

Bellefontaine Middle School Athletic Code

Philosophy

Bellefontaine City School Board of Education, the school administration and the athletic department strongly believe that certain standards of behavior, scholarship and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. These expectations, sometimes more stringent than those required of an individual outside of athletics, are placed upon someone who presents himself/herself as a member of an athletic team or squad. It is also believed that the athlete has a strong influence in the school, the community and among his/her peers. It is further accepted that good habits of health, behavior, and scholarship are important to the athlete, the school and its athletic program.

Introduction

These teams/squads are recognized as being within the Bellefontaine Middle School Athletic Department:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Basketball (boys and girls) | 5) Track and Field (Boys and Girls) |
| 2) Cheerleading (Football and Basketball) | 6) Volleyball |
| 3) Cross Country (Boys and Girls) | 7) Wrestling |
| 4) Football | |

All participants of the teams/squads that are identified above are subject to the rules and regulations that are set forth by the individual sport, the BMS Athletic Department, Bellefontaine Middle School and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), where applicable. The rules and regulations stated in this code are a supplement to and an extension of the rules of the OHSAA, Bellefontaine City Schools and the Bellefontaine Middle School.

It is significant to state that participation in any extracurricular activity is a privilege rather than a right. Therefore, this privilege may be denied to the participant if specified or implied rules of conduct are violated.

The rules and regulations identified within this document are to become effective when the athlete initially becomes a participant in any organization that is recognized as part of the Athletic Department. They are to remain in effect throughout the school year until the individual is no longer a student at BMS or he/she is no longer a participant in any athletic program due to one of the following reasons:

- 1) The student elects to no longer participate in any athletic organization for the remainder of the school year,
- 2) The student is "cut" from a team or squad and does not participate in another one, or
- 3) The student is denied the privilege of participation in athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Eligibility

The eligibility standards pertaining to scholarship, age, residency, enrollment attendance, conduct, character, discipline, transfers, recruitment, etc. shall be those established by the OHSAA, except for those that either are not addressed by the OHSAA and consequently have been established by the school district or BMS, or those that have been made more stringent by the school district or BMS.

In order to be eligible for interscholastic competition, a student must be enrolled in Bellefontaine Middle School and must meet or exceed the following academic standards:

- 1) The athlete must have successfully passed 75% of the classes that he/she was enrolled in during the immediately preceding grading period.
- 2) The athlete must have achieved at least a 1.5 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grading scale during the immediately preceding grading period.

*A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time is eligible regardless of grades received in 6th grade. This is the one time that scholarship is not a requirement.

One's eligibility or ineligibility continues until the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. An exception to this rule is that eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period of the school year commences with the start of the fall sports season (which happens prior to the start of the school year).

The eligibility of a transfer student must be established by records or verification from the school from which the student is transferring. Such a student cannot be eligible for the first grading period at BMS until this information is received.

The responsibility for establishing eligibility lies with BMS and final determination of eligibility is the responsibility of the athletic director, associate principal or principal.

Study Tables:

Study tables are available and a requirement for all athletes who choose to stay after school. If an athlete is staying after school to wait for either practice or a game, they must report to study tables immediately following the second bell. This is a time to work on homework, get ahead in classes, or ask for extra help. All school rules, including use of cell phones, applies during study tables.

If an athlete is found wondering around the school or sitting in the locker room waiting for practice to start instead of going to study tables they will no longer be allowed to stay after school waiting for the activity. It will then be the responsibility of the athlete and the parent to return in time for the activity.

School Attendance

To participate in any school activity, contest or practice, a student must be present at school when it is in session. The determination of present is in attendance from at least 11:30 AM through the remainder of the school day. If a student has an early dismissal prior to 11:00 AM, they must return to school before the end of the school day in order to be considered present for the day. Any exception to this rule will be determined by school administration.

The question of participation on a day (Saturday or on a break) that is not a regular school day when the student was not present on the last day of school immediately preceding said day will be determined by school administration. The guideline for the decision will be if the absence is one for which the student would be permitted to make up the work in the classes missed (with the exception of being suspended from school).

Team Attendance

Attendance at all team functions is very important to the development of the athlete and the well-being of the team. Absences from or tardiness to these functions might jeopardize the athlete's participation time. The head coach or advisor will provide written rules pertaining to attendance requirements and the consequences of absences or tardiness. The rules may include being denied the privilege of participation for the remainder of the season or forfeiture of any recognition at the end of the season if they are repeatedly violated. Any member missing a practice or game must notify the coach. This notification does not automatically excuse the absence. The absence will be addressed following the provided team rules.

Quitting a Team

It is the belief of the Athletic Department that any student who becomes a member of a team should fulfill the commitment to that group. Therefore, quitting a team before the end of a season will have consequences. Failure to participate when scheduled to do so by the coach may be considered as quitting the team. Any student who does quit or for disciplinary reasons is denied the privilege of participation on an athletic team or squad once that team has started practicing will not be permitted to participate in another sport that season.

Concurrent Participation

An athlete cannot participate in an in-season sporting event not associated with the school team. If you are playing basketball for BMS, you cannot also play for a YMCA team. Participating in a non-school sport at the same time as a school sanctioned sport **MUST** be discussed with the coach prior to the season. If an athlete participates on a school sponsored team and a non-school sponsored team during the same season (cannot be the same sport according to OHSAA guidelines), the school sponsored team **MUST** be given first priority. Any missed practices or games will fall under the team rules of attendance and will not be excused.

Non-Interscholastic Participation

Athletes should consult with their respective coaches or the athletic director in regard to OHSAA rules pertaining to off-season games, tournaments, or practices in their respective sports. Any non-interscholastic participation in contests within a given sport is definitely prohibited during the season of that sport. Violations will result in the athlete being declared ineligible by the OHSAA and could result in forfeiture of games by the school's team.

Award Recognition

The awards program conducted at the conclusion of the season is considered to be an important team event and the athlete is required to attend it to complete the season and to receive his/her award. Any exception to this rule must have the approval of the head coach or advisor of the team or squad.

Release by a Doctor

Any athlete, who due to injury or illness is under a doctor's care, must furnish a written release from that doctor before being permitted to continue to participate or return to participation. This release must identify any restrictions in participation to be exercised or state that full participation is permitted.

Transportation

When the school district provides transportation for participants to travel to away contests, all team members are to ride in the provided vehicle both to and from the contest. An exception may be made for certain extenuating or emergency circumstances when the athlete rides with his/her parent/guardian and the parent/guardian has provided a written request to the coach or advisor in charge PRIOR to the event and at the discretion of the coach.

Equipment and Uniforms

Each athlete is responsible for any equipment/uniform that is issued to him/her. Provisions must be made by the athlete to place these items in a secure place. At the completion of each season or when the athlete ends his/her participation on the team/squad, all issued equipment and/or uniforms must be returned to the coach or advisor in charge. Any items that are the property of the Athletic Department which are not returned or are damaged through negligence or purposeful intent will become the financial responsibility of the athlete and his/her parent or guardian. The athlete will not be permitted to participate in any further athletic activity until this equipment/uniform has been returned and/or payment for damaged or non-returned items has been made. Also, the athlete may not be eligible for any awards at the end of the season until provisions have been made to account for the non-returned or damaged items.

Concussions

The State of Ohio has outlined the concussion protocol for all OHSAA sponsored events. Athletic Directors, Officials, and Coaches all have the responsibility to keep our athletes safe. For that reason, these individuals have the ability to assess an athlete's concussion symptoms and may remove them from competition. If removed, that athlete may not return to the contest, regardless of circumstances. The athlete may not return to practice until the steps outlined in the concussion by-laws are met. Please see the supplemental Concussion Course material given to every athlete.

Medical Liability

Any and all medical expenses that may arise as a result of participation in any athletic program shall be the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian. Therefore, all athletes must be covered by a Medical Insurance Plan in order to participate in practices or contests. This coverage may be provided by the parents' own family medical plan or by an alternative plan, such as a student insurance plan which may be purchased through the school's approved agency. Any change in the status of the athlete's coverage must be brought to the immediate attention of the athletic director or the head coach.

Documents

Each participant is required to submit the following completed documents to the athletic director before he/she may participate:

- 1) Physical Examination Form
- 2) Participation Contract
- 3) Medical Insurance Plan
- 4) Emergency Medical Authorization
- 5) OHSAA Concussion Policy Form

Each document must be signed by the participant (where applicable) and his/her parent or guardian in order to participate on a team or squad.

Detention

Any athlete, who has been assigned detention by a teacher, associate principal or principal must serve the assigned time. Having practice or a contest is not an excuse that can be used for failing to attend this disciplinary action. Participation is not to occur until the assigned detention has been served.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to inform his/her coach or advisor that he/she may be late. The coach or advisor may issue additional disciplinary measures for being late.

In School (SAP) or Out of School Suspension

If a student is assigned an In School Suspension (SAP), he/she may not participate in the practice or game on the day(s) of the SAP assignment. However, the athlete **IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND WITHOUT PARTICIPATING**. This absence will be considered an unexcused absence from practice in regards to the coach's attendance policy. A student who is issued an Out of School Suspension may not participate on the day(s) that the disciplinary action is in effect. If the final day of suspension is the final day school is in session for the week, the student may NOT participate over the weekend. This absence will be considered an unexcused absence from practice in regards to the coach's attendance policy.

Code of Conduct: Major Violations

For students enrolled in Bellefontaine Middle School, there will be no distinction made between Major Violations that occur during school hours, Major Violations that occur during the participation in an athletic event, practice, or activity, and a Major Violation that occurs outside of school hours. Athletes are to be held to the highest standard as to promote responsibility, citizenship, and team work. As such, there are primary and secondary rules that are the basis for the implementation of sanctions provided by the Bellefontaine Middle School Athletic Department.

Primary Rules

These rules are considered major and can be found in the BMS Student Handbook under Category I Major Misconduct. They will have immediate repercussion concurrent with the listed violations below.

- 1) No athlete will use, misuse, possess*, attempt to obtain, or offer for sale or use to another person any alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic drug, counterfeit drug, anabolic steroid, and/or a substance that produces toxic vapors that is not specifically prescribed by someone, such as a physician, who can legally prescribe such a substance. * Definition of Possession: A) On his/her person, in his/her locker or articles owned, worn, or transported by the athlete. B) In a vehicle or at a gathering unaccompanied by his/her parent or legal guardian where alcohol or drugs are being consumed. The athlete is to remove himself or herself immediately from the situation.
- 2) No athlete will use or possess tobacco in any form.

- 3) No athlete will steal, possess without consent of the owner, and/or vandalize or destroy school property or personal property belonging to someone else. (Full restitution by the violator to the owner will be part of the disciplinary procedure.)
- 4) No athlete will conduct a serious breach of sportsmanship prior, during or after an athletic contest.
- 5) No athlete will engage in fighting or physical aggression including, but not limited to: hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, scratching, and hair pulling.
- 6) No athlete shall use or poses a knife or gun (real or look-alike) or other object readily capable of causing bodily harm. This includes possession of ammunition
- 7) No athlete shall plan or participate in malicious burning of property
- 8) No athlete shall possess a substance or object readily capable of causing harm and/or property damage (lighters, matches, firecrackers, gasoline, lighter fluid)
- 9) No athlete shall deliver disrespectful messages (verbal or gestures) to another person that includes threats, intimidation, obscene gestures, pictures, written notes. Hazing includes any act enticing another to commit an act of initiation.
- 10) No athlete shall make a bomb threat or false alarm that is in violation of the law.
- 11) No athlete shall possess or distribute pornography in note, publications, pictures, or computers.
- 12) No athlete shall participate in an action that results in substantial destruction or disfigurement of property or any action that deliberately impairs the usefulness or appearance of property.
- 13) Other as dependent on Principal, Associate Principal, or Athletic Director discretion

Secondary Rules

These rules are considered Category II offenses and are found in the BMS Student Handbook under Category II Major Misconduct as well as Minor Misconduct. This category is given one (1) written warning. After the first offense in this category, the student will be incur repercussions concurrent with the listed violations below.

1. No athlete shall use verbal or written language which includes swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate manner.
2. No athlete shall refuse to follow directions or talk back to someone in authority.
3. No athlete shall engage in inappropriate displays of touching or other contact that can considered sexual in nature.
4. No athlete shall leave class or school grounds without proper permission.
5. No athlete shall deliver messages that are untrue or deliberately violating rules.
6. No athlete shall skip class or school without proper parent permission.
7. No athlete shall use school computers for any use that is not educational or that is not under the direction of a teacher or coach.
8. **No athlete shall use a personal communication device (cell phone, etc.) to spread unwanted and undesired messages. This includes time at school as well as time on the bus and time spent at home.**
9. No athlete shall violate the student dress code of the Student Handbook for BMS
10. No athlete shall be involved in any non-serious, inappropriate physical contact
11. Other as dependent on Principal, Associate Principal, or Athletic Director discretion

The sequence of violations of this code is to be cumulative in its consequences throughout the school year. A violation is not expunged at the end of a season. If a second violation of any area of this section of the code of conduct occurs, the violation will be considered to be at the next level regardless of the specific nature of the first violation.

First Violation: If an athlete is found to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct as described above and has been given due process, the consequences will be the denial of the privilege of participation in 10% of the total scheduled games. This is identified as:

Football: 1 Game

Volleyball: 2 Games

FB Cheerleading: 1 Game

Cross Country: 1 Meet

Basketball: 2 Games

Wrestling: 1 Meet

BB Cheerleading: 2 Games

Track: 1 Meet

Second Violation: If an athlete is found to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct as described above and has been given due process, the consequences will be the denial of the privilege of participation for 50% of the total number of contests a team has for the season.

Third Violation: If an athlete is found to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct as described above and has been given due process, the consequences will be the denial of the privilege of participation for the remainder of the school year.

*Note: Any games that are rescheduled, canceled, or otherwise changed after the consequence has been given will not affect the length of the suspension. If a player is to miss 4 games and the fourth game is canceled due to the weather, that is considered a game that was sat out and the athlete can participate in the next event. The exception of to this rule is if the suspension is only 1 game. This 1 game suspension must be served the immediately following match.

Hazing

The practice of hazing in any form will not be tolerated. Violations will be considered an infraction of the Major Violation section of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Due Process

All violations of the Athletic Code will be reported to the athletic director and the principal. A conference, which is to include the principal, athletic director, and the athlete and may also include the head coach and anyone else pertinent to the issue, will be held to determine the validity of the violation. If, at the conclusion of this conference, the athlete is determined to be in violation of the Athletic Code, the appropriate disciplinary action, as identified above, will be assigned. The parent/guardian of the athlete will be notified of the infraction and the subsequent disciplinary action. The denial of participation will begin following this notification. The parent or guardian has the right to appeal to the principal within one day following the notification.

Further Criteria for Participation

In addition to the rules that have been stated in the Athletic Code, there are other guidelines that may be unique to an individual sport or activity. Rules of this type must be given to the athlete and/or the parent/guardian by the head coach or advisor. A copy of these rules must be approved by the athletic director and on file in his/her office prior to distribution to the athletes. The head coach or advisor will address any infractions of these additional rules.