



BELL CREEK ACADEMY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2023-2024

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 Patricia Pfeffer, Athletic Director at ppfeffer@charterk12.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. The health and safety of the student athlete is vitally important. Their 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 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 host tryouts for all players interested, in grades six through eight for middle school and nine through twelve for high school. In some instances, middle school students may be permitted to play on a high school team. 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. After tryouts, 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-athlete must maintain an unweighted cumulative 2.0 GPA at the end of each semester, to remain eligible for the next semester, per FHSAA BYLAW 9.4.1
- B. In addition to FHSAA rules, the student-athlete's grades shall be checked on a weekly basis. Any student-athlete with a D or F, will be placed on ACADEMIC PROBATION.
- C. **Student-athletes with multiple Ds or ANY Fs will not be able to practice or play in games until their grades are satisfactory (C or higher).**
 - 1. **Student-athletes must show proof that they have scheduled a meeting with their teacher(s) to remediate the grade.**
 - 2. **Student-athletes can be placed on academic probation no more than THREE times per year.**

- D. Any student-athlete placed on disciplinary action, (i.e., Out-of-School suspension, In-School suspension, etc..) by Bell Creek Administration will be ineligible to practice and/or play until all actions or infractions have been satisfied.
- E. A student-athlete's unacceptable behavior may subject them to removal from an athletic team based on a decision made by the Athletic Department and/or Administration.
- F. Any student-athlete on the indebtedness list with Bell Creek Academy shall be ineligible to participate in games until all outstanding debt has been paid.
 - 1. Failure to resolve indebtedness in a timely manner may result in prohibition of other school related activities such as field trips, dances, and/or graduation.
- G. 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 4/23) signed by a Physician
 - 2. Consent & Release from Liability Certificate (EL3, revised 3/23)
 - 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)
- H. 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 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 whereby 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 the student-athlete 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.

- A. Fees are non-refundable if a student is dismissed/suspended from a team by the school administration due to disciplinary and/or academic reasons.
- B. 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.
- C. Fees are non-refundable if a student quits the team by their own choice.
- D. 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.

- E. 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.
- F. **Refunds will not be issued due to perceived lack of playing time.**
- G. Athlete sport fees are required by everyone during each participating sport season. If a student-athlete fails to pay their sport fee after participating for at least half the season, they are subject to additional sanctions.
 - 1. Indebted students may be prevented from playing other sports or participating in other school-related activities.
 - 2. Bell Creek Academy may withhold transcripts, other student records, and/or diplomas until debts are satisfied.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER FEE:

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

PAYING ATHLETIC SPORTS FEES VIA MySchoolBucks:

All related sports fees, uniform fees, etc. must be paid online via the school's payment site at www.Myschoolbucks.com once the student has made the team.

REQUIREMENTS TO EARN A VARSITY LETTER:

- A. Athletes who qualify will receive a varsity letter only if it is their first-time lettering in any sport. With this letter will be a metal pin designating the sport they lettered in. If an athlete qualifies again in the same sport, they will receive a bar to add to the letter. If they letter in an additional sport, they will receive the corresponding pin.
- B. To receive a letter, an athlete must practice and play for the entire season. Decisions on players injured during the season will be up to the discretion of the coach. If dismissed from the squad, they will forfeit any claim to a letter.
- C. Baseball Letter: All athletes must play a total of $\frac{1}{2}$ the total innings in the season to earn a varsity letter. Pitchers must appear in $\frac{1}{3}$ the total games. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coach.
- D. Boys Basketball: Any player who practices and competes with the Varsity Basketball Team for a complete season will have earned a varsity letter and/or sport patch. Any player who moves up from junior varsity to varsity level during the season must compete in at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total games on the varsity schedule to earn a letter and/or sport patch. Any player who competes in at least $\frac{1}{2}$ varsity games during a single season will have earned a sport patch for that season after already earning a varsity letter. All awards shall be awarded at the discretion of the coach.

- E.** Girls Basketball: An athlete must complete a full season unless injured and participate in 50% of game quarters. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.
- F.** Cheerleading: A cheerleader must cheer in a full varsity season having fully participated in a minimum of 95% of the events. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.
- G.** Cross Country: Runners must meet the district qualifying time during the year on a 3.1-mile course or score in the top 5 for their team in 50% of their races. All awards shall be at the discretion of the head coach.
- H.** Tackle Football: Based on number of plays (participated in) from scrimmage and overall performance while representing FHS on the field and off. Players need to participate in 40% of the total number of plays from scrimmage. The "over-all-performance" is evaluated subjectively by the coaching staff and may, in exceptional circumstances, outweigh the player-participation variable. (a) Exceptional circumstances may include a player whose performance is outstanding (blocked 7 punts, kicked 3 game winning field goals, and the like), be in a consistent rotation of an offensive or defensive position, be on all special teams throughout the season, or an individual who, by improving throughout the year, wins a starting position late in the season (w/o reaching established % of plays); (b) Conversely, a player who violates particular policy (football or school), but is subject to suspension even having met the above criterion may not receive a letter pending coaches' evaluation.
- I.** Managers and/or Student Trainers: A letter will be awarded to a manager and/or student trainer after their second year of successful work with a team.
- J.** Track: To earn a letter, each athlete must earn at least 20 points a season on a varsity level team.
- K.** Volleyball: Athletes must participate in 50% of total varsity games. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.
- L.** Wrestling: Athletes must compete in at least one-third of the varsity matches including holiday tournaments, or represent the team in post season tournaments such as sectionals, districts, etc.
- M.** Golf: Athletes must participate in 50% of contests during the golf season.
- N.** Soccer: Athletes must participate in ½ of all varsity quarters throughout the regular season. Athletes who do not reach these totals but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.
- O.** Flag football: Athletes must participate in 50% of total varsity games. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.
- P.** Tennis: Athletes must participate in 50% of total varsity games. Athletes who do not reach these totals, but make contributions to the team, are awarded letters at the discretion of the coaches.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand terms described above and agree to be bound by its terms.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Athlete Name

Date