

Baldwin-Whitehall School District



STUDENT **H**ANDBOOK FOR
ATHLETICS

Baldwin-Whitehall
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*Policies and rules are subject to change by the School Board.

Organization and Operation of Athletic Program in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District

The mission of Baldwin High School is to provide an optimum learning environment in a flexible, comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of all youth providing them with the skills to become self-sufficient, caring, aspiring, and contributing citizens in the changing technological world.

Introduction

The athletic program in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District is an integral part of the total school environment. It encompasses both immediate and long-range goals. The immediate goal is to meet the physical and recreational needs of the students in the areas of motor coordination, strength, skills, endurance, general physical fitness, and peer involvement/participation. Its long-range goals are to develop the intellectual, emotional, social and physical skills necessary for a happy, active, and productive adult life.

A broad-based extracurricular program to achieve these goals has been established as a natural outgrowth of the health and physical education courses operating within the regular school curriculum. This program offers opportunities for interscholastic competition. The intent of the program is to provide the opportunity for each student to participate in some form of athletics at the level of the student's ability.

In summary, the Baldwin-Whitehall School District feels that participation in athletics is a wholesome, worthwhile educational experience for all students. To win fairly and to accept the frustration of losing in a mature manner provides enduring lessons that each student must learn. A strong athletic program provides an opportunity for students to learn these lessons.

Organization of the Athletic Program

The entire athletic program is authorized and funded by the Board of School Directors for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. The task of organizing and operating the program and related activities is delegated through the superintendent or assistant superintendent to the Athletic Director and to other staff as may be appropriate.

The interscholastic athletic program of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District is operated in accordance with the rules of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Ethics

Athletics should foster clean sports. It is the privilege and duty of every person connected with athletics to exemplify high standards in his/her own actions and advocate them in others. This includes the coaches, players, fans, administrators, and officials.

Some guidelines that are expected at Baldwin-Whitehall include the following:

1. Unsportsmanlike or unfair behavior as a means to gain an advantage will not be tolerated.
2. Student spectators represent our school as well as the players and should conduct themselves accordingly.
3. Decisions of the officials are to be abided by even if they seem unfair.
4. Visiting teams are to be treated as guests of the home team.
5. Good points in others should be appreciated and suitable recognition given for outstanding achievement.
6. The practice of “booing” is regarded as discourteous and unsportsmanlike.

Eligibility Rules

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school that is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) must adhere to the PIAA rules; otherwise you will lose your eligibility to represent your school in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, your school or team may be penalized. It is, therefore, important for you to be aware of the requirements to which you are subject.

The information contained here highlights and summarizes the major eligibility requirements you must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. It does not list every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to grades 7 through 12.

The principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either present or future, you should

see your school principal who has a complete copy of all the PIAA eligibility rules. Your principal may also obtain from the appropriate PIAA District Committee a formal ruling as to your athletic eligibility.

Any student that is suspended from school or is serving an in-school suspension is not able to practice with the team or play in a game on that given day.

Age

You may not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year (15th birthday where interscholastic competition is limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where it is limited to grades 7 through 9).

Amateur Status and Awards

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in the sport. You will lose your amateur status in a sport for at least a year if:

1. You, or your school, or the organization which you represent, or your parent or guardian receives money or property for or related to your athletic ability, performance, participation, or services.
2. You accept compensation for teaching, training or coaching in a sport. You may receive normal and customary compensation for acting as an instructor in or officiating recreational activities, or for serving as a lifeguard at swimming areas.

You may receive awards only from your school, the sponsor of an athletic event, the news media, or a non-profit service organization approved by your school principal. Permissible awards are a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, shorts, jersey, cap, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification.

Attendance

1. You must be regularly enrolled in your school and in full-time attendance there.
2. You are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled.
3. 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 have been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence.

Academic Eligibility

Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, shall be reported on a weekly basis, and shall be filed in the principal's office.

In cases where a student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not as of any Friday meet the above standards, the student shall be ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period meets the above standards.

In cases where a student's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the above standards, the student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period.

At the end of the school year, the student's final grades in the student's subjects rather than the student's grades for the last grading period shall be used to determine the student's eligibility for the next grading period.

You must be passing at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent as of each Friday during the grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the immediately following Sunday through the next Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.

All-Star Contests and National High School/Interscholastic Championships

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for one year if you participate in an all-star contest in that sport or if you participate in a contest to qualify for and/or determine a single national high school/interscholastic individual championship team in that sport.

Consent of Parent or Guardian

You are eligible only if, before you begin practice, an official PIAA certificate signed by your parent or guardian consenting to your participation in the particular sport involved is on file with the principal of your school.

Physical Examination

INITIAL EVALUATION: Prior to any student participating in 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 (1) complete a Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE); and (2) have the appropriate person(s) complete the first four Sections of the CIPPE Form. Upon completion of Sections 1, 2, and 3 by the parent/guardian, and Section 4 by an Authorized Medical Examiner, those Sections must be turned in to the Principal, or the Principal's designee, of the student's school for retention by the school. 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. **WRESTLERS MUST COMPLETE SECTION 7 OF THE CIPPE FORMS.**

SUBSEQUENT SPORT(S) IN THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR: Following completion of a CIPPE, the same student seeking to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests in subsequent sport(s) in the same school year, must complete Section 5 of this form and must turn in that Section to the Principal, or Principal's designee, of his or her school. The Principal, or the Principal's designee, of the student's school will then determine whether Section 6 need be completed.

Students who are under medical care as a result of an injury will not be permitted to participate/compete until a written approval from the physician/physician assistant is received by our trainer.

Transfers

You are treated as having transferred whenever you change schools, even if you are out of school for a period of time before entering the new school.

If you transfer from one school to another, you are eligible immediately at the new school:

1. When you live with your natural or adoptive parents in the new school district upon WPIAL approval.
2. When you live with a court-appointed legal guardian in the new school district, upon approval by the PIAA District committee.

3. When you transfer between public and private schools or between private schools, where the two school districts overlap, under the following circumstances:
 - a. the transfer is from a junior high/middle school to a high school upon the completion of the highest grade in the junior high/middle school.
 - b. the transfer is to a high school at the beginning of the lowest grade in the high school.

If you transfer from one school to another in whole or in part for athletic purposes or if you were recruited, you will lose your athletic eligibility for one year. This requirement applies even if you would otherwise be eligible at the school to which you transferred.

Most students who are not eligible immediately will be ineligible for one year from the date of transfer.

Period of Attendance and Participation and Grade Repetition

1. You will lose your eligibility when you have been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade. If you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior.
2. You may participate only one season in each sport during each school year.
3. A junior high/middle school student may not participate in any sport for more seasons than there are grades in his or her school above sixth grade.

Outside Participations

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for the remainder of the season if, while a member of your high school team, you participate in an athletic contest as an individual or a member of another team in the same sport during the same season, unless your school principal waives this rule by sending an appropriate letter to the PIAA executive director before you begin the outside participation.

If you participate as an individual or a member of a team in a non-school athletic program, while enrolled at a school which has a team in that sport, you will be eligible for the playoffs in that sport only if you are a bona fide member of your school team for at least 75 percent of its regular season.

Participation in Out of Season Sports While a Member of an Athletic Team for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District

The Baldwin-Whitehall School District expects students participating in athletics for the BWSD to be committed to the sport in season. As a result, the student should not compromise the school team concept by participating on an out of season team.

The PIAA defines our sport seasons, and there are limits about coaches interacting and working with student athletes during the off season. There are many reasons for these limits, but one of the most important is students need to participate in other activities to assist their development physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Therefore, the BWSD firmly believes students should participate in multiple sports.

Student Insurance

Student/athletes are required to do one of the two following things:

1. Purchase the student group insurance which covers him or her while participating in athletics, or
2. Provide the district with a medical release form, which indicates that the parent(s) have adequate personal insurance coverage.

No student will be permitted to engage in practice or in any game without having been insured under one of the above plans.

Individual Coach's Rules

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic director and principal for their respective sports. These rules as pertaining to a particular sport must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the athletic office.

School Discipline Referral

Any student-athlete referred to the office for a school rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period as determined by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Policy on Fighting in Interscholastic Sports

Fighting in any sport shall be construed to consist of: (1) an invitation to fight; closely following an opposing player during disturbance and making any taunting gesture or sound; (2) punching or slugging with fists, whether or not a punch is landed; (3) wrestling or tackling an opponent outside a legal play situation; (4) a player leaving the bench.

Consequences for Fighting/Disorderly Conduct by Student-Athletes

Any fighting/disorderly conduct by a student-athlete, at any interscholastic event, will receive a suspension from play and practice. The length of this suspension will be determined by the principal, athletic director, and head coach.

All Baldwin-Whitehall School District students have a right to due process and may appeal any ruling of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District.

Hazing

BWSD Policy 5302

Adopted: December 11, 2002

No student, District employee, coach, sponsor or volunteer shall plan, direct, encourage, engage or assist in any hazing activity. No school employee, coach,

sponsor or volunteer shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing. The District encourages students who have been subjected to hazing or their parents or guardians, to promptly report such incidents to the building principal. The District will investigate all complaints of hazing and will take prompt action to correct the situation and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy. The District prohibits retaliation against any person because he or she has made a report of alleged hazing or participated in any investigation of the same.

Alcohol and Drug Related Offenses

Alcohol abuse and drug abuse among students are serious social problems which threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the individual student user, other members of the school population, and the educational process. Prompt disciplinary intervention can be an effective deterrent against the abuse of chemical substances, thus helping the student user and protecting the general school population.

The following offenses involving illegal or potentially harmful drugs and other chemical substances, which occur during school regulated activities both on and off school district property, may result in suspension or expulsion from school or other appropriate discipline as warranted by the particular circumstances involved:

1. Possession of alcohol and/or marijuana.
2. Possession, use or distribution of a drug or controlled substance under circumstances that constitute a violation of the law.
3. Other activities which constitute violations of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act.

“Possession” includes drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking marijuana or consumption of other prohibited substances prior to attendance at a school regulated activity. Distribution (by sale or otherwise) and possession with intent to distribute are considered aggravating circumstances.

Any alleged violation of the above rules and regulations shall result in a mandatory formal hearing before the Board of School Directors (or as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or hearing examiner.) The superintendent may exclude the student from school pending the hearing. Further disciplinary action will be determined by the Board.

Anabolic Steroids

The Legislative Enactment of Act 93 prohibits the use of anabolic steroids except for a valid medical purpose by a pupil involved in school-related athletics. The law outlines minimum penalties for any pupil found in violation of the rules and regulations:

1. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics. No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. The board may require participation in any drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other program as a condition of reinstatement into a school athletic program.

Starting Dates for Athletics

Students should pay particular attention to the starting dates for all athletics. Of significant importance is the starting date for fall high school athletics. Generally, the starting date for all fall high school athletics is three weeks prior to the Labor Day weekend.

NCAA Clearinghouse

Many college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions – Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was established as a separate

organization by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent interpretation of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions. Applications for the Clearinghouse can be picked up in the guidance office or may be accessed online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. You can register with the Clearinghouse as early as your freshman year.

Responsibility for Equipment

All athletes are responsible for any equipment given to them for use before, during, or after the season. Students not returning all equipment must pay the replacement cost for the missing equipment. Restitution will also be required for any equipment that has been abused. Coaches will have collection days for all materials, and students are to return the equipment at this time. Failure to return equipment on time may result in disciplinary action. The obligation may also result in a student not receiving a report card in the next grade level or the withholding of senior transcript and diploma.

Student-athletes should wash equipment regularly. Regular washing insures a level of hygiene that prevents the spread of germs and disease. At the end of the season, equipment must be turned in cleaned, mended, and folded. There is an established procedure for collection of equipment. No equipment can be purchased; all equipment must be returned.

Content of the Athletic Program

Interscholastic athletics for boys in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District are as follows:

- Baseball 9-12
- Basketball 7-12
- Cross Country 7-12
- Golf 9-12
- Football 7-12
- Lacrosse 9-12
- Soccer 7-12
- Swimming & Diving 7-12
- Tennis 9-12
- Track and Field 7-12
- Volleyball 9-12
- Wrestling 7-12

Club Sports: Bowling, Hockey, In-line Hockey

Interscholastic athletics for girls in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District are as follows:

- Basketball 7-12
- Cheerleading 7-12
- Cross Country 7-12
- Gymnastics 9-12
- Lacrosse 9-12
- Soccer 7-12
- Softball 7-12
- Swimming & Diving 7-12
- Tennis 9-12
- Track and Field 7-12
- Volleyball 7-12

Club Sports: Bowling, Slow-Pitch Softball

Procedure for Awarding Athletic Letters

The following basic rules apply to all candidates for athletic awards:

1. The player must at all times display to opponents, officials, and teammates the type of sportsmanship and conduct, which this school demands.
2. A player must have conformed to all the training rules established for the given sport.
3. A player must have conformed to all the training rules established for the given sport.
4. A player must have returned all equipment loaned to him or her to the satisfaction of the coach and/or equipment manager.
5. In case of injury or any other extenuating circumstance, awards will be made on the recommendation of the coach.
6. No person who has not earned and been awarded a letter shall be permitted to wear the letter.
7. Only one letter will be awarded to any given player in attendance at Baldwin High School. Participation in more than one sport will be designated by a suitable representative pin to be attached to the letter. Players eligible for awards in a sport for more than one season will be given the appropriate award for each additional year lettered and an additional pin to be attached to the letter.