

### **5450.1 Retirement of Athletic Jerseys**

The retirement of an athlete's jersey is one of the highest honors a high school can bestow on a student athlete. Although the honor is represented in the athletic arena, it must also recognize that the student is a member of an academic community and shall have the accompanying responsibilities incumbent with that membership. Consequently, such an honor shall reflect the athletic as well as academic achievements of a successful candidate. The recipient shall be a model for future student athletes.

The following criteria is not meant to be all-inclusive, but instead must be considered basic requirements for all candidates. Additional criteria can be considered if they provide a clearer picture of the character, academic, and athletic ability of the candidate. The criteria to be considered are:

- Be considered a good student in high school and the recipient of a high school diploma;
- Possess a positive public image while in high school and after graduation;
- Be a school record holder in their respective sport
- Be a member of a State championship team or runner up, or an All-State selection, or a respectable honor in the conference to which they belong
- Continue participating in the sport at a 2- or 4-year college or university upon graduation from high school or be drafted by or invited to a professional team after high school or college.

#### **Procedure**

1. A coach or staff member shall put a nomination in writing with all supporting documentation why they believe the student athlete deserves this honor. It shall be submitted to the Athletic Director and High School Principal for review.
2. The School Administrators shall review the application with special attention given to the academic successes. If agreed upon that the candidate meets the criteria, the packet shall be sent to the Superintendent for review.
3. If the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation, he/she shall submit the packet to the School Board of Education for final approval.
4. The honor shall be the retirement of the student athlete's jersey.

The retirement of the jersey does not require the actual number to be retired, just the jersey. This allows for the Athletic Director to continue to order uniforms without issue. If at any time the Board of Education determines the student athlete, who was honored with the retirement of their jersey, no longer meets the criteria listed above or has become a person of reduced character, the Board of Directors has the authority to rescind the honor and

**return the jersey and number back to being eligible to be worn. Any artifacts associated with the retirement of the jersey shall also be removed.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 4 May 2023**