

Brighton Area Schools
InterSCHOLASTIC Athletics Mission

The Brighton Interscholastic Athletics program will work cooperatively with the academic instructional program to contribute in the development of self-governing adults. The athletic programs through their structure, integrity, and success will inclusively offer opportunities to all students and members of our communities to benefit from the values of “Brighton InterSCHOLASTIC Athletics”.

Department Vision

An athlete who elects to participate in athletics at Brighton is voluntarily making the choice to develop good physical conditioning, meet minimum academic expectations and exercise good judgment in matters of personal and civic character. Brighton student athletes and all those who support them will consistently strive for excellence in the classroom, the community and in athletic competition. Interscholastic Athletics at Brighton Area Schools are a developmental experience for young people. This experience and all it encompasses is the reason Brighton Area Schools chooses to offer athletic opportunities.

I. Michigan High School Athletic Association:

In all matters of interscholastic athletics, Brighton Area Schools is governed by the rules set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association of which the district is a member. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, an athlete must comply with these rules. The athletic director and coach of the athletes will emphasize these at the beginning of the season of each individual sport. To familiarize parents with procedures, the athletic director will arrange meetings with coaches and parents annually. It is the responsibility, however, of each athlete to become familiar with all rules governing interscholastic athletics at Brighton.

II. Attendance & Academic Requirements:

A. School Attendance & Athletic Participation:

1. No athlete will be permitted to practice or play in a game, contest or event if absent for any part of the day of the event, unless excused by the athletic director or designee of the athletic director.
2. Regular attendance at practice sessions is expected.
3. An athlete cannot drop out of one sport and start practicing in another until the previous sport is over or both coaches agree.
4. A student may only participate in one interscholastic, club sport, or school recognized sport per season, unless granted approval to be a Varsity Dual Sport athlete by the administration after having followed the application process.
5. Students who participate in outside athletics (AAU, B.A.R.C., SELCRA, Community Based Programs, etc.) while representing a B.A.S. athletic team must understand and adhere to the expectation that their commitment to the school team comes first.
6. Students who quit or are suspended from a team after the first regularly scheduled contest may not join another team during that season.

B. Academic Eligibility

One stipulation of the M.H.S.A.A. is that an athlete must have a passing grade in four (4) academic subjects the previous semester in order to be eligible. The athletic department has the responsibility to monitor the progress of each athlete to determine current eligibility. All student athletes must maintain at least a 1.665 overall GPA while in season and meet the requirement for credit in all classes. *Academic grade checks will be based on the 1st & 3rd marking period and the 1st and 2nd semester grades of student athletes.* Ineligible student athletes will not be eligible to compete from the first Monday immediately following notification from school administration or coach. Ineligible student athletes may regain eligibility by picking up from the athletic office an eligibility reinstatement form from the athletic department office on Wednesday of their second academic week of ineligibility and every week thereafter. The reinstatement form must be submitted and validated by the athletic office prior to the student athlete competing. Reinstatement if validated will be effective beginning the following Monday and not before unless the reinstatement is due to a clerical error.

III. Bulldog Expectations – Looking in the Mirror

A. Competition Expectations:

1. Fair Play at all times.
2. Playing for the joy of playing and for success of the team.
3. Playing hard to the end of the contest regardless of the score.
4. Keeping one's head and playing the game, not talking it.
5. Respect for officials with the understanding that officials are present to enforce the rules.
6. That an athlete should not quit, cheat, bet, or "grandstand".

B. School & Team Expectations:

1. Out-of-school and out-of-town conduct beyond reproach.
2. Faithful completion of schoolwork as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team.
3. Complete observance of training rules as duty to self, team, and school.

C. Sportsmanship Expectations:

1. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests and extend every courtesy to them.
2. Give opponents full credit when they win.
3. Learn to accept responsibility for losses and or shortcomings while focusing on improvement.
4. Act with modesty and consideration when one's own team wins.
5. An athlete will not taunt when the team wins or blame the officials when it loses.

D. Athletic Communication Chain – Appropriate, honest and consistent communication by all parties is a building block for success. To this effect all parties are reminded of two key ingredients to assist the process outlined below – **Appropriate Time & Appropriate Place.**
Step 1: Participant to Coach.
Step 2: Participant & Parent-Guardian to Coach.
Step 3: Participant & Parent-Guardian to Athletic Director & Coach.

Prior to practice, after practice, or by appointment & in a private setting is when coaches will be available to speak with student athletes & parents regarding any concerns they may have.

Brighton coaches are instructed to not entertain discussion on program concerns before, during, or after contests or during practices. These times are dedicated to preparation, team time, and cool down time. If approached in a public setting during these times, coaches will express a willingness to meet, and either schedule a meeting date and time or provide contact information so a meeting can be arranged.

IV. Application of the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement.

Student Athletes are required to abide by the Brighton Academic and Citizenship Agreement at all times and at all places. When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the agreement throughout his/her school career. A student may neither attend try-outs nor practice with a team until he/she has submitted, along with a physical form, a signed acknowledgement form, including a parent/guardian signature, agreeing to abide by the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement. This agreement applies equally for male and female athletes, candidates, members, and managers of all athletic teams. The agreement will be enforced for all athletes from the first day of signing until the termination of the student's athletic experience at Brighton. This agreement will be continuously in force throughout the athlete's career. Student athletes will be asked to recommit to its guidelines, upon any revisions of the agreement which are non-clerical in nature. An athlete who violates the agreement will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the consequence provisions of the Academic and Citizenship Agreement. Note: Any suspensions from activities as a result of this agreement or other school discipline do not effect any financial commitments made as a result of the student's participation (fees, spirit wear, camp fees, etc...).

V. Standards of Conduct

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Student Athlete Academic and Citizenship Agreement and are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the "Consequences" section of the agreement:

- A. Use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of those substances listed in items 1-6 below. For purposes of this section of the agreement, the term "distribution" includes the "hosting" of a gathering of two or more persons at which any of the substances listed in items 1-6 are used:
 - 1. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form;
 - 2. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form;
 - 3. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal and/or state statute;

4. Steroids, human growth hormones or other controlled performance-enhancing drugs;
5. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing, i.e., “look alike” drugs, and;
6. Prescription drugs which are misused

Note: It shall not be a violation of this agreement for an athlete to use or possess prescription medicine when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed healthcare practitioner or an over-the-counter medicine taken pursuant to the advice of a licensed healthcare practitioner for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board Policy. An athlete shall notify his or her coach if he or she is taking prescription or non-prescription medicine.

- B. An established violation of federal, state or local law or ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses. This will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the consequences section of this agreement.
- C. **Acceptable Use Communications** – It is expected that each member of an athletic team will express a high degree of loyalty to the members of the team and the coach. Excessive displays of disloyalty could result in disciplinary action. Student athletes are not to upload or post to social media websites or mechanisms content, including but not limited to, any comments photographs, videos, or other materials that reflect negatively upon themselves, the team, or the school. Consequences for such actions may include suspension or dismissal from the team as well as school discipline.
- D. Persistent disobedience or gross misconduct or other misconduct, as described in Brighton School’s Student Handbooks, will result in a penalty as provided in VI.A.
- E. Gambling: Gambling is prohibited. This conduct will result in disciplinary action ranging from warning to dismissal from Brighton Area School Athletics. Violations will also be referred to school administration and may be punishable by law.
- F. Hazing: Hazing has been made a crime by State of Michigan Law in 2004. Any type of hazing, defined as harassing by unnecessary banter, ridicule, or criticism, or by exacting unnecessary or disagreeable acts, as an initiation activity, team tradition, etc. by an individual or a group is punishable by law. This conduct is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action ranging from a warning to dismissal from Brighton Area School’s athletic programs.

VI. Consequences

A. Conduct Offenses and Standards:

1. Violations of the Academic and Citizenship Agreement will be addressed by the Athletic Director who will determine an appropriate penalty for

the violation. A student may be suspended pending the resolution of any criminal charges.

2. Any student suspended from school pursuant to the Student Handbook, is automatically restricted from participation in or attendance at any school sponsored athletic activity for the duration of the out-of-school suspension.
3. A team may have specific rules written by the coach, approved by the athletic director, and established by the coach at the first meeting of the season. Violations of team rules will be addressed by the coach. These rules will not supercede items covered in this agreement.
4. In the event that school policies, procedures, and or this agreement do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and consequences to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances to be applied prospectively and to inform all affected individuals and/or groups. New rules or consequences will apply only after the date of their enactment.

B. Substance Abuse Offenses:

Violation of conduct standards V.A., 1-6 above. The use, possession or distribution of alcohol, tobacco and other non-permitted drugs is prohibited. Research provides evidence that students involved with controlled substances have increased truancy, poor academic performances, a loss of personal motivation, and a general lack of concern for citizenship and ethics. Students involved with controlled substances will be dealt with in a responsive manner. Parent involvement will be sought immediately. Disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Handbook and may lead to long-term suspension or expulsion.

1. **Consequences of use, possession and distribution of tobacco item; use or possession of alcohol or other prohibited substances.**
 - a. **First Offense:** Possession, use or distribution of tobacco, vaporizers, e-cigarettes and or any like products: 20% suspension from scheduled competitions and or public performances. Possession or use of alcohol or any other prohibited substance: 30% suspension from scheduled competitions and or public performances. Note: For “out of season” 1st offenses, a student may request to do 20 hours of community service in lieu of contest or public performance suspension. Community service must be requested in writing, using the athletic departments form, pre-approved by the athletic director, and said form must be resubmitted for completion approval by the athletic director, prior to a students 1st official practice. Community Service must be done at a non-profit entity with-in and or servicing the boundaries of Brighton Area Schools.

- b. **Second Offense:** Possession, use or distribution of tobacco, vaporizers, e-cigarettes, and or any other like products: 40% suspension from scheduled competitions and or public performances. Possession or use of alcohol or other prohibited substance: 50% suspension from scheduled competitions and or public performances.
- These percentages are based upon the total number of competitions and or public performances for the season. The percentage of any suspensions will be rounded to the nearest whole number (1/2 shall be rounded up) of the scheduled number of competitions and or public performances for the current season and the suspension will apply to this number of competitions and or public performances. The current season is defined as that season in progress at the date of the offense or the student athlete's next upcoming season. The denial of participation will extend in to the athlete's next season, if necessary, to fulfill the suspension assigned. During the suspension, the athlete will participate in all practices and be dressed in street clothes at all competitions and or public performances.

- c. **Third Offense: Possession, use or distribution of tobacco, vaporizers, e-cigarettes, and/or any other like products; Possession or use of alcohol or other prohibited substances:**
- Termination of participation in the Brighton Interscholastic athletics program for the remainder of the student's Middle School and/or High school career and forfeiture of all school athletic awards for that sport in the current season.

2. Consequences of Distribution of Alcohol or Other Prohibited Substances (excluding Tobacco)
Exclusion from all interscholastic athletic activities for one calendar year. Those suspended for distribution offenses will not be eligible for the below listed "AAA" clause. NOTE: Distribution of prohibited substance may also result in suspension or expulsion from school pursuant to the School Handbook policy.

3. Acknowledge, Apologize, and Amend Clause – "AAA"
(Applicable w/In-Season, 1st offenses only) Student Athletes who of their own volition:

- a) Acknowledge that they have violated the tobacco, alcohol, and drug policies listed above.
- b) Apologize to their teammates in a team setting with their coach present.
- c) Amend their behavior via the assessment and or treatment components listed below will be granted to a 10% reduction in suspension for first and second offenses. The assessment and treatment components are as follows:
 - 1st Offenses: Tobacco – Completion of an effect of tobacco use education assignment as determined by the Director of Athletics, not to be done on school or team time. Alcohol and or Drugs- complete a recognized assessment program.
 - 2nd Offenses: Tobacco – complete a non-school tobacco program whose documented requirements are greater than the school offered clinic. Alcohol – complete a recognized alcohol/drug rehabilitation program.

Non-completion of any of the three “AAA” steps will result in the full suspension being applied.

VII. Application of Penalties

- A. Penalties will not be considered to have been served unless the athlete fully completes the season. Quitting the team is not considered “serving the penalty”. Student athletes that become disruptive to the team during a suspension will be dismissed and the suspension period will be halted.
- B. If a subsequent offense is committed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the subsequent offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.
- C. The offenses will be cumulative during a student’s athletic career, grades 7-12 rather than on a yearly basis.
- D. Should a Middle School Student incur three offenses prior to the completion of grade eight, he/she may petition in writing the Athletic Director for reinstatement at the conclusion of their ninth grade year. Also, students suspended for distribution under Section VI.B.2. may petition for reinstatement after their suspension expires. Candidates for reinstatement must meet in full both M.H.S.A.A. and B.A.S. academic requirements from the previous semester, have completed a recognized non-school treatment program, completed 100 hours of certified community service, and be willing to commit to an individualized behavior contract that offers no second chances.

VIII. Disciplinary Process

The disciplinary process will be administered by the Athletic Director. Before any suspension takes effect, student and the student’s parents or guardian shall be verbally informed by the Athletic Director of the alleged violation and the athlete and his parents or guardian will have an opportunity to respond to the allegations. When the Athletic Director is satisfied a violation has occurred, he/she will consult with the student’s assistant principal or principal. Written notice of the violation will be presented to the student and his/her parents or guardian, which will be dated, state the violation and the consequences of the violation. If the student admits the violation, the Athletic Director will provide the student and his/her parents or guardians with a written notice of the consequence of the violation. If the student does not admit the violation, then the Athletic Director will hold a hearing within three (3) days at which time the student will be permitted to bring forth any facts, statements or witnesses regarding the matter. The Athletic Director will then make a written determination stating his finding regarding the occurrence of the violation and if the violation has occurred, the consequences for the student. The decision of the Athletic Director shall be final unless changed by the appeal process outlined in IX below. No disciplinary action will be initiated at any time later than ninety (90) days from the date of the alleged event. All suspension periods shall begin from the date of the Athletic Director’s written decision or the student’s admission of the violation. The athlete will be excluded from participation in contests or events pending the conclusion of any appeal

period. Minor violations not resulting in a suspension shall not be subject to written notice or appeal procedures.

IX. Appeals Process

A. An athlete, or his/her parents or guardians may appeal a suspension decision of the Athletic Director. The request must be in writing and submitted to the building principal within five school days after receiving the Athletic Director's decision.

B. The building principal will review the Athletic Director's decision and make a determination as soon as possible but not more than five school days from the receipt of the appeal. Written notice of the principal's decisions shall be forwarded immediately in person or by mail to the athlete, the athlete's parent or guardian, Athletic Director and Superintendent of Schools. Every effort should be made to communicate the decision verbally and in a timely manner, however the written communication verifies the decision. The building principal's decision shall be based upon a review of all documents and statements available concerning the incident and a meeting in person with the athlete and/or his/her parents or guardians if the principal feels such meeting would be helpful in reaching a decision. A meeting, however, is not mandatory. The principal's decision is final unless within five (5) school days after receiving the principal's decision, a written appeal is delivered to the Superintendent.

C. A parent/guardian or student may appeal the principal's decision to the Superintendent of Schools. A written request addressed to the Superintendent within five (5) days after receiving the principal's decision must be provided. The Superintendent will review the principal's decision and make a determination as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) schooldays from the receipt of the appeal. Written notice of the Superintendent's decision shall be forwarded immediately in person or by mail to the student, the student's parent or guardian, the Athletic Director and the principal. Every effort will be made to communicate the decision verbally in a timely manner. However, the written communication will verify the decision. The Superintendent's decision shall be based upon a review of all documents and statements available concerning the incident and a meeting in person with the student and/or his/her parents or guardians if the Superintendent feels such meeting would be helpful in reaching a decision. Such meeting, however, is not mandatory. The Superintendent's decision is final and no other appeal is available.

**X. Brighton Parent Cooperation Agreement –
Sportsmanship Starts @ Home**

The essential elements of character building and ethics are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree to assist the coaching staff and Brighton Area Schools in supporting the “six pillars of character” by exhibiting the following behaviors:

- 1.) I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- 2.) I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- 3.) I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the school district.
- 4.) I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- 5.) I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, such as: booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- 6.) I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 7.) I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- 8.) I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 9.) I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- 10.) I will respect the officials and their authority during contests and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- 11.) I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at sporting events.

12.) I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am an official coach.