

Student Athlete Handbook

District Athletic Program

Beechwood Schools



ATHLETICS

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District Mission

To provide innovative education grounded in tradition

Beechwood Independent Schools Core Values:

- Challenging students to excellence through critical thinking, collaboration and creativity
- Fostering a culture of unity that inspires and empowers all students
- Providing a safe environment for learning
- Promoting open and respectful communication for all stakeholders

Welcome

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication, and sacrifices required when making this type of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our high school athletic programs. Beechwood Athletics hopes this document provides parents and students with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals, and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

Governing Bodies

Beechwood High School is a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), whose purpose is to organize, regulate, and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Kentucky. As a KHSAA member school, Beechwood abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards, which Beechwood High School does in many instances. We are in the 35th and 9th Region.

Athletic Program Philosophy

To promote safety, fairness and good sportsmanship at all levels of the District athletic program, coaches shall implement relevant policies and procedures of the Beechwood Board of Education, the SBDM council and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). All interscholastic and intramural athletic competition shall be in compliance with the constitution, bylaws, and competition rules of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) and Title IX requirements. As a condition to KHSAA membership, each member school and Superintendent shall annually submit a written certification of compliance with 20 USC Section 1681 (Title IX).

Coaches shall abide by:

- Policies adopted by the school council relating to evaluation of the athletic program that address program equity for both male and female athletics.
- Program implementation requirements developed by Superintendent/designee to promote compliance with Title IX requirements.

- Rules and limitations established by 702 KAR 7:065 and the local Board for students participating in middle school sports and sport activities.

It is the intent of the Board of Education that students participate in as many athletic activities for which they are eligible and their parents wish. To this end, coaches shall strongly encourage students to participate in all sanctioned sports programs offered by the school. It shall be the responsibility of all coaches to follow these guidelines:

- If student-athletes quit when faced with a possible suspension from eligibility or are removed from an activity for disciplinary reasons, they shall be ineligible to compete in another sport for the period of the disciplinary sanction imposed or for the period the sanction would have been imposed had s/he not quit.
- Student-athletes may participate in more than one (1) sport or sport activity during the same season, if both coaches are able to coordinate a student's schedule.

STUDENTS FIRST, ATHLETES SECOND

Future Changes

Although every effort will be made to update the handbook on a timely basis, Beechwood Schools reserve the right, and have the sole discretion, to change any policies, procedures, benefits, and terms of employment without notice, consultation, or publication, except as may be required by contractual agreements and law. The District reserves the right, and has the sole discretion, to modify or change any portion of this handbook at any time.

Program Goals

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to:

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values, and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Compete competitively with our district, region and state opponents.

Participation at the varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman) based on what would be most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

Standards of Participation

In order to participate in organized activities, all student-athletes must have the following:

- A valid physical examination signed by a physician to be held on file in the school clinician's office. Sports physicals are valid for one calendar year.
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and Beechwood High School.
- The Athletic Contract signed by both parent and athlete, to be held on file with Athletic Director.
- A confirmation of receipt and understanding of this handbook.

Physical Examinations

Each student seeking eligibility to participate in any school athletic or sport activity at the middle or high school level must pass an annual medical examination performed and signed by a medical practitioner as required by law. Consistent with guidelines issued by KHSAA or the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), the required physical examination and parental authorization shall include acknowledgement of receipt of information on the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the continuance of playing after concussion or head injury.

As an additional prerequisite, each student must have a permission form, signed by the parent/legal guardian, stating that the parents/guardians have read and acknowledged the eligibility guidelines for the prospective student athletes.

Commitment

Each member of an athletic team MUST:

- Dedicate him/her to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

Eligibility

- The student-athlete must be at grade level of his/her graduating class to participate. Participants cannot fail and repeat a grade; they must move with their class to the next grade level. Beginning at the freshman level, high school athletes are permitted to have (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility. Two semesters shall constitute a school year.
- A student must be less than 19 years of age prior to August 1st of the current school year to participate.
- Academic Requirements

last practice or home game. During weekends and times when school is not in session, the trainer is required to be on site only for contests and some scheduled practices.

The Athletic training program exists to help athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, however, the athletic trainer and athletic training room facilities are extremely busy. Consequently, access to the athletic training room and its services is limited to athletes who require care only. Athletic Training services are granted on a first come first serve basis on practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow transportation and or game commitments to be met. In the event of an injury, the athletic trainer is in immediate control. At away contests, if our athletic trainer is not present, the host school's athletic trainer is in charge. If no medical personnel are present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to take charge of the situation and if warranted, call for emergency care. All sport-related injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and a student cannot return to competition without clearance by the athletic trainer, which may also include written permission from a physician.

Transportation

When Beechwood High School provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the guardian during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all the student-athletes and insure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace. In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances, parents can take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son/daughter. A parent/guardian must present themselves to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian.

Private Transportation

In some cases, properly insured private vehicles may be used to transport student-athletes. When using a privately owned vehicle, the following must apply:

- An auto insurance affidavit must be filled out by the driver, verifying required insurance coverage. This form must be notarized and on file with head coach and District office.
- **While a student may transport themselves with proper parental approval, under no circumstances may a student transport any other student in connection with a school sponsored event.**

Athletic Trips

Parents/guardians are to be informed of the nature of all trips, the planned departure and return times, means of transportation, and any other relevant information. Parents must give written approval for students to participate in athletic trips.

KHSAA Dead Period

The KHSAA mandated dead period is from June 25th thru July 9th. There will be no organized team activities of any kind during this period. Coaches are prohibited from any contact with current or prospective student-athletes.

Hazing Policy

Hazing is not permitted in any form by any student organization or team at Beechwood High School. Individual students that are found guilty of hazing, organizing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to removal from the team/organization and may face disciplinary action as stipulated in the Student Code of Conduct.

By definition, hazing is considered a form of harassment and is typically an activity where a high-status member, upperclassman, team leader, or older team member orders other members to engage in, or suggests that they engage in, activities that in some way humbles or degrades a newcomer who may lack the power to resist, because he or she wishes to gain admission to the group. Hazing can be non-criminal and could happen on or off campus. It is the school's policy to prohibit any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student.

Individuals found guilty of hazing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to school disciplinary action which may include removal from the team and other penalties as stipulated in the Beechwood High School Student Code of Conduct. Student organizations which authorize or permit such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

Cutting of Participants

The coaching staff of each individual sport shall establish the process for deciding whether athletes will be "cut" during a tryout period during which the final composition of a team will be determined. If a coaching staff determines that "cuts" are necessary, they shall discuss with all athletes attending the tryouts the criteria to be used to evaluate the athletes during the tryout period. This procedure shall also describe the notification process that will be used to inform all athletes of their status following the tryout period. The coaching staff must make every effort to ensure that all athletes attending the tryouts clearly understand the criteria to be used to evaluate them.

The notification procedures used by the coaching staff should, if possible, include individual conferences with each athlete that does not make the final team. These conferences shall include feedback to the athletes on the areas where they might improve athletically and always ensure the dignity and growth of the individual student.

Drug-Free/Alcohol-Free/Tobacco-Free Schools

Beechwood is a drug-free/alcohol free/tobacco-free school. Students are expected to adhere to the policies in our Code of Conduct Section 8a - 8c.

As stated earlier in this document, student athletes will also need to sign and return the Student Athlete Contract before they can participate.

Student Discipline

All students participating in the athletic program shall abide by school rules and regulations, including provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, coaches may set additional reasonable team rules, provided those rules are given to students prior to the beginning of the season and students are required to return to the coach a form signed by both the student and the parent/guardian signifying their receipt of, and agreement to abide by the rules. Coaches shall keep these forms on file for the duration of the sports season.

Serious disciplinary problems shall be promptly reported to the Principal and to the parent(s) of the student.

For extreme offenses, the principal may suspend a student's eligibility to participate in an athletic activity, pending investigation of any allegation that the student has violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Students "Playing Up"

1. A middle school student (Volleyball or Basketball) OR 9th grader (all sports) may be elevated to a high school athletic team under the following conditions:

a. S/he must be a "starter" or have significant playing time.

- Volleyball – A middle school student may be elevated to the high school team. Principal or designee must receive "play up" request at least 1 week prior.
- Basketball – A middle school student may be elevated to the high school team. Principal or designee must receive "play up" request at least 1 week prior.

3. The Athletic Director must notify the principal once the determination is made that the student has qualified to play at the high school level.

4. The principal will determine athletic eligibility.

5. Once eligibility has been determined the following conditions should exist:

- a. student -athlete may practice with grade level AND "play up" level
- b. student -athlete may play contests with grade level AND "play up" level
- c. If there exists a practice time conflict between grade level and "play up" level, then student-athlete will practice with level that Head Coach determines (**Communicate directly to parents**)
- d. If there exists a game time conflict with grade level and "play up" level, then student-athlete will play with level that Head Coach determines (**Communicate directly to parents**)
- e. If the coach wants them to only "play up" (and they get significant playing time) then that is allowed based on coach decision. They must stay there for the entirety of the season while getting significant playing time for the entirety of the season.

**If a coach wants a student to play up and play with their grade they are permitted to do so. This exposes them to play up level (getting playing time) and also allows them to play with their grade level for chemistry/friendship purposes. If a coach chooses to do this then they must practice with both teams per team unity, chemistry, etc. That is a decision each coach will have to weigh out*

**In regards to the roster (# of capable players) and allowing athletes to play up. That will be a discussion as to the fairness/need for that level. In these circumstances, a direct conversation will be had with that coach so that the opportunities for play are equitable and fair.*

6. Head Coaches will be responsible to have an organized process and procedure to communicate the playing up of student athletes. This communication MUST involve the parents, affected coaches, and athletic director(s) prior to a practice or game change.

Middle School Eligibility

The following is related SOLELY to interscholastic play for grades 5-8 students in grades 6 through 8 play.

Through the completion of the 2014-2015 school year, policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below high school interscholastic athletics (below grade nine(9)) shall be determined by the school council pursuant to KRS 160.345 (2) (i).

Effective with the 2015-2016 school year, policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below high school interscholastic athletics shall be implemented pursuant to 702 KAR 7:065 as follows:

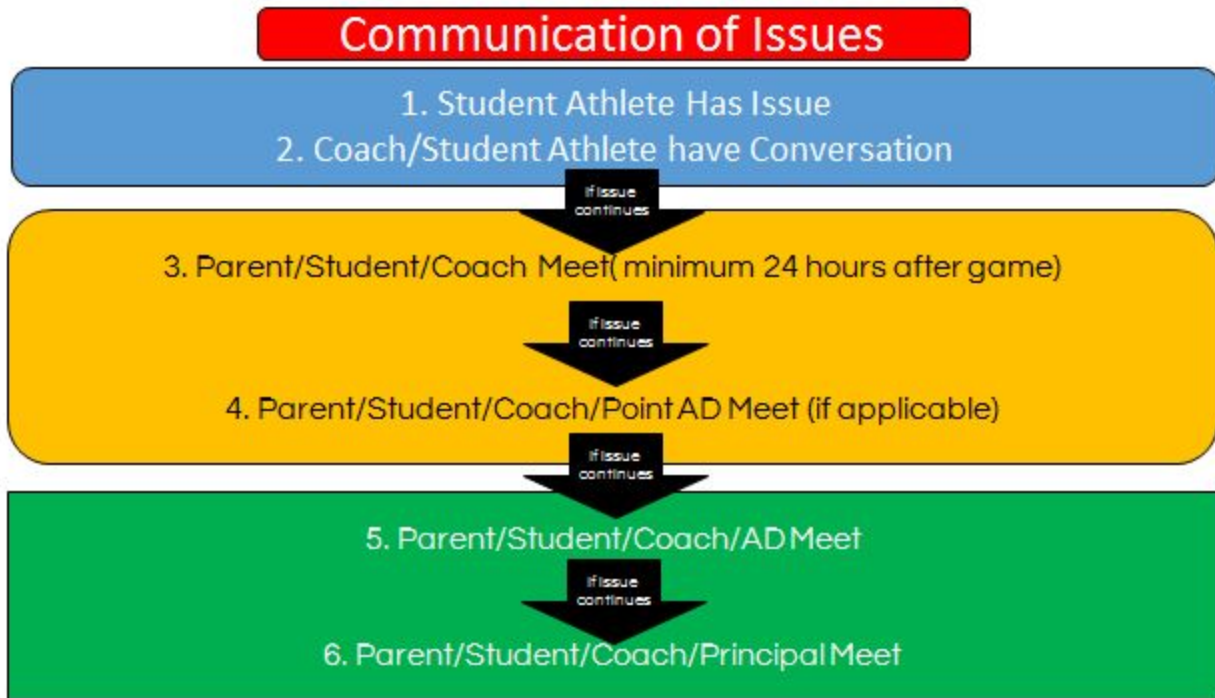
- Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and thereafter, require that no student enrolled initially in grade (5) through grade (8) during the 2015-2016 school year or thereafter who is repeating a grade for any reason be eligible to compete in interscholastic competition involving students enrolled in grades six (6) through eight (8) while repeating a grade;
- Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, require that a student who turns:
 - Fifteen (15) years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades eight (8) and below;
 - Fourteen (14) years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades seven (7) and below; and
 - Thirteen (13) years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades six (6) and below;

Sportsmanship

“The Kentucky High School Athletic Association requires officials to enforce sportsmanship rules for athletes and coaches. We will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash-talking, taunting or baiting of opponents. If such comments are heard or actions seen, a penalty will be assessed immediately. We have been instructed not to issue warnings. Let today’s contest reflect mutual respect.”

Beechwood High School expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials, and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Beechwood High School reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation, and suspend any player, fan, parent, or coach determined to acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please

Student-Athlete Inquiries/Issues



**Student Athlete Handbook Acknowledgement Form
2019-2020 School Year**

I, _____, have received a copy of the student athlete handbook.
Name

I have read and understand the information in this booklet. I understand and agree that I am to review this handbook in detail and to consult with my coach if I have any questions concerning its contents.

I understand that as a student athlete I am required to review and follow the information set forth in this handbook and rules disseminated by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and other governing bodies specific to the sport/s I play and I agree to do so.

Student-Athlete Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Return this signed form to your coach.

Beechwood High School
Student-Athlete Contract
2019-20

The purpose of this contract is to enhance the performance and experience of our student-athletes. The following rules and consequences are based on both the school Code of Conduct and fundamental values that enhance athletic performance. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky has deemed that usage by a minor (those under age of 21) of alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescription narcotics is illegal. However, we recognize that students make poor decisions and not permitting them to learn from their mistakes would go against the very mission this school is dedicated to doing. Keeping the school mission in mind, the following sanctions will be imposed on any athlete violating the athletic program tobacco (including vaping and e-cigarettes), alcohol, or drug policy:

1st OFFENSE: Loss of 10% of season with assessment before reinstatement. Student is permitted to practice.

2nd OFFENSE: Loss of 50% of season with assessment before reinstatement. Student is permitted to practice and will be referred to school guidance office for counseling.

3rd OFFENSE: Student will be dismissed from team for remainder of season and will not be permitted to participate in any other sport during that school year.

***Based on the severity of the offense, Beechwood Administration reserves the right to immediately proceed to a higher level of response**

Note that violations do not accumulate beyond one school year. Although rumors will not be the basis for restricting student participation, they will be addressed. If the athletic/activities director becomes aware that a student may be using or in possession of any of the above-mentioned substances, they will meet with the student to discuss the situation. Beechwood High School will investigate the concern, conduct due process and follow its general and athletic policies. If no evidence is found to support the expressed concerns, the matter will be dropped. Suspected use is not an accusation of use.

Parents and Students - KEEP THIS FORM

Beechwood High School Student Athlete Contract 2019-20

SPORT or ACTIVITY: _____

PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

As a participant in Beechwood High School athletics/activities, I have read and understand Beechwood's Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletics and Activities. I understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. I also agree to abide by all rules regarding the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Chemical dependency is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued drinking and substance use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use. Therefore, I accept and pledge to abide by the rules listed on the title page of this policy and others established by my coaches/sponsors.

Student Name Print

Student Signature & Date

PARENT'S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

I/We have read and understand Beechwood's Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletics and Activities. I/We understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. As a parent/guardian of a student participating in Beechwood High School athletics/activities, I/we will support our student's agreement to abide by all the school and team rules because chemical dependency is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued alcohol/tobacco/drug use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use.

With these things in mind, I/we hereby request that my/our student be allowed to participate in athletics/activities at Beechwood High School during this current school year.

Parents' Name Print

Parents' Signature & Date

*****Please turn completed form into head coach no later than 2 weeks prior to first game of season.**

