will remain in effect for all sports participated in for the duration of the school year.

I. Any of the following breaches of good conduct will result in penalties outlined in number II below:

- *A. Drinking of any alcoholic beverage.
- *B. Use of tobacco or its products in any form.
- *C. Misuse of drugs, including possession.
- D. Presence in an establishment where alcoholic beverages are served (unless for purposes of dining).
- *E. Proven involvement in theft or willful damage or destruction of property.
- F. Three (3) unexcused absences from practice or any athletic contest.
- G. Three (3) unexcused absences on the day after a contest.

*Students involved in these breaches of good conduct, on school premises or during school-related activities, will also be subject to the discipline outlined in the Student Handbook.

Disciplinary action arising from violations “A” - “E” above will be based upon reports from any member of the administration or the coaching staff. Reports from other members of the faculty or from responsible adults will be dealt with by setting up a conference among the individual making the complaint, the coach and the Athletic Director. Disciplinary action will be taken if deemed appropriate.

In reference to item “F” above, examples of excused and unexcused absences are listed below. An excused absence such as personal illness means that the athlete is excused for the absence, it does not over-rule the requirement that an athlete must be in school for the full school day to participate that day. Prior coach confirmation for an excused absence must be obtained before the absence. (Unless the nature of an emergency prevented this from being done.)

Examples of excusable absences from practice or games are:

1. Death, illness or injury in the family.
2. Any type of health appointment.
3. Vacations with parents during regularly scheduled school vacations.

Examples of unexcused absences from practice or games are:

1. Jobs, Illegal absences from school, Pleasure appointments (ex. Haircut), Vacations taken with non-family members.

II. Penalties - Violations of A-G

A. First violation during a student’s sport season will result in:

1. A suspension of 3 contests for teams participating in 9 or less regularly scheduled contests or 5 contests for teams participating in 10 or more regularly scheduled contests. If the season ends before the suspension, the suspension will be for the balance of the season only. During the suspension:
 - a) Athlete will continue to practice.
 - b) He/She will dress for contests.

c) She/He will sit with the team at contests.

2. A parent conference with the student, his or her parents, the student's principal, Athletic Director and coach will be required before a student may again fully participate. Additional requirements such as counseling may be mandated by the student's principal as a condition for continuing participation.

B. Second or subsequent violations during a student's sport season will result in:

1. Dismissal from the team for the balance of the sports season.
2. Forfeiture of all awards or any other recognition given to a student athlete through a school nomination.
3. A parent conference with the student, his/her parent, the student's principal, Athletic Director and coach will be required before a student may again participate in another sport season. The principal may impose additional requirements such as counseling as a condition for a student to return to athletic participation.

C. One or two unexcused absences will be dealt with by the coach using the following guideline:

1. A one game suspension for each offense.
 - a. Athlete will continue to practice.
 - b. Athlete will dress for the contest.
 - c. Athlete will sit with the team during the suspension.

The suspension for unexcused absences may be longer if deemed appropriate by the coach with the concurrence of the Athletic Director. However, the penalty may not be more than those outlined in II.A.1.

The foregoing rules apply to the sport season in which the athlete is participating. The sport season starts on the first day the player is eligible to practice and terminates on the conclusion of the last game of the season or sectional play.

III. Extra-Curricular Eligibility

- A. Extra-Curricular activities including interscholastic sports are a privilege for those students showing academic responsibility. Failing to meet academic requirements will result in academic probation or academic ineligibility for sports participation.
- B. All students playing interscholastic sports are subject to the extra-curricular eligibility policy as outlined in the student handbook.
- C. Quitting a sport: If an athlete chooses to quit a sport, that athlete will not be allowed to join another sport during the same season without approval from a review panel. The review panel will consist of the building principal, the A.D. and both coaches involved.

- D. Equipment: All school issued equipment and uniforms should be turned in to the coach at the conclusion of the final game of the season. If an athlete fails to return equipment/uniforms after a season has ended, that athlete will be billed accordingly and they will not receive any equipment/uniforms for future sports until the items have been returned or paid for.

IV. Attendance in School

A. In order to practice or compete, an athlete must be in attendance for the FULL SCHOOL DAY, unless he/she has either: 1) a legal excuse for a medical appointment (doctor or dentist) or 2) special permission from the student's principal or the Athletic Director. Students need to be in school a FULL SCHOOL DAY after a school night contest.

- B. Any student who is more than 30 minutes late for any class will not be able to participate, practice, or compete in sports for that particular day.
- C. Any student involved in out-of-school suspensions will not be allowed to practice or play in an athletic event during the duration of the suspension. If a student is suspended a second time, he/she will not be allowed to participate for a period of 10 school days.

V. Disciplinary Procedures

A. Disciplinary procedures follow a step process designed to insure communication and facilitate appropriate handling.

1. A coach who receives a report of a violation that the coach determines to be accurate, will at the first opportunity:
 - a. Confront the student with the violation.
 - b. Suspend the student from participation.
 - c. Inform the student's parents or the suspension and violation.
 - d. Inform the Athletic Director and the student's principal.
2. At the earliest opportunity (no later than the next school day) the coach, Athletic Director, and the student's principal will meet and discuss the report of the violation.
 - a. The student will be informed on his/her status by the principal.
 - b. The principal will notify the athlete's parents in writing of the violation, the disciplinary measures taken, and the opportunity to appeal the decision.

B. A Review Panel will be convened by the athlete's Principal by a written request of the athlete or the athlete's parent. The request must be made within three (3) school days of the original disposition. The Panel will meet within two (2) school days of the request, at a time and place convenient to the Panel.

1. The Review Panel will consist of the Athletic Director, one (1) teacher, one (1) coach (not connected with the sport in question), one (1) parent volunteer, and (1) student (not connected with the sport involved) and appointed by the student government of president. A total of (5) members.
2. The function of the Review Panel will be to determine if there is reasonable grounds for the action taken against the student.

3. The Review Panel may consider extenuating or mitigating circumstances that should be taken into account.
4. The Review Panel has the authority to uphold the original decision, abridge it, or reverse it.
5. A 2/3 majority vote is required by the panel to change the original disposition of the athlete.
6. The Review Panel will hear each athlete's appeal individually.

C. The Board of Education

1. The Board has the right to review any decision of the Review Panel. The Board has the final authority for the disposition of a student athlete's eligibility to participate.
2. A student and/or parent of the student may appeal the decision of the Review Panel to the Board of Education. The coach of the student athlete also has the right to appeal the Review Panel's decision.

VI. Conduct

The general behavior of an athlete in school or elsewhere should be a credit to his/her school, team, coaches and himself/herself. When determining your behavior, keep in mind the regulation given below:

- A. Violation of the athletic code reported by a faculty member will result in a conference involving the H.S. Principal or Middle School Principal, Athletic Director, Coach, Teacher and Athlete(s) involved.
- B. There will be NO unsightly displays of affection. Repeated violations will be dealt with by the coach.
- C. Un-sportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated. Violators will meet in conference with the Athletic Director and the Coach. A penalty will be set based on findings which result from this conference.
- D. Any profanity or obscene gestures made during contests and directed at officials, players or fans shall result in immediate suspension from the contest. Additional penalties may be assessed as a result of a conference among player(s), Coach and Athletic Director.
- E. Appearance on game days will be clean and neat.
- F. The conduct of players at all times must be of the highest caliber. All reports of misconduct will be investigated by the appropriate Coach, the Athletic Director and the student's Principal. Penalties will be set according to the findings of any such investigation.
- G. As athletes you are expected to be encouraging and congenial to non-athletes, to be supportive of school activities (concert, plays,

etc.) and to be an active Oxford Academy & Central School student.

VII. Positive Ideas and Statements

- A. The coaches want to help with any personal problems their athletes may have. Never hesitate to seek help or advice from any coach.
- B. All athletic staff members are concerned about you as an individual.
- C. Rules and regulations are made for the good of the athletic program. Coaches act at all times to protect the values of the program. All the true athletes conduct themselves in a manner that will contribute to the good of the athletic program.
- D. One of the primary purposes of the athletic program is to help YOU be a better citizen, both now and in the future.
- E. Athletes are and always ought to be the pride of the school and community.
- F. The sports program enables athletes to be among the leaders of the school.

VIII. Away Contests/Transportation

All athletes will travel to and from athletic events on the team bus. Anyone wishing to ride home with their parents are required to have previously completed and submitted the “Authorization for Alternative Form of Return Transportation” that is in the back of this handbook. The form must be signed by the parents or legal guardians. As well, upon completion of the contest on game day, athletes wishing to ride home with their parent must have the parent sign a “sign out” sheet supplied by the coach of the sport.

IX. Other situations not specifically covered by this handbook will be dealt with by the Coach and Athletic Director. A report will be made to the Building Principal.

X. Ejection of Coach/Member of a Squad & Spectators

A. Coach/Member of a Squad

- 1. Any school whose coach or player is ejected from an interscholastic competition for having used profanity, engaged in unsportsmanlike conduct, or who physically assaults an official shall be sanctioned for such conduct on the part of such coach or player in the following manner:
 - a. Any coach or member of a squad excluded by a certified official from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct is ineligible to coach any interscholastic competition in that sport until after the next preciously scheduled contest (at the same level has been completed.

- b. A coach or member of a squad who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass, or intimidate another person shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for a period of time to be determined by Section IV, not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

B. Spectators:

- 1. Any spectator who is ejected from an interscholastic competition for having used profanity, engaged in unsportsmanlike conduct, or who physically assaults an official shall be sanctioned for such conduct on the part of such spectator in the following manner:
 - a. Any spectator excluded by a certified contest official, school administrator, athletic administrator, or event chaperone from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct is ineligible to attend any interscholastic competition in that sport until the next previously scheduled home contest (at the same level) has been completed. The spectator may not be present at the game site. School codes of conduct have been designed to ensure appropriate conduct and behavior at all times by all participants, including spectators.
 - b. A spectator who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass, or intimidate another person shall be expelled immediately and banned from further attendance in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the school's Superintendent and Athletic Director, not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

XI. Concussions

- A. If a player shows any signs of a concussion, the player is NOT permitted to return to the contest or event. Upon medical confirmation of a concussion, a player must follow the return to play protocol and be cleared by the school physician.

CONCLUSION

To do anything positive will require dedication, faithful practice and self-discipline. A fine athlete will possess these qualities and strive to live up to the ideals associated with outstanding sportsmanship.

**OXFORD ACADEMY AND CENTRAL SCHOOL
ATHLETIC CODE
(To be signed by the parent before the first athletic practice)**

Athlete's Consent

I have read and understand the Athletic Code of Oxford Academy and Central Schools. I agree to follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Code, and I agree to accept the

consequences for violations of the code as they are explained here. I also understand that my right to appeal a disciplinary action is protected according to the terms of this code.

In addition, I understand that I am personally responsible for any equipment issued to me and that any such equipment lost or damaged through my personal neglect will be replaced at the current replacement price. By my signature, I hereby agree to the above:

Date _____ Athlete's Signature _____

The Athletic Code adopted by the Board of Education and your signature to the above contract is understood to be in effect for the academic year.

Parent's Consent

As the parent or guardian of the above athlete, I have read the Athletic Handbook and agree to help my athlete live up to the rules and regulations outlined therein. At this time, I give my permission for _____ to participate in the sports program for the school year. I understand that in the event of serious injury or sickness the quickest medical aid will be sought. If possible, I would like to have

Dr. _____ at _____ contacted. I can be reached at _____ or _____.
(home phone) (work/cell phone)

Date _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Signature _____

The school has purchased insurance from the N.Y. State High School Athletic Protection Plan, Inc., which is a non-duplicating policy. Claims must FIRST be submitted to the parent or guardian's insurance company. If you have insurance for your athlete, please indicate the company. _____

(Company's name, address & zip code)

(Phone number and area code)

RISK OF INJURY STATEMENT

I am aware that competing or practicing in any athletic activity can be a dangerous activity involving risk of injury. I understand that the dangers and risks of competing and practicing in the activity include, but are not limited to death, neck and spinal injury which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons and other aspects of a muscular-skeletal system and injury or impairment of future abilities to earn a living, to engage in business, social and recreational activities and generally to enjoy life.

If I am a participant in baseball, hockey, softball, football, lacrosse, soccer, basketball or wrestling, I specifically acknowledge that it is a contact sport involving even greater risk of injury than other sports.

Because of the possible dangers of participating in the activities, I recognize the importance of following the coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training and other team rules and agree to obey such instructions.

In consideration of the school district's permitting me to try out for and to engage in all activities related to the team including, but no limited to, trying out, practicing or participating in that activity, I hereby assume all risks associated with participation.

Date _____
_____ (Student's Signature)

The undersigned, parent or guardian of the individual who has signed the Risk of Injury Statement, hereby acknowledges receipt of the Risk of Injury Statement and acknowledges awareness of the various risks set forth in the statement and, considering such risk, gives permission for the student to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity. If I withdraw my permission, I understand that the withdrawal must be in writing and given to the principal as well as to the coach of the particular athletic activity.

Date _____
_____ (Parent or guardian Signature)

Oxford Academy and Central School District

Athletic Department

SEASONAL BLANKET AUTHORIZATION

For Alternative Form of Return Transportation

Name of Student Athlete: _____ **Grade:** _____

Athletic Activity: _____ **Name of Coach:** _____

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Address: _____

I, the undersigned parent or person in parental relation to

(student's name)

authorize the following alternative form of transportation for the following athletic event(s):

~ I may pick up my son/daughter identified above after any away game for the duration of the _____ athletic season.
(name of sport)

If the District has any questions with regard to this authorization for alternative form of return transportation, you may contact me at _____.

(must be completed or authorization is invalid)

Dated: _____

Parent's Name (please print)

Parent's Signature

Oxford Academy and Central School District

PO Box 192, Oxford, NY 13830 Phone: 607-843-2025



Permission to Participate in the Hudl Athletic Video Training Program

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____, and I hereby grant permission to the Oxford School District for my son/daughter to fully participate in the Hudl video training program to be used in connection with his/her participation in athletic programs. I understand that use of the Hudl program involves creating video records of sports activities for the purpose of analyzing and evaluating athletes performance,

demonstrating techniques, and viewing such video records for training to improve athletic performance; sharing video records with other coaching and educational instructors for training and instructional purposes via digital transmissions and online access; and the use of such video for demonstration and promotional uses related to the Hudl program. This consent includes permission to make and electronically transmit video involving my son/daughter, and accessing such video through the Hudl website for such viewing in connection with such athletic training purposes. I hereby, for myself and my son/daughter waive further notice or release requirements under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or other applicable state or federal law to disclose such video records for the above purposes in connection with the use of the Hudl program.

This consent shall remain in effect for the entire 2021-22 school year, and shall apply to any sporting training, practices or events in which my son/daughter participates.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____