



# FORFEITURE/ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

With the increase of forfeitures due to student eligibility, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has adopted the following guidelines in dealing with these issues. The **FINAL DECISION**, regardless of guidelines, will rest with the Executive Board.

## INDIVIDUALS

Generally speaking, an individual athlete will not be stripped of a medal or plaque that he/she received, unless the Executive Board deems it necessary. If time permits, the student will be ruled ineligible for All-Conference recognition and the ability to play in the all-star game should there be one. However, if the results have already been released or awarded, or the all-star game has been played, the recognition will stand.

In the event of a meet such as cross country, track, golf, swimming, or wrestling, the individual will be removed from the standings and that place declared vacated. No other place finisher will be elevated. Should the points earned by that individual affect the team awards, the standings (championship/runner-up) will be adjusted accordingly.

## TEAMS

Should time permit, the tournament pairing will be redone to eliminate the team in question. This will be determined by the Executive Board, the Executive Secretary, and the sport committee/director. Should schools already have busses in place, venues prepared, and the time frame will not allow reasonable restructuring, the pairing will remain.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION

If the competition has been head to head (basketball, volleyball) the following will occur. The school in question will forfeit their trophy, their overall points, and any monetary reimbursement they might receive.

If they were the winner, the defeated team will be elevated and their former position declared vacant.

If they were the loser, their position will be declared vacant.

## STANDINGS

In the event of softball and baseball (no head-to-head competition past champion/runner-up), the team in question will forfeit their position and the remaining teams will be moved up to fill the vacated slot.

## OVERALL CHAMPIONS

Since five places are necessary to fairly determine the overall champion, the Executive Board will review each case in question and award the points in accordance with these guidelines.

**ALL MEMBER SCHOOLS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CAREFULLY, CAREFULLY, CAREFULLY CHECK THE ELIGIBILITY OF EVERY ATHLETE.** If any doubt exists, the safest procedure is to contact your State association and request a ruling **BEFORE** the student/athlete participates. Student/athletes **SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED** for an adult not carefully doing his/her job.

**[Adopted: 03.23.11]**