



Athletic Handbook 2025-2026

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INTRODUCTION

Students, Guardians, and Coaches, you are receiving this athletic handbook because your child, or yourself has committed to participating in athletics at Bowling Green High School. This handbook was put together to communicate and convey the expectations and requirements for student-athletes and coaches at Bowling Green High School. Rules and regulations in the handbook apply 24/7/365 (366 on leap years).

PHILOSOPHY

The mission statement of Bowling Green City Schools is:

“Bowling Green City Schools is committed to high academic expectations and extracurricular opportunities in an inclusive, caring, safe, and healthy environment. We empower and support our teachers to be responsive to each student through a challenging and engaging curriculum. We partner with families and community to ensure student success.”

It is the belief of the Athletic Department at Bowling Green City Schools that interscholastic athletics exists and allows for academically and behaviorally qualified students to fulfill this mission.

Within this context, it is the purpose of the school to foster and promote:

- Age-appropriate physical, social, and psychological development
- The idea of competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship while achieving the goals of success and participation
- The development of self-confidence, self-discipline, organization, decision-making skills, and goal orientation
- The concept of an integral relationship between a sound mind and body leading to a lifetime appreciation of physical fitness and good health
- A positive feeling of school loyalty and pride which can be shared by all participants, students, parents, and community
- Access and availability to all students regardless of their race, religion, gender, disability or national origin.

ASSOCIATIONS

Bowling Green City Schools Athletics operate under the guidelines of several associations. Please refer to their specific handbooks for specific policies. Those governing authorities include:

1. Bowling Green City Schools
2. Northern Lakes League (NLL)
3. Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)
4. National Federation of High Schools (NFHS)
5. Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-HARASSMENT

We believe in the ability of the individual to participate in our athletic programs. Therefore, our policy is to provide our athletes and coaches with the opportunity to participate in our programs

without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or national origin. Furthermore, the Athletic Department firmly believes in treating people with respect. Respect of each other is an expectation of each athlete and coach.

We prohibit harassment of any kind for any reason including, but not limited to: Sexual harassment, race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or national origin. Harassment can be defined as, but is not limited to slurs, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes, teasing, sexual advances, inappropriate conduct, and requests for sexual favors.

Any individual who feels that he or she is a victim of such harassment should immediately report the matter to school personnel. The Athletic Department will investigate all such reports promptly and as confidentially as possible. Adverse action will not be taken against an individual who, in good faith, reports or participates in the investigation of a violation of this policy. Violations of this policy are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

Transgender athletes have equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. Bowling Green City Schools strictly abides by OHSAA Transgender policy. The transgender student and/or the parent of a transgender student shall contact the school athletic director indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the gender assigned at birth, listed on the student's school registration records or as listed on the state birth record, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity. At this time the athletic director, student, and guardian(s) will begin the process laid out by the OHSAA with the OHSAA.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents are located in the Athletic Department office. The Athletic Trainer is also a source of information.

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

If a guardian feels the need to communicate concerns about their athlete the guardian should adhere to the following chain of communication.

1. Head Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal
4. Superintendent
5. School Board

Each member that is lower on the chain of command has the right to, and is encouraged to, refer you to the proper person in the chain of command prior to discussion with you if you have failed to do so.

AWARDS NIGHTS

At the conclusion of each athletic season, an Awards Night will be held to honor the athletes. Each athlete who finished the season in good standing with the team is expected to attend. Athletes who do not attend their awards night can be denied their award by the decision of the head coach of their sport. Conflicts, which may result in an athlete not being able to attend the Awards Night, should be cleared ahead of time with the head coach.

PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER STUDENTS

1. Under no circumstances should any coach or booster of Bowling Green City Schools initiate discussions with a student currently enrolled in another school system about possibly transferring to Bowling Green City Schools.
2. If a student of another school, his parents, or representative, initiates contact with a BGCS coach for the purpose of discussing enrollment at BGCS, the coach should immediately, without discussion, refer the student to the Bowling Green City Schools Athletic Director.
3. The Athletic Director will explain the OHSAA policies dealing with transferring from one school to another and will answer basic questions concerning the Bowling Green City Schools athletic programs. The student and his or her parents will then be referred to a Central Office for instruction on normal registration and admittance procedures.
4. Only after a student has been admitted to Bowling Green City Schools are coaches permitted to contact him/her about extracurricular participation.

WEIGHT ROOM POLICY

1. Individuals may only use the weight room when supervised by a coach who is under current contract with Bowling Green City Schools.
2. The coach should be the last one to leave the weight room, and it is his/her responsibility to make sure that both doors and windows are locked, and all lights out.
3. Keep the weight room neat and clean. All weights should be returned to the proper racks, belts hung up, etc. This should be considered a common courtesy extended to the next team using the room.
4. Coaches are strongly encouraged to cooperate in scheduling weight room use. This includes sharing the same time slot if possible.
5. All conflicts involving weight room usage should be resolved through the consultation of the Athletic Director.

Remember that the weight room is important to all sports, and your cooperation is necessary to ensure the overall success of our athletic program.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Only student participants, coaches/advisors, chaperones, and other authorized personnel shall be permitted on the buses. Student participants are expected to ride on school transportation both to and from all away contests. Exceptions to this rule will be made on an individual basis with prior written request of the parent and approved by the school administration.

- Students may not transport themselves
- Students may not be transported by other students
- The parent/guardian must check out with the coach, advisor, or administrator prior to the student leaving the event.

On some occasions, it may be necessary for students to arrive late or early for an event because of a conflicting event. In these cases, prior written parent permission indicating knowledge of means of transportation must be given to the athletic director and coach.

SUMMER MORATORIUM WEEK

While the Athletic Department greatly values students learning the valuable lessons taught by hard work through athletics, we also believe that students should be given the opportunity to just be kids during the summer. Each summer during the week of July 4th, Bowling Green Athletics will observe a moratorium week in which no team activities should be scheduled. The superintendent will announce exact dates prior to the school year starting.

PAY TO PARTICIPATE

The Board of Education has established criteria for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities consistent with the educational goals of the district. These criteria include a participation fee schedule for extra-curricular and selected co-curricular activities that involve regular use of district transportation and/or a district paid coach/adviser/director.

Students wishing to participate in these kinds of activities will be charged the appropriate fee. Special consideration may be given in cases in which the participation fee would result in exclusion.
Participation Fee Schedule

1. High School students will pay \$75 per sport. Cheerleaders will pay \$50.00 per season.
2. Middle School students will pay \$50.00 per sport.
3. High School/Middle School students participating in co-curricular activities, including but not limited to, quiz bowl, student activities board, drama, etc., in which a paid adviser exists, will pay \$25.00 per season, year, or play/performance respectively.
4. High School students participating in co-curricular activities in which there is no paid adviser or for which a grade is assigned, including but not limited to, marching band, FFA, Model UN, etc., may be required to pay a transportation fee, amount to be determined based on number of buses, miles, and frequency.
5. The maximum dollar amount to be paid per immediate family for extra-curricular and co-curricular activities is \$350.00.

Rules and Regulations

1. Fees must be paid by the established due date by participant or sponsor; participation will be denied (including practice and scrimmages) if not paid by the due date.
2. Coaches/advisers/directors must provide a list of student participants to the athletic director or Principal at the Middle School and/or High School as soon as such list is determined.
3. Students must return fees and signed form to the High School main office prior to the due date or within two weeks of the start of the club, organization, rehearsal.
4. Pay to Participate does not guarantee playing time or equal playing time.
5. Designated secretaries must maintain communication to determine when maximum amount for an immediate family has been reached.
6. Designated secretaries must provide a list of students for whom the maximum family cap has been

reached to each coach/adviser/director.

7. Payments resulting in nonsufficient funds will be reported to the Treasurer and handled according to district policy/process.

8. Fees will be waived for students who provide verification of qualification for free or reduced lunch prices on or before the due date for fees.

9. Fees will be waived for students who provide verification of a temporary or long-term hardship or extenuating circumstance which renders parents/guardians unable to pay on or before the due date for fees.

10. Students denied participation for disciplinary reasons will not be reimbursed their fee.

11. Participants who 'quit' will not be reimbursed their fee.

12. Participants who suffer a season-ending injury, as verified in writing by a physician and submitted to the coach/adviser/director, will be reimbursed their fee.

13. Participants who are team managers, trainers, statisticians, equipment managers and/or hold other voluntary support roles for teams are exempt from the fee.

14. These and other rules and regulations to enforce this resolution are to be provided to student participants and parents/guardians in print form.

15. Parent/guardian acknowledgement of such print material will be maintained in the main office of The Middle School and/or High School.

Adopted: June, 2022

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

REQUIRED FORMS

In order for a student-athlete to be eligible for participation the following forms are required:

1. Physical Examination – The Physical Exam form should be turned in directly the head coach. 2.

All forms on FINALFORMS.

The physical examination form is available in the office and should be turned in to the head coach of your current sport. All other forms are to be completed online at <https://bowlinggreen-oh.finalforms.com/>

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

Athletes, as well as all students of Bowling Green City Schools, must abide by the Student Code of Conduct or face penalties including non-participation as directed by the Administration of the school. The Bowling Green City Schools Administration and athletic staff reserves the right to deny any student-athlete participation at any time with just cause.

Additionally, athletes at Bowling Green City Schools are subject to discipline for any of the following:

1. The possession, use, or sale of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, paraphernalia or steroids.
2. Willfully destroying athletic, personal or school property at home or away.
3. Stealing athletic, personal or school property at home or away.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES

Athletes found in violation of items 1-4 in the Unacceptable Behavior section of the handbook above will be dealt with in the following manner.

These punishments are considered to be a minimum punishment and the Athletic Director will support coaches who choose stiffer penalties.

FIRST OFFENSE = Suspension

- 1. The possession, use, or sale of drugs, alcohol, paraphernalia or steroids. = 40%**
- 2. The possession, use, or sale of tobacco, nicotine, or paraphernalia. = 25%**
- 3. Willfully destroying athletic, personal or school property at home or away. = 20%**
- 4. Stealing athletic, personal or school property at home or away. = 20%**

Athletes found in violation for the first time will be suspended for 40%/25%/20% of the scheduled contests in the sport they are currently participating or in the next sport in which they participate. If 40%/25%/20% of the scheduled contests is not an even number then we will round up to the next whole number. (Example 40% of 19 games = 7.6 games which will be an 8 game suspension). Students must finish the season of the sport they are suspended for in good standing with the team or the entire 40%/25%/20% suspension will apply to the next sport in which they participate as well. If the suspension occurs so late in the season that not enough contests are left to complete the

suspension the remaining percentage of the suspension will be served in the next sport in which they participate. Athletes serving a suspension may continue practicing with their team but may not dress for contests.

In addition to suspension, athletes in violation of the drug, alcohol, and tobacco policy must complete a school approved rehabilitation course prior to returning to competition.

SECOND OFFENSE = Suspension

Athletes found in violation for the second time will be suspended for 50% of each sport that they participate in for one full calendar year. The suspension will take place during the first half of each season. In order for an athlete to participate in the first sport of suspension, they must complete a second approved rehabilitation course prior to participating. Athletes serving a suspension may continue practicing with their team but may not dress for contests.

THIRD OFFENSE AND ALL SUCCEEDING OFFENSES = Suspension

Athletes found in violation for the third time will be suspended from all athletic activities for 1 calendar year. Athletes serving a suspension may continue practicing with their team but may not dress for contests with the approval of the head coach.

During an investigation of an incident, if reasonable suspicion of a violation of items 1 and 2 exists, with approval of the principal, the athletic director may request an athlete to submit to a drug/alcohol/nicotine urine test at Great Lakes Biomedical, at the expense of the district.

GENERAL MISCONDUCT POLICY - ACTIVITIES

A student will be ruled ineligible by a coach/advisor for display of behavior, which reflects negatively on the student, sport, activity, or school. This includes, but is not limited to, misdemeanor criminal offenses outside of team activities. The period of ineligibility for such an inappropriate offense shall be one of the following: up to 50% of the season or when a percentage is not appropriate, a number of public performances, events, or activities. Depending on the severity of any given offense the coach/advisor and/or the Athletic Director may deny the student's participation for a longer period of time. The administration will be kept informed of all ineligibility and disciplinary assignments.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES - ACTIVITIES

Any student who is charged and found guilty of a felony shall be denied participation in any extra/co-curricular activity for the remainder of his/her eligibility. Students receiving more intensive professional assistance may receive a reduction in penalty on one (1) calendar year from the date of notification of the conviction. The school will also work with the court of law, dealing with a student in this situation in regard to that student's eligibility.

THEFT POLICY - ACTIVITIES

A student shall not be involved in any theft of school property or property of others while under the control of school authorities. The penalties for such a violation of policy will be the same as the alcohol and drug penalties.

CARRY OVER PROVISION - ACTIVITIES

That any eighth grade student found in violation of the extra/co-curricular code of conduct, but not subject to any penalty because his/her eighth grade extra/co-curricular activity has concluded, will be penalized according to this code during his/her next participating season in high school. However, this carry over penalty will not be regarded as the student's first high school violation if future

violations occur.

ATHLETES AND SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any athlete under a disciplinary suspension from school, including in school suspension and out of school suspension, is not eligible for participation in either practice or interscholastic competition during the suspension.

Students suspended on a Friday are not eligible for competition on the following Saturday.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

EJECTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – STUDENTS

Any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

In the sport of wrestling, any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all wrestling contests for the remainder of that day and event. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in wrestling until two regular season/tournament contest points or two event days at the same level as the ejection or disqualification have been completed.

A student who has been declared ineligible for two games (one in football; see wrestling policy above) may be on the sidelines/team bench, accompany and/or travel with the team but may not participate in pregame warm-ups and may not wear a team warm-up or game uniform while on the sidelines/team bench, accompanying and/or traveling with the team. When ejection or disqualification of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball or basketball, the two contest ineligibility does not apply.

Any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct during a scrimmage or preview shall be ineligible for all scrimmages or previews for the remainder of that day. If a scrimmage occurs prior to the season, the player shall also be ineligible for the first regular season contest (previews are only permitted prior to the first regular season contest). If a scrimmage occurs after the first regular season contest, the player shall be ineligible for the next regular season or OHSAA tournament contest. If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates.

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Executive Director. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the

discretionary authority of the Executive Director as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

Note: When national playing rules (see the specific national playing rules) refer to a disqualification for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation, this is considered an ejection as referenced in this regulation.

STATUTE OF LIMITATION POLICY - ACTIVITIES

All of the above policies are in effect 365 days a year for any student involved in athletics. However, to encourage the handling of alleged infractions in a timely and appropriate manner, there is a statute of limitations placed upon these policies. The statute of limitations would only be in effect when the school is notified by an outside source that a student was possibly involved in a violation of these rules after more than thirty calendar days of the alleged incident.

In this case, the incident would still be investigated (the school does not give up its right to investigate any infraction), but the student, if found in violation of the rules, would not be subject to the same penalties if he/she cooperates with school officials. In an attempt to help the student, he/she would be required (with a parent or guardian) to attend the appropriate assessment/treatment program or counseling services that would assist the student in dealing with his/her problem. If this occurs, the original penalty would not take effect. However, if the student does not take advantage of any program or service, the student would then be subject to the initial penalty.

Regardless of the situation, this statute of limitations clause would not apply to cases of severe infractions of the rules by a student. The criteria used by the school's administration to judge the infraction's severity may include: police involvement, public awareness, the criminality of the act and damage done to persons or property. The clause also does not apply if an alleged incident is discovered through various inside sources.

SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for a sport in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school for the preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, per OHSAA requirements.

If a student is eligible per the OHSAA standard but has a GPA under a 2.0, that athlete is on academic probation until the midterm of the quarter. At the midterm of the quarter, the student must have a 2.0 in order to continue competing for the remainder of the quarter. Students on academic probation must check in with the athletic director on a weekly basis.

****Summer school courses DO NOT count towards athletic eligibility and may not replace a previously earned grade****

ATTENDANCE

In order to practice or participate in an interscholastic contest on a school day, an athlete must be present for at least half of the school day in question. The Athletic Director may make exceptions involving extenuating circumstances.

On a regular schedule, athletes should arrive to school no later than 10:15am. Students arriving on time that need to leave early, must remain in school until at least 11:30am.

Absences outside of this timeframe will be excused due to doctor's appointments (must have documentation), funerals, college visits, etc.

Students with alternative schedules (early release/late arrival/CCP) will need to refer to the AD to determine required attendance.

ATHLETES CHANGING/QUITTING TEAMS

Should an athlete resign from a team, the head coach will make every effort to meet with the athlete. Equipment should be immediately collected and the Athletic Director notified so that the athlete's name can officially be removed from the team roster.

If an athlete leaves a team, he/she is ineligible to participate in any manner in another sport until the first sport's season ends. The Varsity coach may release an athlete from this penalty at their discretion. That coach must do so in writing to the AD.

Attendance at the Awards Night and request for awards (i.e. letter, numerals, etc.) is not available to the athlete.

An athlete that is cut from a team during the try-out process will be immediately eligible to try-out for another team or participate with another team in out-of-season conditioning programs.

DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION

From time to time a student may want to participate in two sports that occur during the same season. (Dual-Sport). The following policy is in place to ensure that dual-sport participation will benefit the student-athlete as well as both teams the athlete wishes to participate with.

In order for a student to qualify for dual participation he/she must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have declared his/her intent to the athletic director prior to the official beginning of the earliest season.
2. Must have parental permission in writing.
3. Must have written acknowledgement from both coaches.
4. Must have the authorization of the athletic director before the season begins.
5. Must not participate in more than two sports in the same season.
6. Must declare, in writing, which sport will take precedence in the event of a conflict (declare a priority sport).

The process operates in the following manner:

1. The student will obtain all information and procedures from the athletic office. Intentions must be declared to the athletic office prior to the start of the earliest season.
2. The athletic director will meet with the two head coaches involved in a timely manner to discuss the intent. Should a disagreement ensue between coaches over a student-athlete's participation, the athletic director will serve as mediator and his/her decision, if necessary, will be binding.
3. The athletic director and head coaches will then meet with the athlete and his/her guardian(s). From this meeting, a written contract stating the practice and game schedule for the upcoming season

shall be drawn up and signed by both coaches, the student-athlete, the student-athlete's parents/guardians and the athletic director with copies going to each.

It is extremely important that the athlete and his/her parents/guardians understand that requests MAY NOT be approved. Reasons for applications not being approved include but are not limited to: potential OHSAA Tournament conflicts, an inability to physically and/or logistically be able to compete in both activities, not serving a significant role on one or both teams.

It is also extremely important to understand that by committing to two sports athletes may play a diminished role in one or both sports.

EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS

Each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Students involved simultaneously in extracurricular and co-curricular activities should notify coaches and advisors well in advance to avoid potential conflicts.