



Twinsburg City School District Athletic Handbook 2016/2017 School Year

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
Phone: 330-486-2480

www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us

Follow us on Twitter: @TwinsburgTigers

Brian Fantone, Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities

Twinsburg Athletics Phone Numbers

Twinsburg Athletic Department	Phone: 330.486.2481 Fax: 330.486.2399 Email: bfantone@twinsburgcsd.org
Twinsburg HS Main Office	Phone: 330.486.2400
RBC Athletic Office	Phone: 330.486.2319 Email: dschwed@twinsburgcsd.org
RBC Main Office	Phone: 330.486.2281
Twinsburg Board of Education Office	Phone: 330.486.2000

***All athletic schedules and forms can be found online at
www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us***

Superintendent
Treasurer
Business Manager

Kathryn Powers
Martin Aho
Chad Welker

Twinsburg High School (grades 9 – 12)

Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Activities
THS Principal
THS Assistant Principals

Brian Fantone
Louise Teringo
Alex Popovich
Michael Silverthorn
Timothy Sullen
Erin Benson
Tonia Brennen
Chris Shaffer

Athletic Secretary
Assistant AD- THS
Site Coordinator- THS

RB Chamberlin Middle School (grades 7 & 8)

Assistant AD- RBC
RBC Principal
RBC Assistant Principal

Dominic Schwed
James Ries
Michael King

Affiliations

The Twinsburg City School District is a member in good standing with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). The Athletic Department complies with all OHSAA regulations. The Twinsburg City School District is a part of the Suburban League (National Division).



Suburban League Members

National Division:

Brecksville-Broadview Heights
Cuyahoga Falls
Hudson
Nordonia
North Royalton
Stow-Munroe Falls
Twinsburg
Wadsworth

American Division:

Aurora
Barberton
Copley
Highland
Kent Roosevelt
Revere
Tallmadge



Suburban League Regular Season Ticket Price Policy

(Prices determined by conference)

Ticket Prices are subject to change by League or Board of Education.

A. RBC Athletic Events: Adults: \$2.00; Students: \$1.00

B. Freshmen Athletic Events: Adults: \$3.00; Students: \$2.00

D. JV/Varsity Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball, Swimming, and Gymnastics:

1. Adults: \$6.00

2. Students (K-12): \$4.00

3. Varsity Football – All tickets \$6.00 (student only pre-sale - \$4.00)

THS Student Passes - \$50.00 per year. This pass is good for one student admission to all home contests. Student passes are non-transferable.

THS Adult Passes- \$90 per year. This pass is good for one adult admission to all home contests.

THS “2” Adult Pass- \$160 per year. This pass is good for two adult admissions to all home contests.

*Twinsburg High School Athletic Passes can be purchased in the THS Athletic Office.

*Senior Citizens (Age 60 and older) as well as Preschool Age Students (Age 5 and under) will be admitted to all home contests free of charge.

Athletic Activities Offered

**Indicates Middle School Program*

Fall Sports:

Cheerleading*
Cross Country *
Football*
Boys Golf
Girls Golf
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Girls Tennis
Volleyball*

Winter Sports:

Boys Basketball*
Girls Basketball*
Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling
Cheerleading*
Gymnastics
Ice Hockey
Swimming
Wrestling*

Spring Sports:

Baseball*
Softball*
Boys Tennis
Track & Field*

Twinsburg Athletic Department Philosophy

Competitive sports are an integral part of the total educational program for students in the Twinsburg City School District. Interscholastic athletics provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in activities that promote growth, maturity, and development, social and recreational skills as well as an opportunity to develop leadership qualities.

The major emphasis of interscholastic athletics is skilled play and good sportsmanship. Every attempt will be made to provide favorable playing conditions so that the competitive experiences of our athletes may be fulfilling, and result in the attainment of positive attitudes and conduct. Interscholastic athletics are a privilege, not a right.

A student becomes subject to the Twinsburg City School District athletic rules & guidelines and the rules of the Ohio High School Athletic Association upon registering in the school district and expressing an interest in a specific sport to the coach. In addition, all athletes are expected to follow the specific rules associated with individual athletic teams on which they participate.

Documents to be Completed by Students and Parents

There are four (4) documents that need to be completed by the student and parent/guardian before any student can try out and/or play for each specific season.

1. OHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form
2. Twinsburg City School District Emergency Medical Form/Agreement of Risk
3. OHSAA Concussion form
4. Twinsburg City School District Athletic Handbook form

Physicals are good for one year from the date of the exam. All forms must be filed with the Athletic Department. *Forms can be obtained on the district website: www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us*

Pay-to-Participate Details

The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education has instituted Pay-to-Participate Fees for all athletic teams/activities. Athletic fees must be paid prior to the due date for each season for the student-athlete to be a participating member of a team. Pay-to-Participate Fees do not guarantee a student-athlete's playing time, and the expectation of a certain amount of playing time should not be communicated to coaching staffs. The due dates for Pay-to-Participate Fees during the 2016-2017 school year are as follows:

Fall Sports:	Monday, August 8, 2016
Winter Sports:	Monday, November 14, 2016
Spring Sports:	Monday, March 13, 2017

Information about Pay-to-Participate Fees can be found at: www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us

Academic Eligibility

(Interscholastic-Athletic Eligibility Policy)

In the Twinsburg City School District, students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports. In order for a student to remain an active participant in athletic activities, he/she must maintain a certain level of academic achievement.

The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education shall determine the academic standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the extra-curricular activities/interscholastic athletic programs. In addition to the eligibility requirements, any student participating in interscholastic athletics must also meet the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Academic Eligibility Standard:

1. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five courses or the equivalent, which counts toward graduation or promotion to the next grade level.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Academic Eligibility Standard for R.B. Chamberlin Middle School is the same as the high school standard. Exception: – All incoming 7th graders shall be eligible for the fall sports season.

2. Students are only eligible 4 years from the date they enter high school.

The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education Academic Eligibility Standards are as follows:

1. Students must maintain at least a 1.25 grade point average for the grading period preceding the grading period in which she/he wishes to participate.

2. Students must be passing five (5) total credits for the grading period preceding the grading period in which she/he wishes to participate.

NCAA Eligibility/Clearinghouse

Students who have questions about playing collegiate athletics should schedule an appointment with their guidance counselor & Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities to ensure all necessary coursework and requirements are known and met. The Athletic Department along with the head coaches will handle communication from potential college recruiters and pass along necessary information to student-athletes and parents as it becomes available.

NCAA Clearinghouse/Eligibility Website: www.eligibilitycenter.org

Guidelines for Evaluating Athletes

During the preseason meeting, each coach will explain the criteria used to evaluate student athletes during a tryout. A conference will be held by the head coach with the student regarding the rationale for being cut from any team following a tryout.

Playing More Than One Sport in a Season

A student-athlete who wishes to participate in two sports during the same season must gain the approval of the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities prior to practicing with both sports. The following criteria must be met before approval will be given:

1. Approval from the parent or guardian.
2. The student-athlete shows evidence of strong academic achievement that would not be compromised by participating in two sports in the same season.
3. Both head coaches must agree the student-athlete would be capable of competing in each sport and would be able to have sufficient practice time for skill development.
4. The student-athlete must decide on a primary sport that would take priority if schedule conflicts occur. Both head coaches must agree on the student-athlete's choice of primary sport.

Ineligible Athletes

The Twinsburg City School District recognizes the positive value that an ineligible athlete can gain from partially participating with a team. An ineligible athlete will be permitted to practice with a team if the athlete meets with the head coach and Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities prior to a season and all parties agree. The ineligible athlete must accept and understand that they may not get as much practice time as the eligible athletes. The student will be expected to attend contests and support the team from the bench or sideline area, but they will not be allowed to dress for contests. The student athlete will also be required to ride on district transportation to and from away contests and pay the Pay-to-Participate fee as all other athletes.

Quitting or Dismissal from a Team

It is the expectation of the Twinsburg City School District Athletic Department that once an official roster for a team has been determined; all members of that team will participate through the completion of the season. The completion of the season will be defined as the last contest of the season for the specific identified team. If a team member is dismissed from the team or quits the team, that student is not permitted to attend open gyms or open fields, organized conditioning or try out for another sport until the previous season is complete. In addition, athletes who quit or have been dismissed from a team will not receive a refund of their Pay-to-Participate Fees.

Coaches' Daily Responsibilities

- Maintain open, honest and frequent communication including updates about schedules as necessary
- Develop and demonstrate a good knowledge base of best practices specific to their coaching area.
- Model and teach skills necessary to succeed on and off the athletic field of play.
- Support and recognize student academic expectations, responsibilities, and achievements.
- Connect athletic experiences with life experiences.
- Provide an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration among coaches and players.
- Become an integral part of and developing rapport with the Twinsburg City School District community, including administration, coaches, parents, and students.
- Model good sportsmanship at all times.
- Create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for student-athletes.
- Promote and enforce the student athlete/activity code of conduct and OHSAA rules.

Athletes' Daily Responsibilities

- Be on time, be dependable, and communicate with the coaching staff.
- Show sportsmanship at all times.
- Be as energetic and positive as you can be at all times.
- Be a model citizen in school and throughout the community.
- No profanity or any expression of a lack of class.
- Refrain from arguing with other teams' players, coaches, or game officials.
- Give the coaching staff and the game your undivided attention at all times.
- Work hard and become the best player, teammate, and person you can be.

Parents' Daily Responsibilities

- Set an example of sportsmanship in regards to opponents and game officials
- Provide a positive environment for our players by encouraging and cheering on our teams
- Encourage your athlete to work hard and be positive about their team and their abilities.
- Please allow the coaches to coach during games and refrain from coaching your athlete from the stands.
- Communicate with the coaching staff in regards to concerns you feel need addressed. Open lines of communication will only help the athlete become the best they can be.
- Communicate with the coaching staff any concerns regarding your student-athlete's health concerns.
- Enjoy the season and this exciting time in your student-athlete's life...GO TIGERS!

Team Apparel/Uniforms

All team uniforms must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities and purchased through the school district's athletic account. Supplemental apparel for a team (including slogans) must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities and will be purchased through individual sports accounts within the school district and/or Twinsburg Athletic Boosters.

Equipment Policy

All equipment must be returned to the coach once the season has ended. If any equipment or uniform originally issued by number to an athlete is not returned, the athlete will be charged. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice sessions, scheduled games or other events authorized by the school.

Dress Code on Game Days

Dress codes for Game Days are at the discretion of the head coach of each program. As a member of a team, a student-athlete is expected to adhere to the Game Day expectations of each coaching staff. When student-athletes choose not to follow the expectation, athletic discipline may be applied by head coaches.

Varsity Letter Requirements for Each Sport

Each head coach will communicate written guidelines regarding Varsity letter requirements prior to a season beginning to student-athletes and parents. If there are questions regarding how a Varsity letter is obtained, student-athletes and parents are encouraged to speak with the head coach of the program to receive clarification. Individual sport requirement summaries for a Varsity letter are as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Baseball:</i> | Participate in or fulfill a planned role in 50% of the games at the Varsity level |
| <i>Boys' and Girls' Basketball:</i> | Participate in 50% of the quarters at the Varsity level |
| <i>Boys' and Girls' Bowling:</i> | Participate in 50% of the matches at the Varsity level |
| <i>Cheerleading:</i> | Complete the Varsity season in good standing. Good standing is defined as attending and participating in all practices and contests as directed by the coach. |
| <i>Cross Country:</i> | Finish amongst the top 7 Twinsburg runners in 50% of the scheduled races or meet the preseason time standard of 18:15 for the boys and 22:15 for the girls |
| <i>Football:</i> | Start in at least 5 games, or play in at least 20 quarters at the Varsity level |

Boys' and Girl's Golf:	Participate in 50% of the matches at the Varsity level
Gymnastics:	Participate in all team activities including practices, games, conditioning, and team events and participate in 50% of the meets
Hockey:	Participate in all team activities including practices, games, conditioning, and team events and participate in 50% of the games
Boys' and Girls' Soccer:	Participate in at least 8 halves at the Varsity level
Softball:	Participate in or fulfill a planned role in 50% of the games at the Varsity level
Swimming:	Achieve a time standard that places the athlete in the top 4 of that event for meets
Diving:	Score 20 points in a season for the team OR score 150 or 250 6 dives or 11 dives respectively OR qualify to the District team
Boys' and Girls' Tennis:	Participate in at least 5 matches at the Varsity level throughout the season
Boys' and Girls' Track:	Accumulate 12 points in dual and invitational meets throughout the season. In addition, a letter can be earned by meeting specified time/height/distance in an event at least two times throughout a season. These standards will be communicated during the preseason each track season.
Volleyball:	Participate in at least 50% of the matches at the Varsity level
Wrestling:	Participate in 15 Varsity matches or 15 wrestled wins (Varsity & JV)

****Head Coach's discretion, with the collaboration of the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities, may also be used to award Varsity letters for each sport***

Varsity Letter Award Information

- 1st year- A Varsity "T" letter and sports swiss/class number. One letter awarded
- Participant receives a sports swiss for 2nd and 3rd Varsity sports
- 2nd year in any one sport- metal pin
- 3rd year in any one sport- 3rd year plaque and metal pin
- 4th year in any one sport- 4th year plaque and metal pin
- Students who do not receive a Varsity letter in a specific sport will receive a participation certificate for each sport of which they are a member.

Athletic Participation Awards

In order to receive a school issued athletic award an athlete must be a member in good standing of the team until the last athlete has competed or the last contest has been completed. Good standing is defined as attending and participating in all practices and

contests as directed by the head coach. Individual sports programs within the Athletic Department will communicate requirements to attain a Varsity letter in that sport prior to a season beginning. At the end of each season, the Athletic Department will host a banquet honoring the accomplishments of our student-athletes.

Attendance in School

Players must be in school half of the day (AM or PM) of a practice/contest in order to participate in the practice/contest on that day. Medical appointments, funerals, or other special circumstances may be excused if approved by the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities or Principal.

Attendance at Practice and Contests

Individual attendance policies for each sport will be communicated to all student-athletes and parents prior to the start of an athletic season. When a student-athlete is involved in multiple school activities that meet/practice at identical times, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate with their advisors/coaches to work out a plan that is agreed upon by all parties which allows the student to be an active member in both groups.

Vacation Policy

Each head coach will communicate their expectation in regards to attendance and vacations as a part of their preseason student-athlete/parent meeting as well as provide the expectations in writing prior to the season starting to athletes & parents.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as doing any act of coercing another, including the victim to do any act of initiation, which causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

An athlete found guilty of hazing will be punished with immediate dismissal from the team, school administrative action will also be taken.

Game, Practice & Locker Room Conduct

A student-athlete shall not act in a manner detrimental to the team or the Twinsburg City School District. The following are examples of, but not limited to detrimental behavior:

Insubordination/Disrespect, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Inappropriate Language, Gestures, Profanity and Abusive Language, Horseplay, Out of Designated Area.

Minimum Consequences – Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities and Coach discretion.

Maximum Consequences – Suspension for the remainder of the season.

Drug/Alcohol Use

The Federal Drug Administration recognizes that the use and abuse of mind-altering chemicals/alcohol poses a significant health risk for individuals and can affect health, academics, and performances. Students participating in any activity will not at any time possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, be under the influence of nor have on their breath, any drug, look-alike drug, counterfeit drug, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or anabolic steroid. Medication authorized by a licensed physician is not considered in violation of this provision. A student judged to be in violation of the substance use/abuse terms above will incur the following consequences:

1st Offense:

1. Exclusion from all inter-scholastic or extracurricular-activities for a period of time equal to 30% of the scheduled contests/performances. This exclusion could extend into the next season if the infraction occurs at the end of a given season/activity. Provided a student is not also suspended from school, he/she may attend all practice sessions, contests and performances during the period of the exclusion, but may not participate in contests or performances. If the suspension is served in the next season, the student must be listed on the team/activity's active roster at the completion of that season and must attend the team/activity's end of the season awards ceremony, if applicable.
2. The student must undergo a professional assessment by a certified agency and comply with the recommendations of such an assessment. Proof of said assessment must be provided to Athletic Director/Coordinator of K12 Student Activities upon completion. (TCSD will not incur the cost of said assessment)
3. Both 1 & 2 must be completed for extracurricular re-instatement.

2nd Offense:

1. Exclusion from all inter-scholastic or extracurricular activities for a period of time equal to one calendar year. During this exclusion the student may not attend practice sessions, contests, and performances.
2. The student must undergo a professional assessment by a certified agency and comply with the recommendations of such an assessment. Proof of said assessment must be provided to Athletic Director/Coordinator of K12 Student Activities upon completion. (TCSD will not incur the cost of said assessment)
3. The student must participate in and successfully complete a drug/alcohol education program. Proof of attending said program must be provided to Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities upon completion. (TCSD will not incur cost of said program)
4. Both 1 & 2 must be completed for extra-curricular re-instatement.

3rd Offense:

1. Permanent exclusion.

*Self-Referral: A student who voluntarily seeks help with a drug/alcohol/substance problem

prior to being cited for violation may avoid the imposition of disciplinary action. This provision will be honored if the student voluntarily and fully participates in an assessment and complies with the recommendations of the assessment. Exclusions from participation will occur until the assessment phase is completed.

Criminal Activity

Felonies (Including Felonies Relating to Drugs or Alcohol): A student who is arrested for, or charged with a felony or charged with an act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult shall be automatically suspended from all athletic/extracurricular activities. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities. The student shall remain suspended until: (1) The charges are completely dismissed; (2) The charges are reduced to a misdemeanor in which case the student may be subject to penalties outlined for misdemeanors for alcohol/drugs; (3) The student is found not guilty; or (4) The student successfully completes the consequences assigned by the judge and agreed to by the student, including probation or diversion. Evidence that the probation period has expired, fines have been paid and/or community service has been completed is required.

If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted, that student should present documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances will be considered but may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

Criminal Activity Not Related to Drugs and Alcohol: A student who is arrested for, charged with, or found guilty of a misdemeanor shall receive consequences as outlined below. However, minor offenses that result in fines alone may be dealt with in the discretion of the Principal or designee. However, any student who is accused of a misdemeanor alcohol/drug offense or a misdemeanor DUI will receive consequences as explained in the Drug & Alcohol section of the handbook.

1st and Subsequent Offenses: Minimum suspension from activities for one (1) school week up to a maximum of permanent suspension from extracurricular activities, at the discretion of the Principal or designee.

If the student produces proof that the charges are completely dismissed or the student is found not guilty, these consequences may be lifted. If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted, that student should present documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances will be considered but may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

Sportsmanship

The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process, as well as the values that young people develop when they participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom. Participants involved in Board-approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate and adhere to the same behavioral expectations set forth by the Student Athlete/Activity Code of Conduct. Students are to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior during practice and competitions as these activities are recognized as an extension of the Twinsburg City School District's educational program.

The Board further encourages the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community. Administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups, and support/booster groups are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship.

- *Sportsmanship is a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment for fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.*
- *Sportsmanship is a blending of cheers for 'your team' and applause for the opponents, observing the letter and spirit of the rules and showing consideration for others.*
- *Sportsmanship is the "golden rule" of athletics – treating others as you wish to be treated.*
- *Sportsmanship is demonstrating respect for the opponents and the Officials at all times.*
- *Sportsmanship is maintaining self-control at all times.*
- *Sportsmanship is respect; respect for yourself and others.*

Coaches and both teams shake hands at the end of the contest. Cheerleaders have the opportunity and responsibility to promote sportsmanship. Administrators must establish the importance of the fundamentals of sportsmanship in the minds of the entire learning community and all those associated with Twinsburg City School District activities.

Good will and sportsmanship are expected from students who conduct themselves appropriately and honorably. Displays of anger, resentment, or loss of control are contrary to the intent and nature of any activities. Only positive cheers are acceptable, cheer for our team and do not berate opponents or officials. All students must stay in the Twinsburg student section at all athletic events and contests. Failure to abide by these regulations may result in suspension of the privilege to attend extracurricular activities and possible additional formal disciplinary consequences. Disciplinary action for violation of this expectation will follow the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) un-sportsmen like consequences.

Transportation

It is the responsibility of the Twinsburg City School District to provide transportation to and from all out of district athletic contests. Our school district requires student-athletes and other participants in interscholastic athletic events to travel with their school teams in school authorized vehicles. When extenuating circumstances arise that require a parent to drive a student-athlete to/from an athletic event, communication to the Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities is required prior to that event taking place.

Locker Room Admittance

Only coaches, players, trainers, and team personnel are allowed in the locker room area before, during, and after games. Student-athletes are encouraged to lock their personal belongings in their assigned locker/locker room at all times. The coaches will keep locker rooms locked at all times in which locker rooms are not being used.

Communicating Concerns

There are appropriate and inappropriate times for student-athletes or parent/guardians to meet with a coach to discuss specific concerns. Please refrain from approaching coaches during practices or on Game Days, and allow the communication to take place the following day. You are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the coach to discuss your concerns. Contact the coach first; they can directly address the concern. If your concerns are not addressed, please contact the Head Varsity Coach, then Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities, then principal if needed.

Twinsburg City School District Athletic Department Handbook Receipt Form

(Please return completed form to the RBC Athletic Office or to the THS Athletic Office)

I acknowledge receipt and have read and reviewed the information outlined in the Twinsburg City School District Athletic Department Handbook. I agree to abide by the rules/regulations set forth in the handbook, recognizing that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege, not a right. I will do my best on a daily basis to work hard and improve myself, my teammates, and the entire Athletic Department with a positive attitude, strong morals, and excellent sportsmanship.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

