



# Uniontown Area School District

724-439-5000

[www.uniontown.k12.pa.us](http://www.uniontown.k12.pa.us)



## Department of Athletics

### A Handbook for Student-Athletes and Parents

Approved by Uniontown Area Board of Education

June 20, 2005



#### Mission Statement of the Uniontown Area School District

The mission of the Uniontown Area School District is to provide sufficient resources, experiences, and opportunities to permit all of its students to achieve their fullest potential.



# Uniontown Area School District

## Department of Athletics

**Athletic Director: John Fortugna**  
**Email: [fortugnaj@uniontown.k12.pa.us](mailto:fortugnaj@uniontown.k12.pa.us)**

### **A Handbook for Student-Athletes and Their Parents**

The purpose of this handbook is to act as a guide for student-athletes and parents in order that each may understand the accepted procedures and policies of the Uniontown Area School District in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. If you have any questions about the material contained herein or would like additional information feel free to contact Mr. John Fortugna, Athletic Director.

**Parent and student-athlete must sign and submit to their coach the acknowledgement and PIAA Emergency Card on the last page prior to sports participation for the school year.**

#### **To the Parent**

This material is presented to you because your daughter or son has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit her/him to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assists students in personal adjustments.

We, who are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets with the students' needs of self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

#### **To the Athlete**

Participating as a member of a Uniontown Area School District athletic team is the fulfillment of an ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad in the Uniontown Area School District, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the colors of our school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

**1. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOU:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your High School experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

**2. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Uniontown Area School District cannot maintain its position as an outstanding district unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on the athletic squad. The student body, our community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field of play. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to your school spirit and community pride. Make Uniontown Area High School proud of you, and your community proud of your school, by your faithful exemplification of these details.

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a squad member you also bear a responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all the team expectations, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday, and that you have played the game “all out” you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the schools are watching you. They will copy you in many ways.  
Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

### **Philosophy of Uniontown Athletics**

Interscholastic athletics are an extension of the basic educational program of the Uniontown Area School District. As such, they provide the individual student with the privilege of participating on a more competitive level than afforded by physical education classes or intramural programs.

Athletics provide the student with the opportunity to develop mental and physical skills, discipline, and with the opportunity to strive for individual and group achievement and recognition. The athlete learns to appreciate the value of rules, authority, and fair play.

An active effort on the part of the coaching staff will make athletics a true learning experience and the goals of athletics will remain basic, rather than incidental, objectives.

## **Objectives of the Uniontown Area School District Athletic Program**

The major objectives of the athletic program in the UASD are:

1. To provide a quality athletic program for the students of the Uniontown Area School District.
2. To develop in each participant the group ideals of good sportsmanship, fair competition, and team play, as well as the individual ideals of self-sacrifice and self-denial.
3. To develop such desirable qualities of citizenship as: a sense of responsibility, respect for authority, leadership, and respect for the rights of property of others.
4. To foster the development of student morale and school spirit.
5. To provide athletes with an opportunity to reach their educational potential.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Below are guidelines and fundamentals of good sportsmanship that parents and student athletes should review together. They give us a roadmap to follow on a journey toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

Athletic events are always among the most popular activities for participants and spectators, and these contests provide another learning experience. Integrity, fairness and respect, and the principles of good sportsmanship are lifetime values taught through athletics. With them, the spirit of the competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

The role of the parent in the education of a youngster cannot be overestimated. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school, in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

Parents have a major influence on their youngster's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role parents take in sportsmanship will help influence their child, and the community, for years to come.

There is a value system -- established in the home, nurtured in the school -- which young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development.

**Uniontown Area High School is proud to be a winner of three PIAA Sportsmanship Awards.**

UASD is part of and in support of the PIAA program called “SPORTSMANSHIP: The Only Missing Piece Is You!” This is a program designed to positively change behavior in our schools and reinforce and reward the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

A good sport, whether a student or a parent, is a true leader within the school and our community. Parents’ and students’ sportsmanship goals should include:

- Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a Contest;
- Encouraging our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances.
- Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athletes; and discouraging any cheer that would redirect that focus;
- Learning, understanding, and respecting the rules of the Contest, the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers; and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth;
- Respecting each official and realizing they are an essential part of every Contest;
- Respecting our opponents as students, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best;
- Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances.
- Being a FAN ... not a fanatic!

Parents and student athletes are spokespersons for our school when attending an athletic, or any co-curricular event. Family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media, view your actions. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school; and hopefully remind us that sport is meant to be fun.

Have a great school year!

**FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE CONTEST.
2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.
3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLED PERFORMANCES OF BOTH THE HOME AND VISITING TEAMS.
4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR OFFICIALS.
5. OPENLY DISPLAY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.
6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

**REMEMBER  
SPORTSMANSHIP, THE ONLY MISSING PIECE IS YOU!**

**TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS, THE STUDENT-ATHLETE MUST ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:**

- 1. All students participating in interscholastic athletics while attending the Uniontown Area School District must be passing at least four full-credit subjects in accordance with the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws. INTERPRETATION: “Whenever students spend approximately double the amount of time in class under ‘block’ scheduling in comparison to ‘traditional’ scheduling, a credit that a student is carrying under ‘block’ scheduling would be the equivalent of two credits under ‘traditional’ scheduling in determining athletic eligibility, except when eligibility is determined by final credits at the end of the school year.”**

Following is the procedure that will be used to determine the academic eligibility of a student:

- A. All PIAA eligibility requirements must be met. (See PIAA Rules Section of this Handbook)
- B. To meet the PIAA academic standard, eligibility shall be determined as follows:

The letter grades of full credit (1.00) and one-half (.5) credit courses shall be used to determine grade point average.

In cases where a student's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the PIAA standard, said student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least **fifteen (15) school days** of the next grading period.

A grading period is defined as follows:

- 1) In activities which take place during the first nine (9) week grading period, the student's final grades of the previous year will be used to determine the grade point average. Summer school grades will be applied to inadequate final grades.
- 2) In activities which extend beyond the first nine (9) week grading period or occur after a nine (9) week grading period. Those nine week grades shall be used to determine grade point average.

- C. Grades for all students in interscholastic sports are to be checked at the end of each grading period.

NOTE: This policy applies to all students participating in interscholastic athletics. Organizations within the school with higher grade requirements should make clear to participants what the requirements are.

Coaches are responsible to make sure that students are passing the required number of courses prior to being permitted to participate in their sport.

**\*\*In the event a student becomes ineligible, the coach should arrange for tutoring through the Peer Tutoring Program sponsored by the National Honor Society.**

2. All student athletes must undergo a pre-participation physical examination and submit a completed physical card, signed by the parent and physician, on file in the nurse's office. (Distributed prior to each sports season) A physical is required for each sports season.
3. All student athletes must submit medical history and insurance forms (Distributed prior to each sports season) on file in the nurse's office.
4. All student athletes must meet PIAA academic, age, transfer, and consecutive semester eligibility criteria as well as regulations established by leagues in which we participate. See PIAA Rules section in this handbook, page 12.
5. All student athletes must settle all school accounts of previously issued clothing, books and supplies, which must either be returned or paid for.

6. All student athletes and parents must sign and return to the coach verification that the parent and student-athlete have read and understand the terms outlined in this handbook and the PIAA Emergency Card at the end of this handbook.

**Failure to have all the above criteria in place by the first day of practice will preclude any student-athlete from participation in any practice or game.**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES**

It is an honor and a privilege to participate in high school sports. You are developing your athletic ability as well as your leadership skills. Each student-athlete is expected to act in a dignified and mature fashion. You will learn to win with class, and lose with dignity. You will come to respect your peers and your coaches. Remember that your actions do not only affect you, they can have a major impact on your entire team and the Uniontown Area High School community.

1. All students should realize that they represent both Uniontown Area Schools and their family. Attitude and action should reflect results that would make both proud.
2. All students participating in athletic events, on or off campus, are governed by the policies stated in the Uniontown Area Schools' Student Handbook and the Uniontown Area School District Handbook for Parents and Student-Athletes. Students are expected to uphold the same standards that are required of them while at school, regardless of whether they are at home or away games.
3. Students may be suspended from participating in co-curricular activities for violations of the school disciplinary code.
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and games unless excused in advance by the coach. Any athlete excused by the coach should bring a written reason for the absence to the coach returning to practice. Excessive absence, as determined by the coaching staff, may result in dismissal from the team.
5. Students participating in athletic competition and activities should strive to play as hard as they can while maintaining self-control and poise. Respect will be given to opposing players, coaches, officials, and fans at all times.
6. Coaches may have individual team rules for their teams. These rules may be in addition to the existing guidelines in this handbook and may be more stringent regulations than those for the entire department.
7. Any athlete suspended for violation of athletic rules or individual team rules is not eligible for a letter or any other athletic award.
8. Students, who are managers or work in some capacity for a team other than as a player, are expected to adhere to all rules established by participants.
9. An academically ineligible student may not participate or attend games during the period of academic ineligibility. The student may attend practice.
10. If a student-athlete loses a piece of equipment that has been issued to him/her, he/she must pay for that piece, prior to having another one issued.
11. Students participating in athletic competition and activities are responsible for communicating to parents their practice schedules, game schedules and return times from games. Game schedules are available in the school office; the coach will issue changes in the schedule to his or her athletes as needed. Coaches will

- issue practice schedules in a timely manner. **SEE PAGE 18 OF THIS MANUAL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING SCHEDULES.**
12. Parents with questions about clarification or explanation may make an appointment with their child's coach by contacting the school administrator or athletic director.

## **REGULATIONS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students who are absent from school may not participate in nor attend any school activity during that afternoon or evening. Students must be present and in attendance for at least five hours during a given school day. A class cut will automatically disqualify a student from participation in any school activity that day. While there may be extenuating circumstances that are exceptions to any of the above rules, only the principal or the athletic director may decide when to apply an exception.

**WEEKLY ELIGIBILITY:** A student **MUST BE** passing four (4) full credit subjects per week on the eligibility check. If a student is in violation of this check, he/she will be ineligible to participate in any activity for the next full week. The student's current classroom teachers will determine weekly eligibility for students. (A Monday to Sunday time line is in effect for eligibility.)

**DAILY ELIGIBILITY:** If a student is not in attendance for at least five hours on the day of the practice/rehearsal and/or contest/performance, he will be ineligible to participate. Tardiness or absence due to emergency or religious reasons **MUST BE CLEARED** by a high school administrator prior to participation. Violations of this policy may result in short-term ineligibility.

**RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY:** The student must meet all of the age, enrollment, attendance and scholastic requirements established by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, school, coach or director.

### **Absence from Scheduled Practice**

#### **PRACTICE TIME**

- A. Since practice time is limited, it is essential that all players be on time.
- B. Excuses from practices must be made directly to the coach. The coach will make the final determination as to whether or not an absence is excused.
- C. Examples of excusable absences are:
1. Death, illness or injury in the family.
  2. Any type of health appointment (proof must be provided).
  3. Extra scholastic assistance after school.
- D. Examples of unexcused absences are:
1. Jobs.
  2. Non-medical appointments.
  3. Unexcused absence of school.



## SUSPENSION

Student-athletes who are suspended from school are also suspended from participation and attendance at the next contest after the suspension. The student-athlete may, however, attend practice.

### Attitudes at Athletic Events

The attitude of the student body at athletic events is commendable and a source of much pride to the staff. In order to continue to have this fine cooperation, certain practices should always prevail.

1. Good sportsmanship must be exhibited toward the opponents. Booing the contestants, disputing with the official, "cat calling" or otherwise creating a nuisance immediately marks that person as one who has lost control of himself.
2. Spectators, including both adults and students, are requested to remove their hats, or other head covering upon entering the gymnasium. Such headgear may obstruct the view of others.

### Care and Return of Equipment

The student-athlete is responsible for all uniforms and equipment that is assigned to him/her. If items are lost or abused, the student will be required to pay for a replacement. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach at the end of the season. Coaches are not at liberty to give equipment to student-athletes at the conclusion of the season. **Equipment not returned will result in a hold slip and suspension from the athletic program. All equipment purchased by the Athletic Department must be returned at the end of the respective season.**

### Coach/ Athlete Relationship

Our coaches should demand a great deal from our athletes. Only by so doing will our program lead to success. Athletes must be prepared to give and sacrifice in order to benefit from athletics.

Coaches, in turn, will give a great deal to the athletes. A relationship where each party is called on to give of oneself must be founded on trust and respect. The following statements are most important:

1. Coaches will notify athletes at the beginning of the season of all rules, regulations, game and practice schedules, and other information that will help avoid possible conflicts during the season.
2. Athletes will follow all such rules and procedures established by the coach, or face denial of participation.
3. When concerned or confused about such rules and procedures, the athlete will approach the coach as soon as possible for clarification and explanation. Athletes should not bring complaints or questions to the attention of others before the coach is asked for clarification and explanation.

4. The coach will respond to questions from athletes concerning such rules and procedures and explain when necessary the purpose and reasons behind the rules.

Use of the above strategies for open, honest communication will create the mutual trust and response necessary for the coach and athlete to work together for success.

### **Coach/Parent Relationship**

Coaches and parents must have an open and honest relationship because each is directly involved with the athletes who are the center of the athletic program. This relationship should be characterized by the following:

1. Coaches will communicate with the parents at the beginning of the season and explain all rules, procedures, game and practice schedules, and other information the parents will need in order to help their child meet his/her obligations to the team.
2. Coaches will explain such rules and other information to parents when they need clarification. However, coaches will not meet with parents during a practice, a game, or other times when the coach has the responsibility of care for other students or athletes. Appointments should be made with the coach involved to discuss individual athletes.
3. Coaches should seek to be as cooperative as possible with parents when the parents have questions concerning the type of information referred to above. However, parents should realize that decisions concerning starting line-up, play calling, skill techniques, and other items are, by their very nature, the objective and/or subjective judgment of the coach.

Open and honest communication between coach and parent that follows the principles above will lead toward good relationships between parent, coach, and athlete.

### **Complaints**

From time to time, students or parents may have concerns about coaches and/or the athletic program in general. Since it is always our goal to communicate clearly and to resolve any conflicts at the lowest possible level, parents or students who have concerns about coaching strategies, practice rules or procedures, coaching styles, playing time, or any matter related to the individual student-athlete and coach should FIRST set up a meeting with the coach through a school administrator or an athletic director. Most situations can be resolved at this level to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

## **PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF CONCERNS FROM PARENTS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES**

All athletic programs, students, and coaches are better served if the procedures listed below are followed.

**Step 1** – The parent and/or student-athlete should review specific concerns with the coach as soon as they arise. Parents and/or student-athlete may request that an athletic director participate in the discussion with the coach. **CONCERNS ABOUT PLAYING TIME AND COACH'S GAME STRATEGIES WILL NOT BE HEARD BEYOND THIS LEVEL, Step 1.**

**Step 2** – If the action in Step 1 above fails to resolve the concern, the parents and/or student-athlete will review the concern with the athletic director and principal in a timely manner. The coach may be included in this discussion.

**Step 3** – If the action in Step 2 above fails to resolve the concern, the athletic director and/or principal will review specific concerns with the coach and respond in writing to the parent and/or student-athlete within ten school days.

**Step 4** – If the action in Step 3 above fails to resolve the concern, the parent and/or student-athlete will review specific concerns with the superintendent. A written response will be given to the parents and/or student-athlete within ten school days.

**Step 5** – If the action in Step 4 above fails to resolve the concern, the parent and/or student/athlete will review specific concerns with the Extra-Curricular Committee of the Board of School Directors. The Board of School Directors through the Extra-Curricular Committee will make a final written response within ten school days.

### **Dress and Bus Decorum**

At all away games athletes are official representatives of their school and community. Therefore, their dress should reflect this responsibility. Students are responsible to the coach for behavior at games and on the bus. Inappropriate behavior will result in disciplinary action. During all athletic contests, student-athletes are expected to dress appropriately and in a manner that would reflect positively on school and family.

### **Injuries**

All student-athletes must report injuries immediately to their coaches who will complete an accident report as soon as possible and file it with the athletic trainer.

Uniontown Area School District will not permit any athlete who is injured or impaired to participate in practice or games. If a student-athlete has been referred to a doctor or has gone to see one on his own, he/she will not be allowed to participate until the doctor clears that person in writing. If during the course of a game or practice, the athletic trainer, EMT, or physician deems an athlete unfit to continue, then that player will not be allowed to continue. Neither coaches nor parents or players may overrule a decision made by any of the aforementioned people.

## **Insurance**

All students who desire to participate on an athletic team must have accident insurance. If the student does not possess family insurance an inexpensive policy is available to all students through the school carrier. Call your child's school for more information. Athletes will be required to submit a form signed by their parent or guardian certifying that the student has either family or school accident insurance.

## **Participation in Physical Education Class**

In order to participate in a practice or an athletic event, a student must have participated in his/her physical education class that day (if applicable).

## **Practice**

Parents are discouraged from attending any athletic practices. Practices may be closed at the discretion of the head coach.

## **Squad Selection**

It is the philosophy of the Uniontown Athletic Department that athletic participation be open to as many students as possible. However, due to the nature of some athletic programs, it is sometimes necessary to limit the number of athletes on a particular squad. When such squad selections are necessary, the following guidelines will apply:

1. Criteria for selections will be established by the head coach. Participation in an off-season program will have no bearing on squad selection.
2. These criteria will be explained to all squad candidates at the very beginning of the season.
3. The coach will notify the athletes, in advance, of the date of the squad selections and of the approximate number to be kept on the squad.
4. Explanation of the selection procedures:
  - a. Coach will meet with all candidates;
  - b. Candidates will be told of their failure to make the team and why;
  - c. There will be NO list posted.

## **Team Rules**

Coaches may have individual team rules for their teams. These rules may be in addition to the existing guidelines in this handbook and may be more stringent than those for the entire department.

All students who participate in athletics are subject to disciplinary consequences imposed by coaches. These may vary from coach to coach and sport to sport. Coaches will communicate their expectations to their athletes in writing at the beginning of each season. In addition, the school disciplinary code applies to all students.

## **Transportation**

All athletes are required to ride school-provided transportation to and from all athletic events. Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests. **Parents must personally (in person) request the coach's permission for athletes to return from away contests with said parents or their designee. A written note must accompany the request.** All regular school bus rules will be in effect and followed, including food, noise, remaining in seats, and care and respect for equipment.

## **Volunteers**

The Uniontown Area School District permits and encourages a program of school volunteer assistance. Volunteer coaches may be utilized when, in the opinion of the Building Principal, Athletic Director and head coach, the addition of a volunteer will enhance the support and training provided by the regular coaching staff.

Volunteer coaches must be at least twenty-one (21 ) years of age. All clearances must be submitted; Act 34 (Criminal Background) and Act 151 (Child Abuse). Also, a letter from the coach stating the rationale for the volunteer, a letter from the volunteer stating desire to participate, and a letter from the principal recommending the volunteer must be submitted to the Administrative Director of Athletics.

Volunteers are to be recommended to the Board of School Directors by the Head Coach. Volunteers will be approved on an annual basis.

Further guidelines are available from the Board Secretary, Ms. Judith Means.

# **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association**

## **Summary of Rules and Regulations**

### **Know Your Eligibility Rules**

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school which is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (P.I.A.A.) must adhere to the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules for student-athletes. If you fail to comply with the P.I.A.A. rules, you will lose your eligibility to represent your school in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, your school or team will be penalized. It is therefore important for you to be aware of the requirements to which you are subject.

The information contained here highlights and summarizes the major eligibility requirements you must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. It does not list every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to grades 7 through 12.

The principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either present or future, you should see your school principal, who has available a complete copy of all the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules. Your principal may also obtain from the appropriate P.I.A.A. District Committee a formal ruling as to your athletic eligibility.

#### **Age**

You may not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year. (15th birthday where interscholastic competition limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where limited to grades 7 through 9).

#### **Amateur Status and Awards**

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in the sport. You will lose your amateur status in a sport for at least a year if:

1. You, or your school, or an organization which you represent, or your parent or guardian, receives money or property for or related to your athletic ability, performance, participation, or services.
2. You accept compensation for teaching, training or coaching in a sport. You may receive normal and customary compensation for acting as an instructor in or officiating recreational activities, or for serving as a lifeguard at swimming areas.

You may receive awards only from your school, the sponsor of an athletic event, the news media, or a non-profit service organization approved by your school principal. Permissible awards are a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, shorts, jersey, cap, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification.

#### **Attendance**

1. You must be regularly enrolled in your school and in full-time attendance there.

2. You are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled.
3. If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence.

### **Consent of Parent or Guardian**

You are eligible only if there is on file with the principal of your school, before you begin practice, an official P.I.A.A. certificate signed by your parent or guardian consenting to your participation in the particular sport involved.

### **Preparticipation Physical Evaluation**

You are eligible only if you have participated in a preparticipation physical evaluation performed by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a certified registered nurse practitioner, a school nurse practitioner, or a certified physician assistant before your first sports season's first practice day of that school year. Before each subsequent sports season's first practice day of that same school year, you must be reevaluated or certified that your condition is satisfactory before you commence to practice for the sport.

Wrestlers must also obtain from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, school nurse practitioner, or certified physician assistant, prior to the first practice day, a certification of the minimum weight classification at which they may wrestle for the entire season.

In all cases, the medical professional must have signed the P.I.A.A. Physicians Certificate

### **Transfers**

You are treated as having transferred whenever you change schools, even if you are out of school for a period of time before entering the new school.

Except as provided below, if you transfer from one school district to another you are eligible immediately at your new school:

1. When you live with your natural or adoptive parents in the new school district.
2. When you live with a court-appointed legal guardian in the new school district, upon approval by the P.I.A.A. District Committee.

Transfer students that may not be declared eligible immediately through provisions provided under Article VI, Sections 3 through 7, must have their eligibility determined by the District Committee upon proper submission of the "Transfer Waiver Request Form". This form can be found under the "forms" section of the PIAA Handbook.

If you transfer from one school to another in whole or in part for any athletic purpose, or if you are recruited, you will lose your athletic eligibility in all sports for one year. This requirement applies even if you would otherwise be eligible at the school to which you transferred.

Most students who are not eligible immediately will be ineligible for one year from the date of transfer in each sport in which they participated within one year preceding the date of transfer.

**\*\*All questions regarding transfers should be directed to the principal.**

### **Period of Time After Eighth Grade, Participation, and Grade Repetition**

1. You will lose your eligibility when you have reached the end of your fourth consecutive year beyond the eighth grade. If you repeat a grade after eight, you will be ineligible as a senior.
2. You may participate a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.
3. You may participate only one season in each sport during each school year.

### **Outside Participation**

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for the remainder of the season if, while a member of your high school team, you participate in an athletic contest as an individual or a member of another team in the same sport during the same season, unless your school principal waives this rule by sending an appropriate letter to the P.I.A.A. Executive Director before you begin the outside participation.

If you participate as an individual or as a member of a team in a non-school athletic program, while enrolled at a school which has a team in that sport, you will be eligible for the playoffs in that sport only if you are in uniform and available to participate as a member of your school team for at least 75 percent of its regular season contests.

### **Academic and Curricular Requirements**

1. You must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by your principal as a full-time curriculum.
2. You must be passing at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent as of each Friday during the grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.
3. You must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for at least 10 to 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day report cards are issued. If your school has four grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 15 school days; if your school has six grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 10 school days.

### **All-Star Contests and National High School/Interscholastic Championships**

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for one year if you participate in an all-star contest in that sport or if you participate in a contest to qualify for and/or determine a



single national high school/interscholastic individual champion or championship team in that sport.

**Out-of-Season Participation**

Almost all P.I.A.A. sports have a defined season. If your team conducts practice and/or plays a contest outside that P.I.A.A. defined season, your school will be penalized.

See website for further information about PIAA Rules and Regulations

[www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)

# **Sports and Coaches in the Uniontown Area School District**

## **Grades 7-8, Head Junior High School Coaches**

### **Basketball, Boys and Girls**

A. J. McMullen – Don Bell, Jr., Emile Etheridge  
Ben Franklin – Robert Keslar, Lisa Filipone  
Lafayette – Harold Clay, Beth Morgan

### **Cross Country, Boys and Girls**

A. J. McMullen – Paul Garner  
Ben Franklin – Joseph T. Carei  
Lafayette – Joseph T. Carei

### **Football**

A. J. McMullen – Paul Jeffries  
Ben Franklin – Jason Kushak  
Lafayette – William Dice

### **Soccer, Boys and Girls**

A. J., BF, Lafayette - April Dowling, Laura Voelker

### **Swimming, Co-ed**

A. J. , BF, Lafayette – Bradley Nepa

### **Track, Boys and Girls**

A. J. McMullen – Paul Garner  
BF, Lafayette – Aaron Scott

### **Wrestling**

A. J. McMullen – Jess Rice  
Ben Franklin/Lafayette – Jason Kushak

# Sports and Coaches in the Uniontown Area School District

## Grades 9-12

## Head Coach

### **Baseball**

Rob Kezmarsky

### **Basketball**

Boys' Varsity

Rob Kezmarsky

Boys' Freshman

Aaron Scott

Girls' Varsity

Jason Winfrey

### **Cross Country**

Joe Everhart

### **Football**

Varsity

John Fortugna

Freshman

Chris Baker

### **Golf**

Aaron Scott

### **Soccer**

Boys

Matt Girod

Girls

Eric Dolfi

### **Softball**

Harold Clay

### **Swimming**

Boys

Rian Davis

Girls

Terri Williams

### **Track**

Boys

Keith Jeffries

Girls

Robert Manges

### **Wrestling**

Varsity

Mike Simon

Freshmen

Jerry Simon

### **Volleyball**

Dario Piccolomini

# Parent's Guide to HighSchoolSports.Net

## HighSchoolSports.Net

### Schedule Star

#### Schedule Once, Use Everywhere!

©1999-2005 Athletic Organizational Aids Parent Guide to HSS

HighSchoolSports.Net is a great resource for your school's schedules and athletic information. Use it today to keep up to date on your favorite teams!

HighSchoolSports.Net offers complete and up-to-date scheduling information directly from your school's athletic office. Several features are available FREE to you to help you manage your athletic schedules.

You can access your school's site on HighSchoolSports.Net directly from your school's web site, [www.uniontown.k12.pa.us](http://www.uniontown.k12.pa.us), or you can go to [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net), choose your state, then choose your school. These features are available for any HighSchoolSports.Net school that is highlighted in green.

At the top of the opening page of your school's site is the school name and contact information, as well as the local weather report. Today's Events is a list of events happening in your school today. The calendar shows this week's activities.

If you "roll over" an event with your mouse pointer, a small screen will pop-up to provide you with even more information about the event with facility scheduled for the event and transportation depart and return times.

You can click on "Click here to view the Month" to see the entire current month and to view other months. At the bottom of the page are a number of options.

On the left, choose a team from the list. When the team's schedule is displayed, you can download the team's schedule into your handheld or Microsoft's Outlook by clicking on PDA/Outlook Sync. Clicking on any school's name underlined in blue will take you to MapQuest.com for directions to that school. This is also where you go to view game scores.

If you sign up for *Change Notifications*, you will get an email or a message on your cell phone letting you know that a game has been postponed or cancelled.

The first step is to sign up. You will get an email with instructions to complete the sign up procedure and to choose what team you want to receive notices for. You can log in at any school on HighSchoolSports.Net and sign up for any amount of teams. To change what teams you receive notices for, go to that particular school, log in and change your preferences.

You can also add your cell phone or pager number or extra email addresses.

## Promote, Protect and Conserve...

---

- Emergency card/authorization for each athlete must accompany the athlete at all times.
- The card for each athlete should be carried in the first-aid kit for each sport.
- The card for each athlete should be readily accessible to the coach, trainer, and emergency personnel.
- Prior to the start of each sport, the card for each athlete should be reviewed for completeness by the coach/trainer/Athletic Director and any other medical personnel.
- Include emergency phone numbers and significant medical history.

*Please complete the information below prior to participation in each sport's season:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_

*In case of accident or emergency, please contact:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Beeper: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Existing Circulatory/Pulmonary

Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Diabetes: \_\_\_\_\_

Inhalers: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Allergic

Reactions: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications Being Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Tetanus Immunization: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Pertinent Information: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Emergency Contact Telephone Number of Family

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to

Treat: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Parent/Guardian*

## STUDENT / PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**This form must be signed and submitted to the student-athlete's coach prior to sports participation each school year. The coach is to forward this form to the office of the Athletic Administrator where they will be kept on file.**

I/ we have read the entire Student Athletic Handbook. I/ we understand the expectations that the Uniontown Area School District and the PIAA has for all student-athletes, and will do my/ our best to see that these standards are met. I/ we are cognizant of all consequences for any violation of the rules set forth in this handbook.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_