



## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2020-2021

The Bell Creek Academy Athletic Handbook outlines all the rules, regulations, and guidelines required for a student to participate in extra-curricular team sports. The rules and regulations contained in this Handbook will be enforced for all students participating in any Bell Creek athletic sport/activity. Please thoroughly review the contents of this handbook and sign where provided. If you should have any questions about any of the information included hereof, please contact Scott Musin, Athletic Director at [smusin@bellcreekacademy.com](mailto:smusin@bellcreekacademy.com).

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Athletics provides a primary means to develop habits, attitudes, and ideals requisite to ethical competition and cooperation. Athletics provide healthy and wholesome leisure time activities for our youth. Athletics can have a powerful impact on young people during their formative years and may further develop their ability to work together with their peers. Athletic sports/activities should be offered to all students at Bell Creek Academy Middle & High School.

### **PRINCIPLES OF ATHLETICS:**

To fully use the potential in athletics for educational experiences, interscholastic programs should be organized and conducted in accordance with these 6 basic principles:

- A. Interscholastic athletic programs should be regarded as integral parts of the total educational program and should be conducted in such a way, that they are worthy of such regard.
- B. Interscholastic athletic programs should supplement rather than serve as substitutes for basic physical education programs, physical recreation programs, and intramural programs.
- C. Interscholastic athletic programs should be subject to the same administrative control as the total education programs.
- D. Personnel with clear background checks, successful fingerprinting, and appropriate training should conduct themselves as a coach/mentor for our interscholastic athletic programs.
- E. The welfare of the participant should be placed above any other consideration. What happens to the athlete who participates in the sports program is of primary importance. His or her welfare should transcend any other consideration. Victory is highly desired, and should be sought, but not at the sacrifice of other values concerned with the development of the participants.
- F. Interscholastic athletic programs should be conducted in accordance with the letter and spirit of the rules and regulations of appropriate state and national associations.

## **PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY:**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. The athlete must earn this privilege through dedication, desire, and discipline on the field/court and more importantly, in the classroom. The Athletic program is an extension of the school's total curriculum that provides activities for the growth and development of our students. At Bell Creek Academy, we believe that the athletic program contributes significantly to preparing our students for becoming productive, contributing citizens of our community and society.

## **ATHLETIC POLICIES:**

### TEAM SELECTION:

- A. At the beginning of each sports season, the Bell Creek Athletic Staff and Coaches will try to accept all players interested, in grades six through eight for middle school and nine through twelve for high school. In some instances, eighth graders may be permitted to play on a high school team. However, should the team enrollment reach a point where the coaching staff cannot work effectively or safely, then a tryout and cut system will be initiated. Tryouts for each team will be based on talent, teamwork, effort, attitude, behavior, attendance, and above all, academics. The Head Coach is responsible for the selection of the team players, but the Athletic Director will review the roster for final approval.
- B. If a tryout and cut system is implemented the coach will:
  1. Communicate to all candidates the specific criteria for making the team.
  2. Schedule practice plans to allow players to fully demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
  3. Give ample time to all candidates as they compete for roster spots.
  4. Explain that making the final roster of a team does not guarantee playing time.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- A. To be eligible a student must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA at the end of each semester, in order to remain eligible for the next semester, per FHSAA BYLAW 9.4.1
- B. In addition to FHSAA rules, athlete's grades shall be checked on a weekly basis. Any athlete with a D or F, will be placed on ACADEMIC PROBATION. Athletes will be responsible for gathering their weekly grades from each teacher &/or PowerSchool, the online grading system, and submitting them to their coach by the set deadline each week. Failure to do so will result in the athlete being ineligible.
- C. Any athlete placed on disciplinary action, (i.e Out of School suspension, In School suspension, etc..) by Bell Creek Administration will be ineligible to practice &/or play until all actions or infractions have been satisfied.
- D. A Student's unacceptable behavior may subject them to removal from an athletic team based on a decision made by the Athletic Department &/or Administration.
- E. Any student on the indebtedness list with Bell Creek Academy shall be ineligible to participate in games until all outstanding debt has been paid.

- F. Athletes may only participate when ALL required FHSAA and Bell Creek Academy paperwork (listed below) has been completed fully & submitted to the Athletic Director.
1. Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (EL2, revised 5/17) Signed by a Physician
  2. Consent & Release from Liability Certificate (EL3, revised 5/18)
  3. Bell Creek Academy Liability Waiver
  4. Complete the following online courses:
    - i. Concussion in Sports
    - ii. Sudden Cardiac Arrest
    - iii. Heat Illness Prevention
  5. Emergency Contact Information/Permission to Participate & Travel  
(A copy of valid Driver's license & Auto Insurance card must be provided)
- G. Once an athlete obtains a final roster spot on a team, all Bell Creek Academy paperwork, the specific sport fee, and the Athletic Booster Fee must be turned in and paid PRIOR to the first practice.

#### COMMITMENT:

- A. Athletes are encouraged to participate in more than one sport per school year. However, once an athlete begins a season of one sport they may not quit in order to join another sport during the same season.
- B. Being a part of an interscholastic team requires a major commitment from both the athlete and parents. Time management of scholastic and athletic responsibilities will be important.
- C. Athletes are expected to be fully committed and dedicated to their team (i.e. school responsibilities, attend all practices/competitions, team meetings, fundraising efforts, etc.)
- D. Joining an athletic team should not be taken lightly.

#### ATTENDANCE:

- A. Attendance at practice is mandatory. If circumstances arise where by a student cannot attend a practice, the coach must be notified before the practice via phone, email, and/or in person. Emergency absences may require proof/documentation.
- B. Unexcused absences from practices, games, or meetings may result in removal from the team.
- C. Students must attend school on game days to be eligible to participate in that day's game. Students who were absent on a game day, will be ineligible for that day's game.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP AND BEHAVIOR:

- A. Students/parents shall adhere to FHSAA Policy 30.1, 'Sportsmanship and Ethics'. "Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during, and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend".
- B. Parents/spectators shall adhere to FHSAA Policy 29.4, 'Crowd Control'. "The officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the on-the-court or on-the-field

conduct of the contest itself. In the event a spectator or spectators interfere with the conduct of a contest or cause an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the spectator or spectators to the home/host school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer. If the home/host school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to resolve the situation and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point”.

- C. Any parent/student unwilling or unable to adhere to FHSAA Policies 29.4 and 30.1, could subject student to being removed from the team.

#### **ATHLETIC SPORT FEE:**

Each athlete is required to pay a mandatory non-refundable athletic sport fee per sport. The amount is determined by anticipating upcoming costs associated with that sport, including but not limited to, referee/officials fees, field/gym rentals, league/conference entry fees, FHSAA dues, transportation costs, equipment, team awards, etc. The amount of the fee will be announced prior to the first practice of that sport. The sport specific fees, Boosters fees, various fundraiser efforts, etc. are the sole financial support of the Athletic program at Bell Creek Academy.

#### **ATHLETIC BOOSTER FEE:**

The Booster Fee is \$50 and is a once per school year, per family fee. This fee should be paid with cash or check made payable to Bell Creek Athletic Boosters.

#### **PAYING ATHLETIC SPORTS FEES VIA MySchoolBucks:**

- A. All related sports fees, uniform fees, etc.... must be paid online via the school’s payment site at [www.Myschoolbucks.com](http://www.Myschoolbucks.com), once the student has made the team.
- B. Fees are non-refundable if a student is dismissed/suspended from a team by the school administration due to disciplinary and/or academic reasons.
- C. Fees are non-refundable if a student is dismissed from a team by coach/athletic director due to disciplinary reasons and/or lack of attendance.
- D. Fees are non-refundable if a student quits the team by their own choice.
- E. Refunds for students deemed medically unfit to participate, after having been initially cleared, will only be considered after a letter from a medical professional, stating that the student is not able to participate, has been presented and verified. The amount of the refund will vary based on the amount of time the student was listed on the roster determined by Athletic Department and Administration. **No Refunds will be issued past the halfway mark of the specific sport season.**
- F. Future participation in the school’s athletic program by a student previously deemed medically unfit to participate will only be considered after the student presents a new letter confirming they are fit to participate from a medical professional.
- G. **Refunds will not be issued due to perceived lack of playing time.**

## **Requirements to earn a Varsity Letter:**

Prior to receiving a varsity letter for an athletic sport, an athlete must not have been suspended (OSS or ISS) during the current school year. The athlete must have competed at the varsity level, be in grades 9 - 12, participated in 50% of regular season play, and must have finished the season in good standing with the sports program. If both the above criteria and the requirements listed below, have been met, the athlete is then eligible to receive a varsity letter.

Athlete must earn a minimum of 5 points from these five areas:

1. Participate in at least 50% of regular season games/contests (1pt)
2. Have a 2.5 GPA or higher (1pt)
3. No discipline infractions (1pt)
4. No team rules violations (1pt)
5. P.A.W.S. score (1-2) pts can be given in this area)

1pt for exhibiting positive behavior in the following categories:

**Performance**

**Attitude**

**Work Ethic**

**Sportsmanship** (Score given by Team Coach)