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Introduction, Mission, & Philosophy

Athletic Handbook Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to define the athletic policies and procedures of the Beaver Area School District. The success of the athletic program depends upon the understanding, teamwork, and cooperation of administration, staff, athletes, and parents in carrying out the athletic policies. In addition to the local policies as defined in this handbook, Beaver Area School District athletics are governed by the rules and regulations of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL), the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), and the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS). Members of a Beaver Bobcats athletic team have assumed a great deal of responsibility and immediately and publicly represent the school, home, and community. The athletes serve as role models for fellow students, especially those in younger grades.

Mission Statement

The Beaver Area School District, a dynamic learning community connected by enduring relationships and academic excellence, is dedicated to preparing students to achieve their personal best today and tomorrow through the pursuit of rigorous academics which integrate creative thinking and innovation, through the development of an informed global perspective, and through the instilling of responsibility to their community.

Athletic Philosophy

Athletics are a part of the extra-curricular educational process of the Beaver Area School District, serving as an arena for learning. We strive to have each student-athlete enjoy a positive experience while developing competitive teams. Within this framework, the participation of all student-athletes is encouraged, without compromising the competitive nature.

Administrative Organization

BOARD OF EDUCATION



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Carrie Rowe



PRINCIPALS

Dr. Meghan Murray (High School)

Dr. Steven Katkich (Middle School)



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Alan Alcalde, RAA



VARSITY HEAD COACH



**ASSISTANT, SUB-VARSITY,
VOLUNTEER COACHES, & ATHLETIC TRAINER**

Athletic Office

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Athletic Director

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Athletic Trainer

Ashley Walker

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The athletic trainer will be responsible for the prevention and treatment of all school related athletic injuries. All injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer immediately.

When an injury of consequence occurs outside of school that might require medical attention, the player or parent should notify the coach and/or the athletic trainer.

Any time a student is seen by a doctor or recommended to be seen by a doctor or athletic trainer as a result of a possible injury, a medical release must be provided to the athletic office by the doctor or athletic trainer before the student may resume participation.

Concussion baseline testing will be administered for all middle school and high school athletes prior to practice or competition. After initial screening, athletes will be retested every two years. If an athlete sustains a head injury during practice or competition, a follow-up test will be conducted and compared with baseline data. If a concussion is confirmed, an athlete must be medically cleared prior to returning to active participation in practice or competition.

Athletic Offerings

The following interscholastic sports offered in the Beaver Area School District are governed by the rules set forth by the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS), the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL).

Interscholastic sports are offered to students in grades 7 through 12 unless otherwise noted. The number of teams and/or specific levels may vary from year to year based on interest.

Level	Fall Season	Winter Season	Spring Season
High School	Football Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Coed Cross Country Girls Tennis Boys Golf Cheerleading	Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Wrestling Coed Swimming & Diving Unified Bocce Cheerleading	Baseball Softball Boys Tennis Coed Track
Middle School	Football Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Girls Basketball Coed Cross Country Cheerleading	Boys Basketball Wrestling	Baseball Coed Track

Student-Athlete Guidelines & Expectations

1. Athletes will not be permitted in any area of the building after school except those areas designated by the coaches or Athletic Director.
2. Athletes must return home at dismissal if supervision is not available after school for them to wait for a bus or the start of their game later that evening.
3. Athletes should report immediately to the locker rooms and/or assigned practice/competition area after the dismissal bell in the afternoon and enter the building through designated entrances for evening practices.
4. No practice arrangements - formal or informal - are permitted without the presence of supervisory coaching personnel.
5. Students are not to roam the hallways or remain after school unless coaches are present.
6. At no time should athletes change clothes (practice gear or uniforms) on a bus.
7. Athletic shoes with spikes are not to be worn in the building.
8. Athletes who tryout for and/or participate in a sport **MUST** submit the following to the athletic office prior to the first official day of practice in order to participate:
 - a. Sport(s) registration through the Student Central system (visit www.planeths.com)
 - b. Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Evaluation (CIPPE) – one per school year – or Section 7 for each additional sport after the initial CIPPE form is submitted to the athletic office.
9. Athletes must complete and submit Section 8 for each subsequent season from their initial sport season for that school year (ie. a fall sport athlete participating in a winter sport will require a completed Section 8 prior to participation in their winter sport)
10. Athletes and Parents/Guardians are responsible for all of the enclosed guidelines.

Multi-Sport Athletes

Student athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in a variety of sports for the Beaver Area School District, if they are capable of doing so. Multi-Sport athletes develop various skills that all play into making an individual a better all-around athlete, it also reduces the risk of injury from over-use of any given muscle group and lessens the probability of burnout from continually playing one sport all year round. Multi-sport athletes are also usually happier with their overall sports experience because they meet new people and develop more relationships.

A student's physical and mental health is just one of many concerns that the administration, coaches, and teachers have for your child's total well-being.

There is no set policy against a student participating in more than one sport during any one season, and occasionally it works for the student-athlete. It is recommended that students should play only ONE sport during the fall, winter and spring sports seasons. This is largely due to the grueling practice and academic workload for high school students.

Students must remember that they are students first and athletes second. Trying to do too much will affect a student's health and also his/her academic and athletic performance.

Same Season/Two-Sport Policy

Student-athletes in the Beaver Area School District are allowed to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach shall in no way discourage this decision. Rather, the coaches involved should work together to make this situation as smooth as possible. Realizing that there is potential for conflicts arising when an athlete is participating in two sports at the same time, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

1. The athlete will declare a primary sport and a secondary sport.
2. A contest will always take precedence over practice in the other sport.
3. A section contest will always take precedence over a non-section contest.
4. A section meet (i.e. track) will take precedence over any non-section meet.
5. If section contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
6. WPIAL/PIAA tournament events will take precedence over non-section or section events. In the event that two WPIAL/PIAA tournaments are held on the same day, the primary sport will take precedence as in #5.
7. If non-section contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
8. In the event that it would be possible for an athlete to participate in both sports on the same day, he/she will not be allowed to drive to the second contest. Only an athlete's parent or guardian will be allowed to transport the athlete.
9. Coaches are not to discipline an athlete for a missed practice on a day that the athlete is competing in his/her other sport.
10. On days that an athlete is not in competition, he/she should make an effort to practice both sports. If only one sport can be practiced, it should be the primary sport.
11. All eligibility rules will remain the same.
12. An athlete must begin practicing in each of the two sports at the beginning of each sport's season.
13. Before being allowed to participate in two sports during a season, the athlete, his/her parents/guardian, Athletic Director, and the two coaches involved must meet and sign below:

Student-Athlete Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Primary Sport

Primary Sport Coach Signature

Secondary Sport

Secondary Sport Coach Signature

What is Sportsmanship?

PIAA and the Beaver Area School District strongly emphasizes the importance of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. The one thing we need to realize is that many people have not had GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP explained to them. Hopefully the following will help everyone to understand their responsibilities at a Contest.

- 1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE CONTEST.** The necessity to be well informed is essential. Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials, coaches, or administrative decisions. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.
- 2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.** A prerequisite to good sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own prejudices that may become a factor in his/her behavior. The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior that is representative of a sound value base. A proper perspective must be maintained if the educational values are to be realized. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
- 3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLED PERFORMANCES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.** Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP but also reflects a true awareness of the Contest by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
- 4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR CONTEST OFFICIALS.** The officials of any Contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the Contest are a part of the Contest. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on a Contest official. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.
- 5. DISPLAY OPENLY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.** Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best accommodations, and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your school, Team, or family. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.
- 6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.** Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgement and your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, athlete, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

Sportsmanship: Acceptable vs Unacceptable Behavior

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

1. Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and Contest officials.
2. Players shaking hands with opponents who foul out while both sets of fans recognize the player's performance with applause.
3. Accept all decisions of Contest officials.
4. Cheerleaders lead fans in cheers in a positive manner.
5. Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the Contest, regardless of outcome.
6. Treat competition as a Contest, not a war.
7. Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching. Applause at the end of a Contest for performances by all participants.
8. Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of Team.
9. Encouraging surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

1. Yelling, waving arms, or objects during an opponent's free throw attempt.
2. Disrespectful or derogatory cheers, chants, songs, or gestures.
3. Criticizing Contest officials in any way.
4. Cheers that antagonize an opponent.
5. Refusing to shake hands or give recognition of good performances.
6. Blaming a loss on Contest officials, coaches, or participants.
7. Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
8. Use of profanity or displays of anger.
9. Doing your own cheers instead of following the lead of cheerleaders.
10. Wearing extreme or unusual clothing or excessive body paint that detracts from the Contest.

PIAA Sport Disqualification

A. Mandatory Disqualification (as per the PIAA)- One Game Suspension for any contestant who, while competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct is disqualified from participating for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the contestant was previously disqualified.

B. Enhanced Disqualification - Two Game Suspension — (as per the PIAA) Any contestant who is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official and a component of the ejection is confronting, contacting or addressing a Coach, contestant or official using foul or vulgar language, or physical contact will be disqualified from competition for the remainder of the day and for the next two (2) Contests including all Contests on the next two (2) Contest days of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach and/or contestant was previously disqualified. For the purposes of this provision, the jurisdiction of the official(s) to apply and enforce this rule begins upon the official's arrival at the Contest site and ends when the official (or the last of the team of officials) leaves the Contest site. The Contest site is defined as premises on which the competition surface is located and includes the entirety of the premises and parking areas. When the Enhanced Disqualification implicates a contestant, and in addition to the two (2) Contests disqualification, the contestant may not return to competition representing the contestant's school until the contestant completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of this program to the student's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman. A PIAA District Committee may, at its discretion, convene a hearing to address any and all disqualifications and provide additional penalties as warranted by the circumstances.

Harassment/Intimidation

Harassment, deliberate annoyance, intimidating, bullying, or hazing another student or staff member will not be tolerated. An administrator and/or guidance counselor will attempt to meet with the students who are involved and intervene. Confirmed violations will result in Saturday detention, OSS, alternative placement, or possible expulsion for severe and/or multiple violations. The police may be asked to file all appropriate charges.

Sexual Harassment

All students at Beaver should be free from sexual harassment by other students, teachers, and staff. All complaints will be promptly investigated and resolved. Each case will be handled according to the best course of action for eliminating the harassing condition or situation. Findings and allegations will be communicated with both the complainant and the alleged harasser. Sexual harassment includes: unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. All persons, including students and staff, should be free from sexual harassment in the school/workplace. Sexual harassment, by definition, includes: affecting educational decisions or programs, making decisions affecting the student, or otherwise interfering with the student's academic/intellectual or extracurricular autonomy based on the student's submission to or rejection of such advances.

Students who violate this policy will face discipline as described under the "Harassment/Intimidation" section in the student handbook. Teachers and other staff who violate this policy will be disciplined according to legal standards including contract and agency law. Students who file false accusations of sexual harassment will be disciplined and may even face expulsion, based on the nature of the complaint and its impact on the educational climate of the school.

Hazing

Hazing is an intentional action that intimidates or threatens a student with ostracism, extreme stress, shame, humiliation, or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, safety, or dignity. Hazing can be committed by a single student or group of students and will not be tolerated. Any student or group of students who hazes another student will face disciplinary consequences as found under "Intimidation/Harassment" in the "Discipline" section of the student handbook.

Reporting Concerns

It is very important that all students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living. Students are also expected to assist teachers and administration in operating a safe, healthy school climate for all students. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all students to report harassing, hazing, and/or intimidating behaviors that they directly witness to a teacher, counselor, or other staff member immediately.

School Rules and Policies

As a reminder, school rules and policies are in effect: (1) during school hours, (2) while on school property, (3) while using district approved transportation, (4) before, during and after school at events observed and/or supervised by district staff, (5) while en route to or from school, (6) or any other time that a reasonable nexus can be made with the educational mission or representation of the school.

Eligibility for Athletic Participation

Beaver Area Middle/High School is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and is subject to the rules and regulations of the association. In order to be eligible, the pupil must meet the minimum PIAA qualification. In addition, the following rules have been established by the Beaver Area Board of Education (August 2018):

1. Student participant's grades shall be monitored each week and those failing to pass at least five (5) credits or passing all credits if taking less than five (5) credits will be ineligible the following week. Each Friday grade reports will be reviewed and students who do not meet the requirement will lose eligibility from the following Sunday through Saturday after the next grade report is reviewed. The value of a Career Technology Center (CTC) course is three (3) elective credits.
2. Any student who fails to pass at least five credits during the previous grading period will be ineligible for 15 school days at the beginning of the next report period.
3. Students will not be eligible to participate in an after-school activity if they are absent or tardy (after 10 a.m.) without a medical or legal excuse.
4. Students will not be eligible to participate in an after-school activity if they leave school early without approval by a school administrator and a parent/guardian.
5. A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, shall not be eligible to participate in practice or any athletic contest until he/she has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following his/ her twentieth day of absence.
6. All WPIAL and PIAA attendance requirements must be met in order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in school-sanctioned athletics.

Consent of Parent or Guardian

You are eligible only if there is on file with the Principal of your school a certificate signed by your parent(s) or guardian(s) consenting to your participation in the particular sport(s) involved. Consent by a parent/guardian can be completed through the sport registration system Student Central (www.planeths.com).

Accident Insurance

Individual students and families are responsible for covering accidents and injuries that are sustained during regular school and extracurricular activities. The district is not responsible for individual student coverage and cannot reimburse for medical deductibles, co-pays, or expenses. However, because the Beaver Area School

District purchases sports insurance, parents of any student at the district are able to purchase student accident insurance from the same carrier that sells sports insurance to the district. This insurance policy is offered to the parents for a very reasonable premium. Parents are urged to consider purchasing the policy after careful consideration. This policy is especially valuable when students are not covered by adequate medical insurance since the school does not provide such insurance. Insurance information is posted on the school website (<https://www.basd.k12.pa.us/AthleticInsurance.aspx>). Information can also be obtained in the main office of each school building as well as the district office.

Semester Rule

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.

Attendance

You must be enrolled in and in full-time attendance at Beaver or a Charter or Cyber-Charter School, or be home-schooled.

Generally, you are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled or, if a home-schooled student, at a public school in the public school district in which you reside. If you are a student enrolled in either a Charter School or Cyber Charter School, you should consult with your Principal to determine the school at which you are eligible.

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.

Outside Participation

If you participate in a non-school athletic program during the PIAA Season for that sport, while enrolled at a school which has a Team in that sport, you will not be eligible for District and Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport unless you are in uniform and available to participate as a member of your school Team for at least 75% of its Regular Season Contests.

Age Rule

To be eligible to participate in grades 10 through 12, you must not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year. Where you will participate only in grades 7 and 8, you may not have reached your 15th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year; where you will participate only

in grades 7 through 9, you may not have reached your 16th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year.

Amateur Status And Awards

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in that sport. Amateur status, and eligibility, is lost if you, or your parent(s) or guardian(s), receive money or property for or related to your athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

You may be recognized and receive awards for your participation only from your school or school-affiliated booster club, the sponsor of an athletic event, a non-profit service organization approved by your school Principal, or the news media. Permissible awards include items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, which must bear appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification. The fair market value of all of the items provided to you may not exceed \$200. If they do, you must return the items in excess of \$200.

Transfers

You are treated as having transferred whenever you seek eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at a school other than the one at which you were previously either enrolled or otherwise eligible. You are considered to have transferred even if you are promoted to a higher level school or are out-of-school for a period of time before entering the new school. If your Transfer from one school to another is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose, you will lose your athletic eligibility in each sport in which you participate within a period of one year immediately following the date on which you transferred. This requirement applies even if you would be otherwise eligible at the school to which you transferred. If your school eliminates a sport for budgetary reasons, you may be permitted to Transfer to another school to participate in that sport. You must enroll and attend the other school. If you desire to participate in any other sports at that school, your PIAA District Committee (WPIAL) will assess whether the Transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose relating to those sports.

Pre-Participation Physical Examination

Prior to any student participating in tryouts, practices, inter-school practices, scrimmages, and/or contests at any PIAA member school in the student's first sport in a school year, the student is required to submit a completed PIAA Comprehensive Initial PreParticipation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) Form. Students must have the appropriate person(s) complete the first six Sections of the (CIPPE) Form. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 can be completed by the parent/guardian through the sport registration system Student Central (www.planeths.com). Section 7 must be printed out and completed by an Authorized Medical Examiner (licensed physician of medicine or osteopathy, or a certified school nurse practitioner), and uploaded to the sport registration system Student Central. All sections must be completed and approved by the Athletic Office prior to participation in sports. The CIPPE shall be performed no earlier than June 1st and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year, until the next May 31st.

Subsequent Sport(s) in the Same School Year: A student who submitted an initial CIPPE form and seeks to participate in tryouts, practices, inter-school practices, scrimmages, and/or contests in subsequent

sport(s) in the same school year must complete Section 8 of the CIPPE form. This page can be completed in the sport registration system Student Central (www.planeths.com).

Concussion Recognition and Management

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.

Discipline

Students do not have the right to interfere with the education of fellow students. It is the responsibility of all students to respect the rights of fellow students, teachers, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.

All athletes have to abide by the district's discipline overview throughout the entire school year. Please review the discipline overview in your school's student handbook.

Disciplinary Exclusions

Students who are suspended (OSS) are ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular event or practice held on the same day that a suspension is invoked. Students who are suspended on the day before a weekend or a holiday break are ineligible to participate until they spend a full day back in their regular classes.

A pattern of discipline violations or receiving multiple suspensions may be cause for a student to become ineligible for any/all extracurricular events. Extracurricular events are privileges that can be taken away if students do not uphold the expected "Citizenship Code" as described under the Academic section of the student handbook.

Drugs and Alcohol

Possession or being under the influence of illegal drugs (or possession of "look-a-like" drugs), drug paraphernalia, controlled substance(s), "synthetic" over-the-counter mood altering substances, anabolic steroids, or alcohol is absolutely forbidden. Unauthorized prescription medications are also considered "illegal" when in the possession/use of students. Devices that include an electronic vaporizer, bowl, pipe, or other reservoir for inhaling substances (typically sold as hookah, shisha, etc.) are considered drug paraphernalia.

Possession of paraphernalia will result in an immediate OSS, up to ten (10) days. paraphernalia will be tested to determine if an illegal drug or controlled substance is present.

The following drug possession/use policies will be followed for a positive test result. Students charged with any such violation shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1. The administration will report the incident to the police, parents, and superintendent.
2. The principal, or person in charge of the school where the offense has occurred, shall provide the student/parent(s) with an informal hearing as required by law and, if appropriate, shall suspend the student for ten (10) school days.
3. The principal shall follow-up with the parents and superintendent (and the director of student services when applicable) in writing.
4. The student shall be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Core Team.
5. A hearing before the Board of Directors of the school system, a committee thereof, or an examiner as selected by the board shall be conducted as required by law.
6. First-time offenders found guilty who cooperate with the requirements set forth by the Administration and the Core Teams shall be expelled from school and extracurricular activities for a period of ninety-one (91) days.
7. A student may be allowed back into the school and extra-curricular activities prior to the end of ninety-one (91) school days under the terms of a Probationary Agreement.
8. Other circumstances including, but not limited to, the non-cooperation of the student, may in the board's judgment, result in expulsion for a period of up to one hundred and eight-one (181) days both from school and extracurricular activities.

Repeat offenders:

1. Second-time offenders judged guilty shall automatically be expelled for a minimum of one hundred and eighty-one (181) school days and shall be barred from extra-curricular activities for the same period.
2. A student may be allowed back into the school and extra-curricular activities prior to the end of ninety-one (91) school days under the terms of a Probationary Agreement.
3. Third-time offenders found guilty shall be permanently expelled from school and shall be barred from participating in all extra-curricular activities.
4. A student may be allowed back into school and extra-curricular activities after ninety-one (91) school days, but prior to the end of one hundred and eighty-one (181) school days under the terms of a Probationary Agreement.

Selling, attempting/making arrangements to distribute, or transferring drugs or alcohol, as well as any mood altering substances, regardless of whether the substance is actually sold, distributed or transferred is actually the substance represented, shall result in the following disciplinary actions:

1. The administration will immediately report the incident to the police, parents, and superintendent.
2. The principal or person in charge of the school where the offense has occurred shall provide the student/parent(s) with an informal hearing as required by law and, if appropriate, shall suspend the student for ten (10) school days.

3. The principal shall follow-up with the parents and superintendent (and director of student services, when applicable) in writing.
4. The student shall be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Core Team.
5. A hearing before the Board of Directors of the school system, a committee thereof, or an examiner as selected by the board shall be conducted as required by law.
6. First time offenders found guilty shall be expelled for a minimum of one hundred and eighty-one (181) school days and shall be barred from participating in extracurricular activities for the same period of time.
7. A student may be allowed back into school after ninety-one (91) school days and prior to the one hundred and eighty-one (181) school days under the terms of a Probationary Agreement.
8. Second-time offenders found guilty shall be permanently expelled and shall be permanently barred from participating in extracurricular activities.

Any student who comes forward and reports to a teacher or a member of the administration his/her alcohol/drug-violation shall not be subject to punishment unless said student subsequently and separately violates the terms of the policy.

Tobacco

Possession and/or use of tobacco is prohibited. Smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes are also considered tobacco under this policy. If an electronic device contains a pipe, bowl, or reservoir, it will be considered to be drug paraphernalia. Charges will be filed for all tobacco violations. A first violation will result in a four (4) hour Saturday detention. A second violation will result in a three (3) day OSS. Subsequent violations will result in a five (5) day OSS. Students acting as “look-outs” for smokers will be assigned a 2-hr Saturday detention.

Home-School & Charter School Students

Parents of home-schoolers and cyber-charter school students who wish to have their children participate in interscholastic athletics within the Beaver Area School District must register their children in writing with the Athletic Director at least two (2) weeks prior to the first Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) practice date. Parents/guardians should contact the Athletic Director’s office by August 1 of the upcoming school year for activity/athletic schedules so that they may meet this two (2) week requirement. The following items must be verified by the parent of a home-schooled student or by the student’s charter school supervisor:

1. The student was enrolled and passing four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on the final grades from the preceding school year.
2. The student was not absent from instruction for more than twenty (20) days during the previous semester unless eligible for exemption as stated in Article III, Section 3 of the PIAA Bylaws.
3. The student and his/her parents have completed the PIAA pre-participation physical examination requirements and registered with.

4. Home-school and charter students are required to follow the same tryout procedures as enrolled students. The home-school and charter students must conform to the policies and procedures of the Beaver Area School district and to the team rules for the sport in which he/she is participating.

Letterman Awards

All letterman awards will be distributed to the coaches by the Athletic Office and then to the individual athletes at the end of the season. Anyone who quits or is removed from a team prior to the completion of the season, including post-season playoffs, will not receive a letter nor any other individual or team award even if the criteria for earning that award had been met prior to quitting or being removed. Head coaches will establish lettering criteria and disseminate that information to their team at the beginning of the season.

BASIC RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL PROSPECTIVE ATHLETIC LETTER AND PARTICIPATION AWARD CANDIDATES.

1. An athlete must display sportsmanship and conduct which exemplifies the school to his/her opponents, teammates and officials.
2. An athlete must conform to all participation and training rules established by the School District and the head coach for that given sport.
3. An athlete must have conformed to practice and game regulations as established by the coach in that sport.
4. The athlete must complete the season, including individual and post season competition.
5. The athlete must have returned all the equipment issued to him to the satisfaction of the Head Coach and Athletic Director.
6. Letters are only issued to a participant in a varsity sport.
7. All seniors that have remained on the team will receive a varsity letter.
8. Coach's discretion can be used to letter an athlete based on the following three attributes:
 - a) Positive contribution to the team.
 - b) An athlete demonstrates good sportsmanship and a supportive attitude.
 - c) An injured player would have lettered if the injury had not occurred

*These are the minimum requirements for each sport. The head coach of each sport can establish stricter requirements. The head coach will notify the student athletes of the requirements to letter before the start of the regular season.

Special Awards

Three Sport Athletic Award - Given to any student who participates in three sports during the school year.

Beaver Lettermen Club - Any senior athlete who has received 6 or more varsity letters in their high school career will become a member of the Beaver Lettermen Club.

Team GPA Award - Given to the athletic team with the highest grade point average.

Varsity Jackets

Varsity letterman's jackets are handled by an external company. Contact information for said vendor along with general jacket information will be available in the athletic office. It will be the family's responsibility to deal with the individual company if they are dissatisfied with the product or service they receive when ordering a varsity jacket.

Student Transportation

The Beaver Area School District provides transportation to all scheduled away events. 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. However, certain occasions arise that a parent/guardian must drive their child to or from a contest. In such cases, a student may go to and/or from the event with his/her parent/guardian if a written request was provided to the Athletic Office prior to the event and appropriate notification has been made with the head coach. Parents/Guardians will release BASD from any and all responsibility for that child when transporting them to and/or from an event. Students are NOT permitted to transport themselves to any away contests.

Returning Equipment

Students are responsible for any and all equipment (including uniforms and practice gear) issued by the school district. You will be expected to return all equipment at the end of the season; otherwise, you will be financially responsible for any missing items. 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. If you fail to pay for non-returned or overly-abused equipment, you will not be permitted further athletic participation and records and transcripts will not be released until all obligations have been cleared.

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.

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. This is part of the skills and advantages that participants develop and nurture through membership in extracurricular activities.

Acknowledging that students by nature of their youth and inexperience are still developing life skills which include time management and prioritization of responsibilities, the Board of School Directors, Administration, and Coaches shall encourage each extracurricular activity participant to strive to achieve the highest academic as well as athletic standards as an individual and as a team.

All coaches and sponsors will reinforce the premise that the student has the responsibility to maintain sound academic standings.

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.

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 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. The head coach or Athletic Director may also grant these exceptions when the schedule presents an undue burden or academic strain on the student. All arrangements must be made prior to the start of the event/competition.

Weather Cancellations

Based on a cancellation or early dismissal of school due to inclement weather, the following shall apply:

1. All practices and/or competitions are cancelled unless administrative approval is given. Administrative consideration will be given to the need for the practice based on the immediacy of the competition and the severity of the weather/road conditions.
2. All 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 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.

Squad Selection

The head coach of each individual team is responsible for the selection of the members of that team. They can choose to evaluate talent on their own, with a designated group of people, and/or hire outside professionals to aid in the process. It is also the coach's responsibility to inform the athletes and parents of the tryout process and evaluation tool being used prior to the first day of tryouts. If students must be eliminated from the squad, it is the coach's responsibility to personally inform the individuals either by a verbal or written communication. Impersonal methods of notification such as posting lists, reading names, or having other students report a team roster will not be utilized.

Concern Complaint Process:

If a parent has a concern with the tryout process, they should follow the chain of command set forth below:

1. Student should address questions to coaching staff.
2. Parent and student should request a meeting with the coach or coaching staff.
3. Parent, student, and coach will meet with the Athletic Director.
4. Parent, student, coach and Athletic Director will meet with the Principal.

The Beaver Area School District Athletic Office believes that coaches are in the best position to determine which athletes will remain on the roster.

Collegiate Athletics

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 interested in participating in collegiate athletics and discuss your potential as an NCAA Division I, II or III player. Additionally, seek advice from the school counselor and from the Athletic Director on initial eligibility requirements for college athletics. Do not be afraid to ask for their help.

Social Media Guidelines

Social media refers to internet-based applications designed to create and share user generated content. Any form of digital magazines, internet forums, web-blogs, podcasts, photographs, video, rating and social bookmarking found on websites or applications such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or Tumblr that is open to public viewing is considered to be social media. This is a rapidly changing network as we move into the 21st Century, and many more not mentioned will arise, which are also included in these guidelines. Violations of these guidelines are subject to investigation and consequences outlined in the Beaver Area School District Code of Conduct are also subject to review by state and federal law enforcement. Any and all disciplinary measures may apply depending on the severity of the infraction.

Beaver Area High School student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner as a member of their teams and our athletic program. As a student-athlete you are responsible for your social media use. Any malicious use of social media platforms shall not be tolerated. Malicious use may include, but not be limited to:

- Derogatory language or remarks regarding fellow athletes, students, coaches, administrators, faculty and staff of Beaver Area High School or other high schools.
- Demeaning statements or threats that endanger the safety of another person.
- Incriminating photos or statements regarding illegal criminal behavior, underage drinking, use of illegal drugs, sexual harassment or violence.

As a student athlete I have reviewed and carefully read, with my parent(s)/legal guardian, the Beaver Athletics Social Media Guidelines and agree to abide by all provisions contained within. Furthermore, I understand that a violation of said rules may result in loss of athletic privileges and/or suspension from participation.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

PURPOSE

This Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct is meant to promote a positive experience and learning environment for students, coaches, officials, and fans.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be encouraging and supportive towards our respective students and his or her team.
2. Exemplify good sportsmanship towards the visiting team, its coaching staff, fans, school, and community.
3. Exhibit a positive attitude and good behavior at all athletic contests, both home and away.
4. Shows respect and exhibits good behavior towards all contest officials.
5. Will refrain from using profanity or demonstrating any other negative behavior.
6. Avoid criticism of any student, coach or contest officials.
7. Refrain from interfering with the coaching staff and their responsibilities.
8. Acknowledges that the coaching staff is responsible for my respective student during practices, games, and any other team-related functions.
9. Will promote a safe, positive and fair environment.
10. Will provide and sign all necessary forms, with accurate information, to the Athletic Office.
11. Will respect the rules and regulations of the team, school, WPIAL and PIAA.

Any violation of these policies may result in necessary action and consequences upon further review.

I understand my role and responsibilities in helping create and maintain a positive athletic experience for all parties involved.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Name (signature)

Name of Respective Student

Date

Parents and Guardians

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.
- Talk to your child on a daily basis.

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, off-season conditioning, etc.)
- Team rules and guidelines
- Lettering requirements
- Disciplinary procedures
- Information regarding procedures to contact coaches

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

Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches:

- Treatment of their child
- Ways to help their child improve
- Concerns about their child's behavior

Concerns NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time / positions / assignments
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

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 for a period of 24 hours. Failure to comply with this request will result in a meeting with the Athletic Director and consequences may include being prohibited from attending the next event, multiple events, or up to and including the remainder of the season. Discussions during times of high emotions do not promote resolution of issues.
- Parents may discuss concerns with coaches via the telephone or request a meeting with the coach after the 24 hour period.
- If a parent meeting is desired, the parent should call the coach to schedule an appointment in advance.
- If the coach cannot be reached, the Athletic Director should be contacted to schedule the meeting.
- If the meeting with the coach does not provide satisfactory resolution, the parent may schedule an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
- Coaches may also schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director to discuss issues with parents.
- If the situation is still unresolved, additional meetings with appropriate administrators may be scheduled.

Beaver Area School District Title IX Information

The Beaver Area School District is committed to continued compliance with Title IX and its implementing regulations. All Title IX concerns related to the operation of the athletic office should be reported to both the Athletic Director and the School District's Title IX Compliance Officer. The School District's Title IX Compliance Officer is:

Ms. Cristine Wagner-Deitch

(724) 774-0250 ext. 5002

wagnerdeitchc@basd.k12.pa.us

Student-Athlete/Parent Receipt and Acknowledgment

It is important in establishing a positive school and home partnership in which parents, staff, and students have a common understanding of the policies and procedures of the Beaver Area School District Athletic Program.

Policies in this handbook are in effect: (1) during school hours, (2) while on school property, (3) while using district approved transportation, (4) before, during, and after school at events observed and/or supervised by district staff, (5) while en route to or from school, (6) any other time that a reasonable nexus can be made with the educational mission and/or representation of the school.

We ask that you sign and return this page to the Athletic Office after reading the statements below:

We agree that we have reviewed the Beaver Area School District Athletic Handbook. We understand that all students and parents/guardians are responsible for and held accountable to the policies, procedures, and consequences contained within the handbook. If we do not understand any of the content, it is our responsibility to consult with an appropriate agent of the Beaver Area School District to establish clarity regarding any/all policies and procedures.

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date