



**BROOKLYN CITY SCHOOLS
ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2025 -2026
Grades 7 - 12**

TRADITION. PRIDE. EXCELLENCE

HOME OF THE HURRICANES

*9200 Biddulph Road
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
Phone: 216-485-8162
Fax: 216-485-8124*

***Mr. Mark Zofka, Athletic Director
Ms. Melanie Vukmire, Athletic Secretary
Mr. Matthew Larson, BHS Principal
Mrs. Annie McGhee, BHS Assistant Principal***



Responsible



Respectful



Productive



Board of Education

Kelli Krall, President
Karam Hasrouni, Vice President
Jason Hubbell, Member
Rocky Neale, Member
Alison Rafter, Member

District Administration

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Paula Jones, Director of Pupil Services
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Sandra Neale, Director of Operations

Brooklyn City Schools Administration

Mark Zofka, Athletic Director
Matthew Larson, BHS Principal
Annie McGhee, BHS Assistant Principal
Dr. Janet Kubasak, BS Principal
Marcello DeAngelis, BS Assistant Principal

Administrative Office Staff

Melanie Vukmire, Athletics Secretary
Maggie Slattery, BHS Office Secretary
Patricia Evans, BHS Attendance Secretary
Laura Paul, BS Office Secretary
Kay Bellisario, BS Attendance Secretary

Colors: Royal Blue and Gold
Team Name: Hurricanes
Sports Conferences:
Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC)
GCHSHL (Hockey)

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for the 25 -26 school year

BROOKLYN CITY SCHOOLS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, ACTIVITIES, & SPECIAL EVENTS

As the Director of Athletics, Activities, & Special Events, I believe that participation in athletics and extra-curricular programs is a vital part of the educational journey. These experiences offer students meaningful opportunities to develop character, discipline, leadership, and a sense of belonging. Our programs are intentionally designed to support the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth of all students while promoting academic achievement and personal responsibility.

Statement of Philosophy

The mission of our athletics and activities programs is to provide a safe, competitive, and inclusive environment where students can pursue excellence both in and out of the classroom. We believe that involvement in extra-curriculars—whether on the field, on stage, or in any school-sponsored organization—teaches life lessons that extend far beyond the activity itself. Students learn the importance of teamwork, perseverance, time management, accountability, and respect.

While success is a goal, it is not the only one. We measure achievement not only by results, trophies, or scores, but by effort, personal growth, and integrity. Our programs strive to instill a growth mindset and a lifelong commitment to development—physically, mentally, creatively, and ethically.

Culture of Sportsmanship and Respect

Respect and sportsmanship form the foundation of our extra-curricular culture. We expect all students, coaches, advisors, and spectators to model the highest standards of behavior—on the field, in rehearsal, during performances, or at any school-sponsored event. This includes showing respect for teammates, opponents, officials, audiences, and the activity itself.

We teach students to compete and perform with honor, to celebrate with humility, and to face both success and setbacks with dignity. Acts of poor sportsmanship or disrespect—whether through taunting, dishonesty, or unsportsmanlike conduct—are not tolerated and will result in appropriate consequences.

Expectations for Student Participation

We are students first. Academic achievement and good citizenship are non-negotiable expectations for participation in all athletics and extra-curricular activities. All students are expected to:

- Maintain academic eligibility and prioritize their education.
- Demonstrate respect for coaches, advisors, officials, teammates, peers, and school policies.
- Show full commitment to their team or organization, including regular attendance at practices, games, meetings, rehearsals, performances, and events.

- Exhibit discipline and integrity in their conduct, both in and out of school.
- Model leadership and responsibility in the classroom, in their activity, and throughout the community.
- Avoid behaviors that undermine the integrity of their program, such as substance use, academic dishonesty, or conduct violations.

We value open communication among students, families, coaches, and advisors, and we believe that athletics and extra-curricular involvement can serve as a powerful and unifying force for our entire school community.

Our Commitment

Our ultimate goal is to develop well-rounded individuals—champions not just in sport or performance, but in life. We aim to cultivate students who represent themselves, their families, and their school with pride, purpose, and integrity.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (POLICY #5610.05)

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights. This policy shall be included as part of the Student Activity/Athletic Handbook.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- Final Forms must be completed and signed by the student and parent/guardian prior to participation in extra-curricular activities.
- All athletes/cheerleaders must have a completed OHSAA Physical Evaluation Form signed by the student, parent/guardian, and a physician prior to participating in practices and competitions. These evaluations are valid for thirteen (13) months.
- All athletes/cheerleaders must return all equipment or pay the replacement cost at the end of the season. Students may not participate in another sport until this obligation is cleared.
- Maintain academic eligibility
- Meet attendance requirements
- Uphold the Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct

SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Brooklyn High School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

Extracurricular activities do not reflect the School curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama, and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

A performance (athletic event, contest, play, concert, etc.) has priority over any practice or rehearsal. When two events of equal value conflict, the student may participate in the event of his/her choice without fear of penalty or consequence unless the event is a co-curricular and part of a grade. In this situation, the student will need to attend the co-curricular event.

STUDENT GROUPS

Student groups that are educational in nature may be established at Brooklyn High School with the approval of the school administration and the board of education. Membership or participation in the organization or operation of any fraternity, sorority, gang, or other secret group as described by law is prohibited at Brooklyn High School. Gangs or gang-related activity will not be tolerated at school or on school property.

BROOKLYN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROUPS/CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

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ATHLETICS

Brooklyn High School provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate provided they meet eligibility requirements established by the Board and by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. Playing time in scrimmages and all games and competitions is determined by the coaching staff of that activity/sport. Students may be removed from participation by the coach and/or administration for misconduct, rules violations, or non-attendance. If a student is suspended from school on Friday, the student cannot participate in any activity on Saturday or Sunday of that week. Students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

Marijuana and alcohol use by students and spectators while in attendance at any school sporting event is strictly prohibited.

All students are prohibited from negative interactions with student-athletes and spectators associated with any other school. This includes any type of threat, taunting, inappropriate language, inappropriate gestures, insubordination, and any and all other activity deemed inappropriate by the Athletic Director, Faculty Manager, Principal, or Assistant Principal. These behaviors are prohibited in person and through the use of any and all social media platforms.

Fall: Cheerleading, Football, Volleyball, Soccer (Boys and Girls)

Winter: Cheerleading, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Wrestling, Ice Hockey, Bowling, Indoor Track (Boys and Girls)

Spring: Track, Softball, Baseball, Flag Football (Girls)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must meet certain conditions to be eligible for athletic/extracurricular participation. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, eligibility for all school extra-curricular activities will be based on grades from the previous grading period. Students must successfully pass 5 full credits (high school) and 4 full credits (middle school) during the previous grading period with the following requirements:

- All students with a GPA of 1.8 or higher are eligible.
- All students with a GPA between 1.5-1.79 may participate in team activities that do not interfere with study tables. These students, though, will be ineligible to participate in all scrimmages, regularly scheduled games, performances, and competitions. If a student, who cannot participate maintains passing grades in all classes, is attending the required study tables, and has a GPA of at least 1.8 after three (3) weeks, he or she may participate in competitions and performances beginning the fourth week. Eligibility from that point will be determined each week based on (1) maintaining passing grades in all classes, (2) maintaining at least a GPA of 1.8 and (3) attending all required study tables.
- All students with a GPA below 1.5 are ineligible.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in extracurricular activities after school hours must be in attendance at school for at least one-half of the school day on the day of the activity. This includes practices, as well as contests, performances and other activities. In case of a Saturday activity, the student must be in attendance for ½ day on Friday. Students who are absent or under any kind of disciplinary removal or suspension may not participate or attend as spectators. If a student is suspended on Friday, they cannot participate in practice or a game/event on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Students who are absent from school will not be permitted to participate in or attend any extracurricular activity or school-sponsored event that takes place on the day of the absence. If a student goes home sick on Friday, regardless of time, they cannot participate in any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday practice or game/event. Excused absence does not apply such as a doctor's appointment, funeral, family emergency, etc. This rule will not apply to those students who have an approved early dismissal or prior approval for missing the day. Violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action, which may include ejection from the activity or event.

Excused Absences

- Personal illness (the school may require the certificate of a physician if deemed advisable)
- Illness in the family
- Death of a relative
- Emergencies due to absence of parents or guardians
- Religious holidays
- Emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the principal/designee constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school including
 - Doctor, dentist, orthodontist appointments (students will not be excused the whole day unless it can be shown that the appointment necessitates this)
 - Lawyer's consultation, which can only be scheduled during school hours
 - Court appearance
 - Funeral for a family member, friends, neighbors, etc., as long as this is not an excessive number during the year
 - College Visitation

STUDENT ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Preface

The Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct provides for disciplinary action for any student participating in extra-curricular activities who falls below the minimum conduct requirements. Violations of the Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct will be subject to discipline administered under the direction of the Superintendent, principals, assistant principals, athletic director and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student, which may include removal from the event, or denial of participatory privilege in some or all activities for part of a

season, for a full season or a school year, and/or referral to the local authorities. The behavior may also warrant discipline under the Brooklyn City Schools (BCS) Code of Conduct.

Furthermore, each student is obligated under the direction of the coach or activity advisor to strive to meet the expectations of a student participating in extra-curricular activities as outlined below. Conduct or behavior which fails to meet these expectations may also violate, and be disciplined under, the BCS Code of Conduct and/or the Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. The administration of Brooklyn City Schools is responsible for administering the BCS Code of Conduct and the Student Activity/Athletics Code of Conduct

Students who participate in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also Brooklyn City Schools and the local community. Since student participants are the direct representative of their school, they are expected to maintain a high standard of exemplary behavior. All students who wish to participate in an extra-curricular activity shall be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations that govern the activity in which they wish to participate. Since these activities are a privilege for each participating individual, it is important that students and parents/guardians be aware of the rules and regulations which are in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, and 365 days per year. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of penalties based on the severity of the violation. As much as possible, this Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct covers most issues of extra-curricular policy and conduct. However, because future events and circumstances cannot always be anticipated, the administration of Brooklyn City Schools reserves the right to change these policies or establish new policies as issues occur.

Expectations of Students Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities

All students participating in extracurricular activities shall be expected to exhibit good citizenship and sportsmanship. These traits help build character. Students participating in activities learn truthfulness, fair play, honesty, self-discipline, courage, self-restraint and loyalty. A student participating in extracurricular activities which involves athletics or other activities should aspire to:

Sportsmanship and Conduct

- Accept and understand the seriousness of the responsibility and the privilege of representing the school, district, and community through your participation in extracurricular activities.
- Respect the authority, judgment, and decisions of all advisors, directors, coaches, judges, and officials.
- Demonstrate respect and courtesy toward teammates, peers, competitors, and participants at all times.
- Treat others—whether opponents, collaborators, or evaluators—the way you would like to be treated: as valued guests, peers, or friends.

- Poor conduct—such as booing, jeering, or other disrespectful behavior—has no place in any activity and will not be tolerated.
 - Demonstrate graciousness in competition or performance: wish your peers and opponents good luck beforehand and sincerely congratulate them afterward, regardless of the outcome.
 - Accept decisions made by judges, officials, or leaders as final, and maintain composure in both success and disappointment.
 - Win with humility, lose with grace, and always carry yourself with dignity. Avoid excessive celebration or behavior that distracts from the team or group’s collective effort.
- Attitude**
- Display a positive and respectful attitude in all activities and interactions.
 - Practice good sportsmanship and team spirit in every setting—competitive or cooperative.
 - Support all school programs by encouraging peers in other extracurriculars and attending their events when possible. Celebrate the collective achievements of the school community.
- Commitment and Effort**
- Consider how your actions and decisions affect your team, group, or organization.
 - Follow the expectations and decisions of your advisor, director, or coach with respect and accountability.
 - Attend all scheduled practices, meetings, rehearsals, or events, and support your peers in their efforts.
 - Prioritize your responsibilities to your group, and avoid scheduling or committing to conflicting activities that would interfere with your performance or participation.
 - Honor your commitment for the full duration of the season or project. Put forth your best effort—not only in your activity, but also in your academic and personal responsibilities.

Failure to meet these expectations may also violate, and be disciplined under, the BCS Code of Conduct and/or the Student Activity/Athletics Code of Conduct

Definitions

The terms used in this policy are defined as follows:

- Alcohol:** Any liquor, wine, beer or other beverage containing alcohol.
- Drugs:** Any drug, including illegal drugs, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look alike) substances and tobacco products.

- Drug Paraphernalia:** Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs.
- Substance Abuse:** The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products in violation of state or federal law or in violation of school policy.
- Out of Season:** The time in which a sport is not currently active or is out of season as defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) calendar.
- In Season:** The time in which a sport is active or is in season as defined by the OHSAA calendar.
- Established Sport:** A sport or activity in which the student participated in the previous school year.

Code Violations

- Disruption of Activity:** A participant shall not cause disruption or obstruction of athletic programs by use of violence, force, coercion, threat or words.
- Damage of Property:** A participant shall not willfully or recklessly cause or attempt to cause damage to property owned by the Board of Education, private individuals or other public agencies.
- Assault and Battery:** A participant shall not intimidate, threaten, assault, or commit battery upon any person, nor shall a student behave in such a manner that could cause physical or emotional injury to such persons.
- Dangerous Weapons and Instruments:** A participant shall not illegally use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal dangerous weapons, substances, or instruments which include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, mace, tear gas, firecrackers, explosives, incendiaries, or other similar devices.
- Obscenity:** A participant shall not use obscenity, profanity, or other offensive language or gestures.
- Theft:** A participant shall not wrongfully take, carry away, or exercise dominion and control over property of others.
- Insubordination:** A participant shall not fail to comply with the rules and regulations of the governing body of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. A student shall not fail to comply with any additional rules as required by a coach/advisor.
- Criminal Activity:** A participant shall not engage in activities which violate local, state or federal criminal laws.
- Use of Tobacco:** A participant shall not use or possess any tobacco product which shall include, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipes, or vaping products.
- Alcohol, Chemical Use and/or Abuse:** A participant shall not at any time possess, use, sell, deliver, conceal, or consume, or be under the influence of any drugs of abuse, including alcoholic beverages, or any counterfeit drugs of abuse. This includes attending parties where alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are openly used or consumed. Counterfeit drugs of

abuse include any substance that is directly or indirectly represented as a drug of abuse. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule. Participants shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs of abuse.

- Misuse of Social Media:** The use of questionable or blatantly inappropriate digital posting of any kind is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to email messages, text messages, blogs, websites or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school, another team, or other staff member, or any person is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Discipline

Any student referred for a code violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities at all levels of competition for a period determined by either the principal, assistant principal, athletic director, coach or advisor. When school personnel learn that a student has violated or is suspected to have violated any rule, the athletic director, principal, or assistant principal shall be notified immediately. The student may be temporarily removed from an athletic contest and/or practice by the principal, assistant principal, athletic director, coach, faculty manager, or advisor responsible for supervision of that activity. Discipline shall be determined based on the totality of all reasonable available evidence.

The Administration has the obligation to determine the appropriateness of any penalty, including the right to increase or reduce the penalty imposed in light of the violation. The coach or advisor, and the athletic director will meet with parents and students when a violation occurs so that all understand what the consequence will be and what is required to become eligible again.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO ABUSE/POSSESSION PROVISIONS

- First Offense: The student will be prohibited from participating in 20% of the season's schedule. If fewer than 20% of the regular season contests remain, the remaining percentage will be carried into the athlete's next sports season and served to conclusion. If an athlete is not in season, it will be carried over into the next season that the student is participating. The student will be able to practice at the coach's discretion.
- Second Offense: The student will be prohibited from participating in 50% of the season's schedule. If fewer than 50% of the regular season contests remain, the remaining percentage will be carried into the athlete's next sports season and served to conclusion. If an athlete is not in season, it will be carried over into the next season that the student is participating. The student will be able to practice at the coach's discretion.
- Third Offense: The student will be prohibited from participating. The student will be permitted to practice at the coach's discretion.
- Additional Offense: The student will be prohibited from participating. The student will be permitted to practice at the coach's discretion.

The student may appeal no sooner than one calendar year after the third offense to an appeals board for reinstatement

INDIVIDUAL COACH'S RULE

Each coach is encouraged to set team rules in addition to the rules in the Athletic Handbook. Rules and penalties for tardiness, curfew violations, inappropriate practice/game dress and misconduct are examples of acceptable coach's guidelines. These rules should be given in writing to all athletes, parents, and the athletic director at the beginning of each season.

CHAIN OF COMMAND TO PROCESS ISSUES

Students participating in activities or their parents may have questions, complaints, recommendations or commendations. When these arise, please raise them in the following order:

- First, speak directly to the coach or advisor of the activity.
- If not resolved, or if the issue has to do with how the athletic activity is conducted in the district, speak with the athletic director. In the case of a non-athletic activity, please speak with the assistant principal or principal.
- If still not resolved, speak with the principal

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes are expected to travel to and from contests in a district bus or van when the district provides transportation. The coach or advisor may grant exceptions for injury, illness or other good reason, with a parent's permission (in writing or in person). The athletic director or principal may grant permission for alternative transportation when there is a conflict with another school activity or other exception.

Bus Conduct

Students who are riding on District-provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation. The driver will assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

During the Trip

Students on a bus or other authorized Board of Education transportation vehicles are under the authority of and directly responsible to the bus/vehicle driver. The driver has the authority to enforce the established regulations for bus/vehicle conduct. Disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the driver will be sufficient reason for refusing transportation service to any student. Video cameras and audio are installed on school buses to monitor behavior and footage may be used as evidence as needed.

Each Student Shall:

- Remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
- Keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times; do not push, shove or engage in scuffling;
- Do not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle; keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- Be courteous to the driver and to other riders; do not eat or play games, cards, etc.; do not use nuisance devices (i.e., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endanger students or employees.
- Do not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment.

Administration, coaches, advisors, and drivers will strictly enforce these rules. Violations may result in denial of bus riding privileges.

EQUIPMENT

The athlete is responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice or scheduled games or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e., jerseys). Brooklyn City Schools is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment. All equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the end of the athletic season. Equipment that is not returned for any reason or that is damaged beyond normal wear and tear must be paid for at current replacement cost. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment will be denied the right to participate in athletics until the equipment is returned or paid for.

COLLEGE INFORMATION PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ATHLETES

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE RULES

As a prospective student athlete at a Division, I or II institution, you have certain responsibilities to attend to before you may participate. Information concerning who needs to register with the Clearinghouse and what documents should be submitted can be found in The Guide for College-Bound Student Athletes, located on the NCAA Clearinghouse Web site. This link can be accessed at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Click on "Prospective Student-Athletes" link. Athletes should be ready to report their SAT or ACT scores before establishing eligibility. This is a requirement for athletes who are planning on becoming student athletes in college. If there are any questions concerning this important part of becoming a student athlete in college, you should make arrangements to see the athletic director.