

Belle Vernon Area School District

Athlete/Guardian Manual



2016-17



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ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

BVA Student Athletic Handbook

BELLE VERNON AREA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS Summary of Varsity Sports

	GIRLS	BOYS
*FALL	5	4
*WINTER	3	2
SPRING	2	3
TOTALS	10	9

Includes Cheerleading

Programs for BVASD by GRADE LEVEL

VARSITY

Cheerleading
Football
Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer
Golf
Volleyball
*Cross Country
Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Baseball
Softball
Swimming
Track and Field

FRESHMEN

Boys Basketball
Baseball

JUNIOR HIGH

Wrestling
Girls Softball

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cheerleading
Football
Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer
Volleyball
Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Softball
Track and Field
Baseball
Swimming

*Club Sport



FEMALE PROGRAMS

BVA Student Athletic Handbook

Programs for Girls in the BVASD

FALL SPORTS	WINTER SPORTS	SPRING SPORTS
<u>Golf</u> Varsity (9-12)		
<u>Soccer</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11) Middle School (7-8)	<u>Swimming</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11) Middle School (7-8)	<u>Softball</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11) Jr. High (7-9) Middle School (7-8)
<u>Cross Country**</u> Varsity (9-12)		<u>Track and Field</u> Varsity (9-12) Middle School (7-8)
<u>Volleyball</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11)	<u>Basketball</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11) 8th grade - (3 teams)	<u>Volleyball</u> Middle School (7-8)
<u>Cheerleading</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-11) Middle School (7-8)	<u>Cheerleading</u> Varsity (9-12) Junior Varsity (9-12) Middle School (7-8)	
TOTALS:	10 GIRLS' VARSITY SPORTS	10 GIRLS' JV SPORTS 7 MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS



MALE PROGRAMS

BVA Student Athletic Handbook

Programs for Boys in the BVASD

FALL SPORTS

Golf

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)

WINTER SPORTS

Swimming

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)
Middle School (7-8)

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)
Freshman (9)
Middle School (7-8)

Soccer

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)
Middle School (7-8)

Basketball

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)
Freshman (9)
Middle school (7-8)

Track and Field

Varsity (9-12)
Middle School (7-8)

Cross Country

Varsity (9-12)

Wrestling

Varsity (9-12)
Jr. High (7-9 - 2 teams)

Football

Varsity (9-12)
Junior Varsity (9-11)
Sophomore (9-10)
Middle School (7-8)

TOTALS:

9 BOYS' VARSITY SPORTS

9 BOYS' JV SPORTS
2 BOYS' FRESHMAN AND
6 MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS



PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION / CONFLICTS

When a concern arises, do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Meetings such as these do not promote resolution.

The proper protocol is to submit a "Complaint Form" through the Athletic office to request a meeting. At that time, it will be at the coach's discretion whether the coach will address the concern or if a meeting with the Athletic Director is necessary to resolve the issue. If necessary, the principal may also be involved in the meeting.

3 STEPS OF COMMUNICATION

1. Player should address concern with Coach first.
2. Parent should ask to meet with the Coach to discuss if step 1 did not resolve the problem
3. Parent should request a meeting with the AD if steps 1 and 2 did not resolve the problem

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOU CHILD'S COACH:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as the entire team.
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Grades with respect to eligibility
4. Concerns about your child's behavior

Coaches are not permitted to discuss any of the following the parents/guardians:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Other-student athletes



ELIGIBILITY

AGE

To participate on a high school team (grade 9-12) you must not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30th immediately preceding the school year.

To participate on a junior high team (grades 7-9 or 9th only) you must not have reached your 16th birthday by the June 30th immediately preceding the school year.

In determining the age of the athlete, proof of age may be determined by requiring the submission of a birth certificate which was issued within one year after birth. In lieu of a birth certificate, a passport can be used.

An athlete shall not represent his/her school in interscholastic athletics if they have played four seasons beyond the eighth grade in any sport.

PERIOD OF PARTICIPATION

Participation is limited to students who have not played 4 seasons beyond the 8th grade in any one form of interscholastic athletics

In-depth: Your athletic eligibility extends only until you have reached the end of your fourth consecutive year (8th consecutive semester or the equivalent) beyond the eighth grade. Therefore, if you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior.

Additionally, you may participate in (1) a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, (2) a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and (3) a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.

You may participate in only one season in each sport during each school year

AMATEUR STATUS

To be eligible for an interscholastic sport, you must be an amateur in that sport. You will lose your amateur status in a sport for at least one year if:

1. The student or student's parent receives compensation for related athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.
2. The student playing on a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport
3. The student signs a contract whereby the student agrees to compete in any athlete competition for consideration.
4. The student sells or pawns the students' athletic achievement awards.



PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All athletes must follow the guidelines set forth by the P.I.A.A in requiring that all athletes' participation in the interscholastic competition have a pre-participation physical examination.

This exam must occur no earlier than June 1st for all sport in the upcoming school year. Physical are good for 1 school year, June 1- May 31.

Students can obtain physical forms from:

- Athletic website (print off), Coaches, or the Athletic Office

Complete physical forms are to be turned in to the coach, athletic trainer, or athletic office ONLY. If the completed form is not received, the student will not be allowed to practice in that sport until all paperwork is received. NO EXCEPTIONS.

DISCIPLINE

All athletes will abide by the current school discipline Code of Conduct. Seeing that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, that privilege can be taken away from a student if that student does not comply with the policies and procedures described in this handbook.

1. If an athlete is assigned detention, the athlete must report to detention even if they have practice. Students may not practice or play in a contest while serving out of school suspension. While a suspension is being served, the student athlete will remain ineligible for that entire day. The athlete can return to practice or contest the next calendar day.
2. Administration reserves the right to review a violation and distribute further disciplinary action if necessary.
3. Coaches have the right to further restrict, suspend, or dismiss a student from the team as documented in the individual sport's policy.
4. All student athletes MUST adhere to all district rules at all times.
 - a. This applies to Practice, Team Events, Contests, and Transportation



ALL-STAR CONTESTS

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for one year if you participate in an all-star Contest in that sport. Your eligibility will not be affected if you participate in an event that (1) is not advertised or promoted as an all-star Contest; (2) is open to all participants on the basis of a tryout or a uniform standard of qualification; and (3) you do not represent your school and do not wear any school-affiliated uniform or apparel in the event.

STUDENT TRANSFERS

All transfer students and questions of residence will be thoroughly checked by the Athletic Director and approved by the Principal to see if they are in compliance with all PIAA rules before the students can be declared eligible to compete on an interscholastic sports team. Please contact either the Principal or the Athletic Director immediately if you have transferred in to the district or plan to transfer out.

HOMESCHOOLERS IN ATHLETICS

All homeschooled students must abide by the same set of rules as set forth by the PIAA and described in this handbook. Home schooled athletes must also show evidence of academic eligibility, required immunizations, and appropriate health screenings. If there are any questions regarding homeschooled children, please contact the Athletic Director immediately.

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT

As per PIAA:

A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Athletes at your age are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussions. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" on the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death or short- and/or long-term changes in brain function.

If a sports official removes you from a contest because you have exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, and/or balance problems) you may not return to participating in practices, inter-school practices, scrimmages, and/or contests until cleared by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine who is sufficiently familiar with current concussion management.



ACADEMICS

Weekly Athletic Eligibility: The BVAHS and BVAMS Administration and the Athletic Director have agreed that the following procedures are to be used so that there is uniformity throughout the district.

1. By 3:00 p.m. on every Thursday all teachers are to report to the building Principal any student athlete who is failing a course. The Principal must then determine if the student is passing **6.5 credits** with one credit in **English, Math, Science and Social Studies**
2. If a student is ineligible, he/she will be ineligible from **Sunday to Saturday**.
3. In the case that there is no school on a Friday, and then the same procedure is followed, however the notices shall be moved back to Wednesday and Thursday respectively. The student is ineligible for a total of seven days regardless if the student does make up work or is passing the class within those seven days.
4. If this reporting procedure is not followed in the time table set forth, the student athlete shall not be punished for an error in timely reporting.

** Students who fail to earn a passing grade and who are retained from a previous school-year, must enroll in, and successfully pass a credit recovery course in order that they may be eligible for extracurricular activities during the Fall of the following school-year. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility for the First 3 Weeks of the First Nine weeks. 6 cr. as a Freshman; 6 cr. as a Sophomore; 6 cr. to be a Junior; 18 credits to be considered a Senior.*



THE COUNSELING OFFICE SERVICES

The BVA High School Counseling Office provides several services to student athletes. When recruiters arrive to meet with athletes at the high school, the counselors greet the recruiters, call students down, and arrange for meeting space for coaches and athletes to talk together in order to determine whether the student would be a good fit for the college or university and its athletic program.

What student-athletes need to do:

When collegiate athletic departments contact students, requesting official or unofficial transcripts and test scores, students should contact the HS Counseling Office as soon as possible to arrange for these important documents to be sent.

Obtain the Orange transcript release form to allow access to your transcript.

Parents play a role, too:

Before the counselors can release any student records (including official and unofficial transcripts) a signed release must be on file in the Counseling Office. Students age 18 and over may sign their own release forms, however, any students under the age of 18 must have a release signed by a parent. In making final decisions about post-secondary plans, student athletes would be wise to consult with their parents, coaches, and school counselor to make the best possible decision for their future.

Parents and Students need to sign off on the Orange transcript release form and return to counseling office.

The High School Counseling office provides a variety of resources for student athletes pertaining to NCAA eligibility and NAIA eligibility. This information can be found on the High School Counseling Office webpage under the tab “Senior Tips & Hints”. There are also many valuable resources related to career decision making, college visits, testing (PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc), financial aid, and scholarships.

For more information click the below link for Counseling Services information

<http://belleversonarea.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2711>



LETTER WINNERS

A student must have completed the season in the sport to receive a letter, with the only exception of a season ending in injury at which time the coach must decide that the student would have lettered prior to the injury.

In the following sports a student **MUST** have played in:

1. **½ of the total Innings, Quarter, Halves or Matches which ever would apply**
2. **Letters are a merit based award. A Coach has the discretion to choose to award a letter based on additional merit if the player has not met the requirements outlined above.**

Baseball- Varsity, freshmen

Basketball- Boys Varsity, Girls Varsity, Jr. High boys/girls

Football- Varsity, Jr. High

Golf

Soccer- Boys Varsity, Girls Varsity, Middle School boys/girls

Softball- Varsity, Jr. High

Wrestling- Varsity, Jr. High

Volleyball- Girls Varsity

Swimming- The student must average 3 points per meet

Cheerleading- Varsity, Middle School

1. Senior Plaques: 2 or more years of service
2. Senior Letter- one year of service
3. Freshmen Letter- one year of service
4. Middle School Letter- one year of service



SCHOOL/PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

A student must be in school by 10:30 AM in order to participate in a contest or practice session. A student may not practice or play if he/she is absent from school the day of practice or contest unless approved by the Athletic Director or Principal. A student is ineligible to participate throughout the duration of their absence. Also, any student on suspension is not eligible to attend practice or contests throughout the duration of the suspension.

If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you attend school for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence, except:

1. where there is a consecutive absence of five (5) or more school days due to confining injury
2. death in the immediate family, court subpoenas, or quarantine, “under special circumstances”
3. an absence of five (5) or more school days due to the same confining illness

Attendance at summer school does not count toward the required forty-five (45) days. If the twentieth absence occurs in the final semester, the required 45 days of attendance may continue into the following school year before they are eligible.

If, during the course of planned season activities, a situation develops which places an academic activity at risk, it is the **student’s responsibility** to bring this issue to the attention of their **immediate team head coach or sponsor** with a proposed resolution **prior to the start of the activity**.

1. Full participation and attendance at all competitions, practices, and events is expected of all participants. In the event of an extreme personal or family emergency and/or a conflict with academic demands, at the request of the parents/guardians and with the approval of the immediate team head coach or Athletic Director and/or the academic advisor or teacher, participation may be excused or abbreviated. This may only be arranged at the discretion of the team head coach or Athletic Director prior to the event.
2. The parent and student will ultimately make the decision as to which event the student will attend. The decision must be made at least one week prior to the event and all parties involved must be notified. If the student athlete does not notify the coach or teacher, the student will face academic or athletic consequences.
3. In regards to the academic activity, when there is an athletic contest that conflicts with an academic activity and a student athlete and his/her parents decide that the student will attend the athletic contest, the student must be given an alternate academic assignment. In the same respect, if a student athlete and his/her parents decide that the student will attend the academic activity, the student must not be punished for missing the athletic contest.



EQUIPMENT RETURN PROCEDURE

Students are responsible for any and all equipment (including uniforms and practice gear) issued by the school. You will be expected to return all equipment at the end of the season; otherwise, you will be financially responsible for any missing items.

1. Issued equipment is not to be used for any activity outside of the practices and competitions of the school sport in which it was issued. It is unfortunate that some people steal but that does not void your responsibility for returning or paying for all that was originally issued to you.
2. Students are not to use athletic equipment or clothing for gym classes or for participation on teams outside of school. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to your coach, not to the athletic office.

Within one week after the close of a season the coach and/or equipment manager will conduct a uniform return. Failure to return equipment or uniforms will result in the following:

1. Notification to parent/guardian of what is owed
2. Withholding of report card or awards until return obligation is met
3. If you fail to pay for equipment you have not returned or overly abused equipment, you will not be permitted further athletic participation in sequent seasons until

CANCELLATION OF EVENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Based on a cancellation or early dismissal of school, as directed by the Superintendent of Schools, due to inclement weather, the following shall apply:

1. All rehearsals, practices, competitions, performances are cancelled unless administrative approval is given. Administrative consideration will be given to the need for the rehearsal/practice based on the immediacy of the competition/performance and the severity of the weather/road conditions.
2. All student activity coaches/sponsors may request permission to use school facilities on the day of cancellation. This must be done on a single day basis.
3. Students cannot be required to attend an approved activity/practice/rehearsal during a school closing. Participation must be voluntary.
4. All home activities involving spectators are cancelled unless administrative approval is given.
5. If an early dismissal occurs, all activities are cancelled.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes must travel to and from away contests in transportation provided by the school district when such transportation is being provided. It is important for students to ride the bus to and from all contests for many reasons. Such reasons include: team unity in victory and defeat, shared responsibility for team equipment during travel, coach's discussions and instructions before and after contests, etc. At no time will athletes be permitted drive on their own nor ride to or from away contests with a friend. Situations may occur where, through no attempt to circumvent this rule, an athlete must be driven by a parent. This is acceptable:

1. provided that the parent complete and submit the "Athletic Travel Release form" to the Coach in advance of the event, and preferably 2 days before the event, to ensure all appropriate signatures are obtained. See "ATHLETIC TRAVEL RELEASE FORM" under the FORMS section of this handbook.
2. No transportation is provided by the district

NOTE: No requests for personal transportation after a sporting event will be permitted without the release form signed by Athletic Director and Head Coach prior to the contest.

DRESS CODE

When traveling to away contests with an athletic team, you are representing the community and BVASD. The way you look and dress is a direct reflection on the district and your family. As such, you are expected to wear clothes that are clean and appropriate.

1. Coaches have the right to set more specific standards than outlined above
2. Coaches have the discretion to set dress policies for travel, contests, community events, workouts, team events, in-school event, or other athletic functions.
3. Any player not adhering to their coach's dress policy will face disciplinary action set forth by their coach. Multiple infractions will result in disciplinary action from Athletic Director/Principal at the approval of the Superintendent.

QUITTING A TEAM

No athlete may quit a sport and turn out for another same-season sport after the season has begun without mutual consent of both coaches and the athletic director.

1. If an athlete quits a sport and turns out to join another sport during that sport's offseason, that student must sit out for a mandatory 2 week period before he/she can begin participating in the offseason sport practices or conditioning.



INITIATIONS/ HAZING / BULLYING

Under no circumstances will initiations, hazing, or bullying of any kind be tolerated. This includes actions displayed on all forms of social media and technology (Twitter, Facebook, Texting, etc). Refer to the Social Media Policy for details about bullying on Social Media. Any student involved in hazing, initiation, or bullying of another student will face disciplinary action.

In the event that a student athlete becomes aware of any situation involving these types of behaviors, they must report it to their coach immediately so that it can be addressed in a timely manner.

If a student athlete is found to have participated initiations, hazing, or bullying, discipline will be handled by the coaching staff and athletic director and may result in dismissal from the team.

END OF SEASON TIME POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the end of each season there shall be at least 2 weeks of down time for each sport. A student-athlete cannot be punished if he chooses to adhere to the 2 week down policy. If a student-athlete chooses to engage in another sport or offseason workout directly after their other sports season ends, the student may do so.

1. Coaches must not make any attempt to interfere when an athlete who decides to participate in another sport of school activity. No coach should coerce or attempt to deter a student from participating in another sport or school activity.
2. Overlapping Off-seasons: When a student athlete participates in two or more sports and the offseason training/conditioning for those sports overlaps, the student athlete and coaches should work together to come up with a training plan. Parents and student athletes must be aware of the risks associated with training for more than one sport at a time and will be required to sign a waiver form.

In-season vs Off-season

1. In-season sports take precedence and student athletes should dedicate their full time and energy to that sport.
2. The off-season sport which is nearest to being in-season should take precedence.

STERIOD USAGE

The use of steroids or other performance enhancing drugs are strictly prohibited. Refer to the Drug Form for more detailed information.



SPORTSMANSHIP

Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct by any student athlete resulting in a removal from the contest will be handled in the following manner:

1. A written report of said misconduct will be submitted by the head coach to the Athletic Director within 24 hours following the conclusion of the contest.
2. A committee comprised of the Athletic Director, Principal and Assistant Principal shall determine if and when the student athlete may return to competition.
3. A continued pattern of unsportsmanlike issues by a student athlete will result in removal from future participation as determined by the above mentioned committee.
4. All records of such reports and findings will be maintained by the Athletic Director.
5. Pre-contest or post-contest incidents of misconduct by either a student athlete or coach will be handled in the same manner as stated above.

TEAM RULES

Coaches are encouraged to develop a set of "Team Rules" which governs the individual sport. These rules must be approved by the Athletic Director and kept on file in the athletic office. When a student becomes a member of a team or group, he/she is committing to all the rules and expectations of that team/organization and coach/advisor.

1. These rules, regulations, and expectations are published prior to the season and provided to the student and his/her parents/guardians at that time. Full participation in extracurricular activities by any student requires skillful time management and prior planning for involvement in multiple events and activities.
2. All coaches and sponsors will reinforce the premise that the student has the responsibility to maintain sound academic standings.
3. Student athletes must follow the team rules or face discipline.

REQUIRED FORMS:

Prior to the start of any athletic season, student athletes will be required to read and sign the following forms:

DRUG FORM

PHYSICAL FORM

SPORTSMANSHIP FORM



ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECRUITING

Student athletes should conduct a meeting with their high school coach(es) at the end of their junior season. Let your coaches know that you are very interested in participating in collegiate athletics and discuss your potential as an NCAA Division I, II, or III player. Do not be afraid to ask for their help. Your coach will help you, but there are limitations as to how much he/she can do. There are over 3,000 colleges and universities that offer athletic programs. Contacting each and every one of them is impossible for your coach. Coaches should be kept informed of your recruiting endeavors and schools you are communicating with. Coaches are strongly encouraged to take an active role in assisting with recruiting and exposure for their sports. However, it is primarily up to the student-athlete and parents to pursue post-secondary athletic opportunities.

RECRUITING

Below is a checklist that may help guide you in the recruiting process. Contact with your Coach is pertinent in this process. However, a majority of the leg work falls on the parents and student athletes. Our goal as an athletic department is to see our players continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level if the opportunity arises. I will do everything in my power to assist in this process. However, there are many things that players and parents need to do before they sign a scholarship or NIU.

Academic Checklist:

- ☐ ✓ Sign up and Take SAT/ACT. You should take it at least twice during your junior year.
- ☐ ✓ Set up an appointment with your guidance counselor to go over transcript and sign a release form to allow your coach access to your transcript. Make sure you are taking the appropriate courses according to the NCAA tracker sheet.
- ☐ ✓ Register for NCAA initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. (Recommended Sophomore Year) Register at http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp
- ☐ ✓ Complete the FASFA form after the 1st of the year (Senior year). This will determine if you qualify for financial aid.
- ☐ ✓ Maintain a strong GPA. (2.3 for Division I, 2.2 for Division II)
- ☐ ✓ Complete 16 Core courses by the end of your senior year
 - 10 must be completed by the 7th semester (beginning of senior year)
 - No retakes will be honored
 - 7 of the 10 core courses must be in English, Math, or Natural/Physical Science



RECRUITING PROCESS

BVA Student Athletic Handbook

DIVISION I

Core-Course Requirement (16)

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered)
- 1 year of additional English, math or natural/physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of additional courses (any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

DIVISION I – 2016

Qualifier Requirements

**Athletics aid, practice, and competition*

- 16 core courses
 - Ten (10) core courses completed before the start of seventh semester. Seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
 - "Locked in" for core-course GPA calculation.
- Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
- Graduate from high school.

DIVISION I – 2016

Academic Redshirt Requirements

**Athletics aid and practice (no competition)*

- 16 core courses
 - No grades/credits "locked in" (repeated courses after the seventh semester begins may be used for initial eligibility).
- Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
- Graduate from high school.

DIVISION II

16 Core Courses

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

Additional Resources:

NCAA Student-Athlete Handbook

http://media.wix.com/ugd/40a452_59a5fe29342b460ca4d31e35cb713855.pdf

NCAA Eligibility Guide

http://media.wix.com/ugd/40a452_db8e5c791f0448d5b0aa1da658cda5b0.pdf

BVASD Counseling Services Department

<http://www.bellevernonarea.net/Page/2734>



The following guidelines are intended to provide the framework for student athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a student athlete at Belle Vernon Area, you should:

1. Limit personal information that is shared on Social Media as it can facilitate stalking and identity theft. It is unwise to provide information such as full date of birth, social security number, address, cell phone numbers, class schedules, bank account information, or details about your daily routine. Use privacy settings to help protect private information, but understand, privacy settings are not a guaranteed safeguard. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access.
2. Be aware that Belle Vernon Area employees, including coaches, faculty, and administrators, can access these sites just as easily as your peers. Colleges, current and future employers, and scholarship committees often access social media for information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud.
3. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech.. Inappropriate postings on social network sites may easily result in serious repercussions.
4. Be cautious about what you share about your team. You may not post information about yourself, your teammates or your coaches that will put you or your team at a competitive disadvantage, including but not limited to injury reports, game plans and strategy.
5. Be aware that you are personally liable for any copyright violations you may commit, whether intentional or inadvertent. Copyright violations may include posting photographs, audio, or video of people or things that are not you or your personal property, or for which you do not have written permission to distribute.
6. Be aware that you are personally liable for any violations of other students' privacy rights, including violation of rights protected by state and federal privacy laws.
7. Understand that malicious use of online networks, including derogatory language or comments about any person, demeaning statements about, or threats to any third party, incriminating photographs or statements that depict private behavior, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, illegal drug use, or other inappropriate behavior will be subject to investigation and possible sanctions by the Belle Vernon Area School District and/or the local Police Department.
8. Individual athletic teams may have a more restrictive social networking policy. Be aware of your teams' policy and are subject to its guidelines

Recommended Practices

- Profile/privacy settings and contact information are set to only friends.
- Be selective of what information your friends can share about you.
- Be mindful of what pictures you post and what pictures you are allowing to be taken that can be posted.



PARENTS

Procedures for Discussing Parental Concerns:

Parents should not confront coaches or engage in controversial discussion with coaches, either in person or via telephone, immediately before, during or after a practice and/or game. Failure to comply with this request will result in a meeting with the Administration and consequences may include being prohibited from attending next event, multiple events, or up to and including the remainder of the season. *See Communication section of manual.*

Positive Athletic Parenting

- Be a positive motivator.
- Do not degrade the coach or their staff; we all make mistakes. Instead emphasize loyalty and perseverance, and use it as a teaching moment.
- Encourage your child to play for the enjoyment of the experience.
- Do not focus on personal statistics, game scores, or athletic scholarships.
- Encourage participation in several sports. Specialization leads to decreased enjoyment and burnout.
- Be realistic about your child's abilities.
- Be a good role model for your child.
- Encourage good decision making.

Parent/Coach Relationship Communication/Information Coaches Should Provide to Parents:

- Coach's expectations of players and their parents
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (i.e. special equipment, offseason conditioning, etc.)
- Team rules and guidelines
- Lettering requirements
- Disciplinary procedures
- Information regarding procedures to contact coaches (in conjunction with Communication policy)

Communication / Information Parents Should Provide to Coaches:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to the coach's expectations of their child
- Information regarding student injuries and medical condition
- Excuses if requested by Coach

Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches:

See Communication section of manual.

Concerns NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

See Communication section of manual.



Parents' Responsibility as Fans

In recent news, the role of the parent as a fan at youth or high school athletic events has become a concern. It is important for fans (parents or otherwise) to realize that just like participants, they play an important role in every contest.

First, the fan must realize the participants are playing the game because of their love and enjoyment for the sport.

Second, a fan must realize that these are youth or high school athletes. They will not be able to perform at the collegiate or professional level at which you are accustomed to watching on television or attending in person.

Third, remember the athletes are trying to succeed and give their best effort every time. Fans should recognize and appreciate their successes and not criticize their failures. Their efforts are pure and genuine. Realize that some athletes will have more advanced skills than others. As a fan, you must be aware of the simple fact that even though your team may have given a solid effort, they will not always win.

Fourth, the fan needs to understand the coach. Coaches work and prepare to put forth the best game possible with the resources they have. They are interested in the success of the athlete and team and are working together toward common goals. They are also educators. Along the way, coaches may be forced to sideline a player for lack of effort or violation of team rules. While people may not always know the whole story, or agree with the decision, it is part of the coach's responsibility. The athlete may not always agree with these tough decisions either, but they will remember the reason a lot longer than they will remember the score of that game.

Fifth, remember the future of the participant. There is no need to dwell on the score, because a year from now, the score will not matter. What will matter is the impression you left on everyone and how the school will be perceived in the future. How fans behave has a larger impact on the game than you may think.

Sixth, it is the responsibility of the fan to show the athlete how to react to success and failure with the proper attitude. The fan needs to understand that everyone involved – players, coaches, officials – is trying to do their best. Appreciate that effort and be patient and understanding when mistakes occur. When success occurs, for the Black Hawks or for the opponent, recognize it with class and refrain from taunting or flaunting.

Seventh, attending an athletic contest should be an enjoyable activity for the fan. As stated before, the athletes are playing for the love of the game. Help them to look forward to participation in contests and appreciate you coming to support them. Do not make them dread this experience because of your inappropriate behavior.

Finally, always remember you are the role model. You are modeling for the athlete (your son or daughter), the community and yourself.