BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



PARENT, STUDENT, & ADVISOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Barker Central School

1628 Quaker Road, Barker, New York 14012-0328

Rob Mucha

716/795-3201

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Barker Interscholastic Athletic Program. I am pleased that you have chosen to participate in athletics; to be a member of an athletic team is an honor and a privilege. Our athletes at Barker Central School serve as role models for all B.C.S. students. As they compete throughout Western New York and beyond, they also serve to positively represent Barker Central School.

In July 2007, a committee that consisted of all stakeholders created a student handbook that clearly defines the rules and expectations for our students, parents, and coaches. This handbook is reviewed on an annual basis. The most recent major revisions pertaining to this handbook occurred in 2025-2026, which included slight modifications to the following sections: the Academic Plan, Quitting a Team, Dual Participation, Awards, Attendance, Parent Responsibilities, and Sports Offered. The only modifications for the 2026-2027 school year reflect the sports that are being offered during the fall and winter seasons.

It is essential to the success of the athletic program that our parents and athletes know and understand all of the information in the handbook. The information in the handbook includes, but is not limited to, the athletic program goals, philosophy, rules, expectations, and responsibilities.

The Barker Central School Athletic Program is governed by the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.), Section VI, the Niagara-Orleans Athletic League, and the policies and regulations of the Barker Central School District.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Barker Athletic Program. I look forward to working with you to ensure that you take advantage of the opportunities that athletics can provide.

GO BULLDOGS!

Yours in athletics,

Rob Mucha

Rob Mucha
Director of Interscholastic Athletics
Barker Central School

Our Vision

Barker Central School will provide the experiences necessary for our students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and traits to succeed intellectually, physically, and emotionally in an ever-changing world.

Goals of the Barker Central School Interscholastic Sports Program

Athletics have the potential to play a significant role in the personal development of a student's life. Barker Central School is committed to teaching life-long values, skills, and lessons such as:

- Sportsmanship
- Role modeling/mentoring
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Loyalty, dedication, and commitment
- Self-control and discipline
- Responsibility and accountability
- Trustworthiness and fair play
- Attitude toward success and failure
- Respect for self and others
- Personal excellence
- Goal setting
- Good decision-making and communication skills
- Skill development
- Application of rules and strategies
- Physical fitness and healthy behavior
- Pride in school
- Time management/balance

Philosophy by Level

Modified Sports

There will be an emphasis on introducing and teaching the educational goals of the Barker Central School Interscholastic Sports Program. The focus will be on sportsmanship, teamwork, skill development, and commitment.

Each athlete will play a practical amount of time in each contest.

Junior Varsity Sports

There will continue to be an emphasis to teach and expand on the educational goals of the Barker Central School Interscholastic Sports Program.

While developing a winning philosophy, the emphasis is on teaching the student how to win and lose properly.

Each individual will be given the opportunity to play during the season at the discretion of the coach. It is to be understood that playing time is not equal at the Junior Varsity level.

Varsity Sports

Understanding and application of the educational goals of the Barker Central School Interscholastic Sports Program is expected at the Varsity level.

Varsity teams play to win the contest, but participants should accept the fact that important lessons are to be learned from losing.

It is recognized that all students may not participate in every contest. The amount of playing time will be at the coach's discretion.

Achievement of the team's goals is dependent on every student's commitment to the team and the understanding of their role on the team.

Participation Rules, Regulations, Expectations, and Information

A Message to All of Those Involved in Interscholastic Athletics

The Barker Central School District is committed to promoting the proper idea of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play at all sports activities. We will oppose instances and activities, which run counter to the best values of athletic competition, in order to ensure the well-being of all individual players. We will expect acceptable standards of good citizenship and propriety with proper regard for the rights of others.

We are further committed to the belief that schools participating in interscholastic athletic activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, faculty members and spectators at both home and away contests. Conduct which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities, may be deemed just cause for the schools to reprimand the person(s) involved.

N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with interscholastic athletics:

1) **To emphasize** the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2) **To eliminate** all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3) **To stress** the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4) **To show** cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5) **To establish** a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6) **To respect** the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7) **To achieve** a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8) **To encourage** leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9) **To recognize** that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10) **To remember** that an athletic contest is only a game…. not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.

The B.C.S. District Parent/Spectator Code of Behavior/Ethics

- Keep cheering positive. There should be no profanity or degrading language/gestures.
- Avoid actions that could offend visiting teams, individual players or officials.
- Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
- Learn the rules of the game in order to be a better-informed spectator.
- Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
- Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

A Message to Parents

Parent Responsibilities

- At the beginning of the season, your child's coach will communicate the rules, expectations, team requirements and their coaching philosophy. The coach will also provide a game and practice schedule. Parents are encouraged to contact the coach if they have any questions or concerns.
- To be eligible to participate, the parent and athlete must sign the affidavit in the Family ID section found within the school's website, which states that they have read, understand and pledge to abide by all of the contents in the Extra-Curricular Handbook. The coach may have their own sport specific set of rules that will also need to be signed by the parent and athlete.
- Parents need to be aware of all the appropriate paperwork regarding sports physicals, Advanced Placement Program, and permission slips found within the athletics section on the school's website.

- It is expected that parents make arrangements for their child to attend all practices and games. Parents should communicate with the coach regarding the method of transportation that the student will use (sports bus, picked-up, or walking).
- To be fair to all athletes, practices are closed to spectators/parents.
- We expect the parents to assist the school district in enforcement of all the rules of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A., Section VI, the Niagara- Orleans Athletic League, and Barker Central School.
- Fundraising is used to help defer the costs of off-season tournament fees, camps fees, field trips, team apparel, etc.
- Parent Boosters: Donations must be approved by the Board of Education
- Sport Club Activities: All parent volunteers need to fill out the parent volunteer application and have approval from the Board of Education. Each year the parent volunteer application needs to be updated if there are any changes. All athletic volunteers will need Board of Education approval prior to each season.

Communication with the Coach

- Coaches will welcome discussions including, but not limited to the following:
  - The mental and/or physical treatment of your child
  - Ways to help your child improve
  - Concerns about your child's behavior
  - Any issues involving playing time, team strategy, and play calling. When issues arise, it is expected that you be polite and respectful when discussing your concerns. Communication needs to be centered on your child and the conversation needs to be a private matter between the parent and coach.
- Procedure to Discuss a Concern With a Coach
  - The athlete should first speak with the coach to resolve the situation.
  - If a resolution is not reached or if the conversation is better suited to be between the parent and the coach, a parent/guardian should contact the coach to set up an appointment with him/her.
  - If you need assistance in contacting the coach, call the Athletic Director at 795-3340 or 795-3201 at ext. 5242 to help arrange a meeting.
  - Please do not attempt to meet with a coach before or after a practice or a contest. Meetings at those times seldom result in a resolution.
  - At this point, if there are still concerns after the student and/or parents have met with coach, contact the Athletic Director.
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Student Rules and Expectations

- The conduct of a Barker student is closely observed in many areas of life. The student's conduct is a reflection of the total educational institution that he/she represents. Inappropriate actions will be referred to the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal for disciplinary consequences that may include suspension of athletic privileges or other school consequences.
- **All rules and policies are enforced throughout the entire calendar year, including summer vacation. A student does not need to be participating in athletics at the time of an incident nor does the handbook need to be signed. The administration will determine the timeline for consequences**.

Before, During, or After an Athletic Contest, the student always

- Models appropriate behavior at all times, which includes but is not limited to, bus behavior, behavior at home and away events, behavior in public, and behavior in school
- Refrains from using profanity and making inappropriate gestures
- Refrains from instigating conflict, taunting, and trash talking
- Refrains from using illegal tactics
- Remains with the team at all times
- Respects the decisions of the officials
- Respects all equipment and facilities
- Respects the decisions of the coaching staff
- Is engaged in the game at all times and encourages teammates

- Ignores all spectators
- Understands and abides by the rules and regulations of the game
- Dresses in clean, school-issued/approved uniforms
- Dresses appropriately for pre-game and road trips
- Learns that losing is part of the game and he/she should be gracious in defeat and humble in victory
- Congratulates and shakes the hand of the opponent on a well-played game

Detailed below are specific situations that are a concern in interscholastic athletics:

Academic Plan

Academic eligibility is determined at the beginning of each week with an evaluation of the failure list by the Athletic Director, administration and/or coaches. If a student is not working to their potential or not showing up after school when asked to do so by a teacher, the Athletic Director or Advisor will meet with the student to put them on the "Pass to Participate" program. At that time, parents will be notified that their child is in the program and needs to be successful in the program in order to remain eligible to participate.

Upon notification of the parent, the Athletic Director or Advisor will meet with the student to put the student on the "Pass to Participate" program (formerly known as "Pass to Play"). The student needs to be successful in the program in order to remain eligible. If the student does not meet that obligation or the requirements to be placed in the "Pass to Participate" program then they will be removed from participation for an amount of time necessary for them to show progress and success in the classroom. Once a student has earned eligibility status, they must continue to demonstrate success in fulfilling their academic and behavioral expectations**.** Teachers also have the opportunity to recommend that a child be placed in the "pass to Participate" program.

Visit our athlete homepage at barkercsd.net to view the "Pass to Participate" Program tracking sheet/contract.

A modified version of this program can be put in place even if the athlete is out of season. This will help the student stay on track for graduation and it will also ensure that the student is meeting satisfactory progress when his/her sport season does start.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

- Use and/or possession of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco (this includes electronic cigarettes) are a violation of the law and B.C.S. district policy.
- Significant findings in health research shows that students perform best when they follow intelligent training rules, which include restrictions on tobacco, alcohol, and/or illegal drugs.
- Members of the Barker Central School District are concerned with the health habits of our students. We are convinced that athletics and the use of such substances are not compatible.
- Any student with an interest to participate in athletics at Barker will not use or possess these substances.
- Students violating school rules by using or possessing alcohol, tobacco, and/or the illegal use of drugs, narcotics, steroids, "over the counter" stimulants, depressants, and/or "look-alike" drugs will receive consequences. All violations will carry over to the next season and/or school year and as previously mentioned. This rule is enforced throughout the entire calendar year.

1. First Offense:
   a) The student will be suspended for 25% of the entire season's scheduled contests (a minimum suspension of 1 contest). After the incident has been investigated, there will be a conference with the student, parents/guardian, coach, Athletic Director, and Building Principal.
   b) Suspended students will be required to continue to practice. The coach will determine the role the student will now play in practice and games.
   c) The school counselor will have two meetings in which they will assess, educate, rehabilitate, and follow-up with the student.
   d) If the student refuses to comply, there will be immediate suspension from extra-curricular and athletic activities for 90 school days.
2. Second Offense (in the student's athletic career):

a) The student will be suspended for 50% of the entire season's scheduled contests. After the incident has been investigated there will be a conference with the student, parents/guardian, coach, Athletic Director, and Building Principal.
b) Suspended students will be required to continue to practice. The coach will determine the role the student will now play in practice and games.
c) The student and parent will agree to participate at his/her own expense in a chemical dependency evaluation at an alcohol/drug treatment facility and the student further agrees to participate in any other treatment recommended by the evaluating agency. Failure to keep the appointment(s) will result in immediate suspension from all athletic activities until the appointment is completed.
d) The student will meet with their respective school counselor throughout the rehabilitation process. The student must provide proof of completion of the evaluation and adhere to treatment recommendations in order to maintain full eligibility.
e) If the student refuses to comply, there will be immediate suspension from extra-curricular and athletic activities for 90 school days.

3. Third Offense (in the student's athletic career):
   a) The student will be suspended from all athletic participation for a period of one calendar year. The suspension will start after a conference is held with the student, parents/guardian, coach, Athletic Director, and Building Principal.
   b) The student and parent will agree to participate at his/her own expense in a chemical dependency evaluation at an alcohol/drug treatment facility and the student further agrees to participate in any other treatment recommended by the evaluating agency.
   c) The student will meet with his/her respective school counselor throughout the rehabilitation process. The student must provide proof of completion of the evaluation and adhere to treatment recommendations in order to be eligible for reinstatement after the suspension.
   d) If the student refuses to comply and complete steps "a" through "c", the student will be permanently suspended from athletic participation at Barker Central School.

Possession by Association:

If a student attends (and stays) at an event where alcohol or illegal substances are present, the student is deemed to be in possession by association.

1. First Offense:
   a) Parent informed and coach informed; the student will meet with Athletic Director and Building Principal and a letter of warning is placed in the student's disciplinary file.
2. Additional Offenses:
   a) There will be a conference with the student, parents/guardian, coach, Athletic Director, and Building Principal. The Athletic Director and Building Principal will determine if the student will receive additional consequences.

Hazing

Hazing in any form, including initiation, which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by NYS law. No student(s) shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed at any time. It is further understood that students have a duty to report any acts of hazing he/she sees or knows of to a coach or administrator, and participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and dismissal from the athletic program.

Dignity for All Act

Anything that occurs outside of the school that adversely affects the school climate and culture is subject to consequences by the Building Principal and/or Athletic Director. This includes, but is not limited to communication via social networks and texting.

Internet/Social Media

Students can be held accountable for their actions displayed over social media and the internet.

Physical Education Participation

If the student does not participate in Physical Education, he/she will not be able to participate in either practice or a game on that same day.

After School

Students are encouraged to stay after school to get additional academic assistance or when available, students can participate in after school intramurals. If a student plans to stay on school property because of a late practice the student needs to be supervised by an adult. Students that are unsupervised after school will be referred to the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal. B.C.S. is not responsible for students that go off-campus while they wait for the start of their practice or game.

N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Rules Regarding Removal from Contests

Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, or for a flagrant foul shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. tournament play. In individual sports a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation. Additional consequences can come from B.C.S., the Niagara-Orleans Athletic League, Section VI, and N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.

Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass or intimidate an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

Stealing or Vandalism

Any student caught stealing or vandalizing at school or during a school function will receive appropriate consequences. Stealing or vandalism is a violation of the law, B.C.S. District Policy, and the B.C.S. Extra-Curricular Handbook. Inappropriate actions will be referred to the Athletic Director and Building Principal for disciplinary consequences that include suspension of athletic privileges, complete restitution of goods stolen or vandalized, a meeting with the student's respective school counselor and parents, and other consequences. If stealing or vandalism occurs at a school or place where the student is representing Barker Central School as part of an interscholastic team, the parent and student will visit the school or place and make full restitution. All of the above must be completed before the student is reinstated.

Suspension

If a student is suspended from school by the Building Principal, (out-of- school or in-school suspension) he/she is ineligible to participate in practices or contests for the duration of the suspension.

If a student is suspended from athletics, the student can attend practice/ game by an invitation from the coach. Otherwise, the student is not allowed on school grounds after the completion of the regular school day.

Violations and Appeal Procedures

The importance of enforcement of all regulations should be apparent. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to preserve rules that reasonably pertain to the health and safety of the individual and to the orderly conduct of sports.

- In the event an athlete is found in violation of these previously mentioned standards, the

coach will inform the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director or coach will inform the student's parents of the violation. Disciplinary actions will range from a warning, suspension from the team, or dismissal from the team.

- Upon notification of a violation, the athlete may appeal the ruling through the following levels:
  1. The Coach
  2. The Director of Interscholastic Athletics
  3. The appropriate Principal
  4. The final step of the appeal, is the Superintendent of Schools
- Note: All suspensions may carry over to the next season and/or school year.

Additional important information for parents, students, & coaches:

School Attendance

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities, the student must be in regular attendance for the entire day.

If a student cannot be in attendance for the entire day, then they must be in school for a MINIMUM of 5 full periods and provide the Jr/Sr high office, athletic director or advisor with a signed note from a medical provider or from their parent or guardian indicating their awareness of the absence. This will serve as a legal excuse for the participation in extracurricular activities. If absenteeism or tardiness for any reason becomes a concern then a plan to address the problem will be put in place. The plan will include a meeting with the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal. In order for the student to be able to continue to participate in extracurricular activities, a contract must be signed by the parent and student. Failure to sign or comply with the contract will result in suspension or removal from the athletic team. The Athletic Director reserves the right to temporarily suspend an athlete from participating in contests if they continue to be chronically absent. We understand that extenuating circumstances may arise. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis with communication between parents, coaches, Athletic Director and/or Building Principal.

Practice/Game Attendance

Attendance for games, practices, and try-outs are expected. Students are expected to be at practices and contests on time. All excused absences require a note from the parent to the coach. It must be understood that any time missed may affect the team chemistry and/or personal conditioning, which may result in adjusted playing time. Excused absences are not limited to the following and all excused absences are at the discretion of the administration:

- Sickness or injury
- Emergency appointments (doctor, dentist, court, etc.)
- Religious obligations
- Academic reasons
- Death in the family
- Court dates
- Doctor or dentist appointment
- Remedial health treatment
- Impassable roads or weather
- Special examinations, tests, or overlapping seasons
- Other school commitments, such as band or a field trip
- College visitations or appointments
- Transfers from another district, meeting N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. rules

Any student who is present in school, but absent or late to the athletic event without prior permission from the coach, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. The disciplinary action may range from a warning, suspension, or dismissal from the team.

No student will leave the site of an athletic activity without permission from the coach and parent.

Students are not to arrive any earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the team-related activity unless told differently by the coach.
Students need to be picked up immediately following the end of the team-related activity.

Dual Participation

The opportunity to participate in two sports during one season exists for students in grades 9-12 only. Students interested in dual participation must fill out an applications provided by the Niagara-Orleans League and agree to follow the rules/regulations for dual sport participation that include carrying and maintaining an 85% average. The application must be accepted by the BCS Athletic Director, Principal, and league officials.

Equipment/Uniforms

At the beginning of each season the coach will provide athletes with school issued uniforms and equipment. To be in compliance with all of the rules and regulations, the coach must approve any piece of uniform or equipment that was purchased by the student.

It is the responsibility of the student to return to the coach all clothing and equipment issued to them during the season. Failure to do so will result in the student paying for the missing articles. The student will be responsible for maintaining proper care of equipment.

Students not paying for the missing or damaged articles will forfeit their right to participate in the next sport season or be eligible for any certificate or letter. Furthermore, students that do not meet their financial obligation to the Sport Club will receive the same consequences. A list of all violators will be sent to the Athletic Director's office and forwarded to the Building Principal involved. At the end of the year, consequences for any outstanding debts will be determined by the Building Principal.

Athletics Transportation

Students must use school transportation when traveling to and from an away contest. A student who misses a scheduled bus for an away athletic event will not be permitted to participate in that event.

Students in extenuating circumstances may seek permission to go to a game with their parents or an approved family member. A letter must be written by the parent/guardian and approved by the Athletic Director or the Building Principal.

Alternative return trip transportation may be arranged in writing by a parent/guardian with the coach if the athlete is to be released directly to his/her parents and the athlete will be riding with his/her parents.

Students in extenuating circumstances may seek permission to ride home from a game with another parent/guardian or adult family member. A letter must be written by the parent/guardian and approved by the Athletic Director or the Building Principal.

Parents/guardians may sign the transportation waiver for any athlete possessing a valid NYS drivers license and that participates in sports combined with another school where Barker is not the host school, or in the case of golf, be permitted to drive to a course for a practice or match. Students will be permitted to drive themselves only to a practice or game, but may not drive any other student in their vehicle during that time.

If at any time there is an extenuating circumstance where and athlete must drive to a contest or practice off campus, a written note from a parent/guardian is needed prior and approved by the Athletics Director or the Building Principal.

Dismissal from a Team

If a student is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons they cannot join another team within the same season. The student may receive additional consequences for future participation.

Moving from Level to Level (Team to Team) in the Same Season

Any time a student moves from one level to another, for example from JV to Varsity, the coach needs to communicate with the parent. The decision will be based on what is best for the individual and the program.

Team Transfer

It is important that students try-out for sports where they will have success. Students may not transfer from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from both coaches. The approval of the Athletic Director is also required. If a team has cut a student then it is legitimate for that student to try-out for another team.

Once a student competes in a contest, the athlete will not be able to be considered for a transfer from one sport to another.

Trying Out for a Team

The coach will give all athletes a fair evaluation during try outs. Students will be evaluated on a variety of tests.

In the event a student does not participate in team try outs at the beginning of the season, it is up to the coach if the student can be allowed to try out after the start of practice. See practice attendance rules for exceptions to this rule.

Quitting a Team

Those who choose to participate in athletics make a commitment to give their best for an entire season. Making a commitment to a team is a life- long value that may play a significant role in the personal development of a student's life.

If a member quits a team, he/she has forty-eight hours to personally ask the coach for reinstatement. It is up to the coach if the student will be allowed back on the team. It is strongly recommended that the student speak with the coach if they are thinking about quitting the team.

Athletes have up until the first contest to determine if they would like to commit to participating on that team for the entire season. If the althete quits the team after the first contest and does not ask for reinstatement, that athlete will be suspended for 10% of the contests of the next season that the student participates in. The 10% rule comes into effect the day of the first scheduled league/divisional game and will be rounded to the nearest whole number. The coach must notify the Athletic Director within 24 hours of the student's decision to quit the team, so if needed, there can be a meeting between all those involved.

Outside Participation

The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. allows outside participation in other athletic clubs.

Barker student athletes must understand that commitment to the school team takes precedence over outside participation. Club participation should not be detrimental to an individual or the team.

There may be circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the team.

A student should not participate unless he/she checks with the Barker Central School coach first.

College Athletics

The primary focus of the Barker Central School Athletic Department is to teach life-long values, skills, and lessons, not to produce scholarship athletes. A small minority of athletes go on to play at the collegiate level, and even a smaller amount of athletes receive athletic scholarships. It is important for parents and athletes to communicate with the coach if there is potential for the athlete to play at the next level. The coaches and Athletic Director will be able to give the athlete an honest evaluation of the appropriate level of play that may be suitable for the athlete. The Guidance Counselor, Athletic Director, and coach can also guide the parents and athlete through the recruiting process (NCAA Clearinghouse, college visitations, etc.).

Summary of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Eligibility Rules

A student is eligible to participate:

- If they are a high school student in regular attendance (80% of the school time) in grade 9,10,11, or 12 and taking (3) three subjects plus physical education.
- If the age of 19 years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- If their parents and doctor approve.
- If they have not played more than four consecutive sports seasons after first entering grade 9.
- A student in grades 9-12 who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents, shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. Call Athletic Office for questions regarding the transfer rule
- A student who participates in any unapproved all-star contest shall be ineligible to compete in interschool athletics in all sports for a period of one year from the date of such participation.
- If they have not played or practiced with a college team.
- If they are an amateur and have never used their athletic skill for gain, (received a payment of any form) and if they have never competed under an assumed name.
- If they are familiar with the rules of the game and the standards of sportsmanship.
- If the student has the appropriate amount of practices prior to a scrimmage/game.
- Students must compete in a minimum amount of contests to be eligible for post-season play.
- Students that represent Barker Central School can only compete in N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. sanctioned interscholastic contests and they are allowed to participate in a maximum amount of contests.
- A student in grade 7th and 8th grade is eligible for Modified competition. One is ineligible when the sixteenth birthday is attained; however, if a student attains the sixteenth birthday during a sport season he/she may complete that season.

Medical Information

Athletic Physical Examinations

Athletic physical examinations will be given and approved by the school doctor before a student is allowed to try out or participate in any interscholastic sport. The health examination performed by the school doctor are brief screenings that verify if the student is free from contagions and physically qualified to play sports. Part of the school wellness screening includes a review of the student's height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, tanner score, and scoliosis check.

Understand that the school health exam is not meant to replace the annual well-child physical with the student's family care physician. Well- child visits to your primary care physician are more thorough examinations that take into account the health history of the child and his/her family. These regular visits are an important tool that health care providers use to screen for medical and developmental issues.

If the student does not have an athletic physical exam done by the school physician, the student must have the B.C.S. Athletic Physical Form completed by his/her own physician at his/her own cost and returned to the school nurse before he/she may try out for any team.

The sports physical is valid for a period of 12 months through the last day of the month in which the physical was conducted. If the 12-month period for the physical expires during a sports season, participants may complete the season as long as a health history form was conducted prior to the season.

In addition to a valid physical, an Interval Health History Form must be completed and submitted through the family ID link located on the athletics page of the BCS website.

Risk Factors, Illness, and Injury

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk for injury. Before going out for the team, we want athletes and parents to be aware of the risk so everyone will be better able to reduce the chance of injury. Preseason conditioning, learning the skills, techniques, knowledge of the rules, and safety factors will help reduce the risk of injury and to improve the occurrence of a healthy season. Parents are encouraged to contact the coach if they have any questions or concerns regarding potential risk factors.

All injuries must be reported to the coach immediately. The coach and/ or school trainer present must contact the parents and make out an accident report as soon as possible so the facts are clearly in mind when recorded. Any injury requiring a visit to a doctor or emergency room must be reported by the coach to the Athletic Director and School Nurse as soon as possible. If medical attention is required, a written physician's approval to return to practice must be submitted to the School Nurse. Upon receiving approval from the School Nurse, the student may resume participation (during vacation breaks, a written physician's approval may be submitted to the Athletic Director instead of the School Nurse.) **ALL** medical expenses incurred from any school injury must be submitted to the family's primary insurance carrier, and anything not covered can be submitted to the Business Office as it may be covered under the school's student accident insurance coverage.

A student who misses practice during the season for more than a period of 5 consecutive days may need to have a minimum of 2 days practice for reconditioning purposes prior to participation in a game or scrimmage. If a student misses 3 or 4 consecutive days of practice, 1 day of reconditioning may need to take place before participation in a game or scrimmage.

An athletic trainer is available to all students. The trainer will be at the high school on a regularly-scheduled basis. If needed, the students need to meet with the trainer upon his/her arrival. The parent signature on the consent form approves the athletic trainer to care for your child.

Click on related tabs on the athletic homepage at barkercsd.net for information on energy drinks, hydration, MRSA and concussions.

Concussion Management and Awareness Act

In July of 2011 the Concussion Management and Awareness Act became law. The law took effect on July 1, 2012 and is now included in the Commissioner's Regulations section 135.6. The details of the law are included in the Barker Central School Concussion Management Plan that each parent and child will receive at the beginning of each sports season. Additional information that will help educate and inform both students and parents on concussion management can be found at barkercsd.net under the Athletic homepage. The law requires that a parent must sign off acknowledging that they have received information on concussion management. The submission of the extracurricular handbook through the family ID link is located on the athletics page of the BCS website will serve as the consent form.

Advanced Placement Program (Gr. 7 & 8)

The Advanced Placement Program (APP) is a process for screening students to determine their readiness to compete in Junior Varsity or Varsity interscholastic athletic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness and skill. An athlete may not try out until the entire process has been completed. This is the approved process by the New York State Education Department.
The APP is designed for mature, exceptionally skilled students to advance to an upper level. It is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.
Normally a student is eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the student's entry into ninth grade. However, by satisfying the requirements of the APP, a student may receive extended eligibility to permit:

- Participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into eighth grade
- Participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into seventh grade
- Also, note that your child is subject to the NYSPHSAA transfer rule should he/she participate

under the APP program and then move to a different school district the following school year.

APP Procedures:

Signing up: The student, parent, teacher, coach may ask the Athletic Director to evaluate the student for APP.

Informing student and parents: The student will be sent home a letter, a permission slip, and additional information regarding the APP process.

Parent/Guardian Permission: All students who are to be evaluated must first obtain written parent/guardian permission before any evaluation may begin.

Physical Fitness Testing: This must be done by a certified physical education teacher who is not a coach of the sport for which the student will be trying out. The President's Physical Fitness Test has been selected as the test for this process, and the student must meet the 85th percentile level for their age in 4 out of 5 test components. For students trying out for swimming, an alternate fitness test to the 1 mile walk/run- students trying out for swimming may choose to either do the 1 mile walk/ run or the 500 yard swim. *Exception to the physical fitness test requirement: Students who desire to try out for golf are not required to complete the physical fitness testing.* The Presidential Fitness Test will be administered in your child's PE class during the month of May. Although your child's test results in PE class do not count towards the APP, the results are an excellent indicator on where your child stands in the process.

Administrative Approval: The athletic administrator should confirm that the student is suitable for consideration, which includes the likelihood that the student would play in at least 50% of the games. Additionally, because of the increased time demands of participation at the high school level, the student's academic performance should be at or above grade level. Furthermore, administration should assess the student's emotional readiness to socialize with high school-aged students. If the student is not academically or socially ready, the student should not proceed through the APP. The student must receive approval from the school administrator in order to continue through the APP.

School Doctor Approval: The school doctor will determine a student's physical maturity level, and compare the physical size of the student in relation to that of the students against whom the student wishes to compete. The student must receive approval from the school doctor in order to continue through the APP. The School Doctor will have the final say even if the student goes to his/her own doctor.

Coach Approval: The sport coach will rely on past personal observations and may consider input from the student's former coaches to complete the evaluation. If the coach is unfamiliar with the student, the sport coach may wish to observe the student in a physical education class. The student must receive approval from the coach in order to continue through the APP.

Final Step: The names of the students that have met all requirements will be forwarded to the appropriate coach and that coach will be in contact with you regarding the details of try-outs. Understand that passing the APP does not guarantee your child a spot on the team. It only allows them to try-out.

Additional Information:
If a student in grade 7 or 8 has reached the chronological age of 15 years old prior to July 1, he or she is eligible to participate on high school athletics without undergoing the APP; only medical approval by the district medical director is required, as these students are already at an advanced age and would otherwise lose eligibility due to aging out.

A student who has undergone the APP does not need the procedure repeated if he/she achieved the required scores for fitness, maturity, and comparable physical size for the desired sport and level, regardless of the school year in which the testing was completed.

For those students that are not interested attempting the APP or do not successfully complete the process, BCS will offer a modified sports program for students in grades 7 and 8.

More information on the APP can be found at:
http://::www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/pe/documents/Athletic-Placement-Process.pdf. Feel free to contact the Athletic Office if you have any questions regarding the APP.

Athlete Recognition

Awards

All awards will be in accordance with the requirements of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A, Section VI, the Niagara-Orleans Athletic League, and Barker Central School.

- If possible, all awards will be presented at the completion of the sports season at the end-of-season team gathering.
- Athletes must finish the season to be eligible for awards.
- Any student having outstanding debts for equipment (lost or stolen) will not receive an award until all debts are paid.
- Students that violate school rules may hurt their chances of earning a post-season award or honor.
- J.V. or Varsity letter, certificate, and sports insert.
    - A first time J.V. or Varsity athlete will receive a J.V. or Varsity letter, J.V. or Varsity certificate, and sports insert symbol for successful completion of the sport's requirement.
    - An athlete in their second J.V. or Varsity season will receive only a certificate and sports insert symbol for successful completion of the sport's requirement.
    - A J.V. or Varsity letter may be awarded at the discretion of each coach. The coach will add additional sport-specific criteria to enable fair standards to establish letter achievement.
    - An athlete, who would have earned a J.V. or Varsity letter, certificate, and sports insert symbol but was injured and could not complete the season or missed enough time not to earn a letter, may be awarded a J.V. or Varsity letter if the coach feels the letter is justified.

Athletes must participate in regular season play to be eligible for a Varsity letter. However, it is up to the coach's discretion and team philosophy as to whether or not an underclassman in grades 7-10 has earned their Varsity letter. Exceptions may be made for end-of-season call-ups that have made a significant impact in post-season play and will be determined between the coach and Athletic Director.

Barker Varsity Club Individual Awards

MVP: Each varsity sport has a Most Valuable Player Award that is presented to the individual selected by his/her teammates and/or coach following the season. The winner will receive a trophy or a plaque.

Coaches Award: Each modified, J.V., & varsity sport has a Coaches Award that is presented to the individual selected by the coach following the season. This award may involve the coach's personal criteria for the selection process. The winner will receive a trophy or a plaque.

MIP: Each modified, J.V. & varsity sport has a Most Improved Player Award that is presented to the individual selected by his/her teammates and/or the coach following the season. The winner will receive a trophy or a plaque.

Barker Varsity Club Three-Sport Award: Given to any athlete that completed 3 or more varsity sports in the current year. Each recipient will receive a patch.

Barker Varsity Club Four-Year Award: Given to a senior that played the same varsity sport for at least 4 seasons. The athlete must play the sport during their senior year. Each recipient will receive a patch.

Senior Award: Given to a senior that played 2 varsity sports in their senior year or 1 varsity sport in their junior year and a different varsity sport in their senior year. Each recipient will receive a senior letter "B".

Male and Female Athlete of the Year: Given to the top male/female athlete in the senior class. Three-sport participation and All-League, Section, and State recognition are weighed heavily. Each recipient will receive a plaque from the Varsity Club and a scholarship donated by the Barker Lions Club.

Outside of Barker Central School

All-League: Being selected to the All-League (1st team, 2nd team, or Honorable Mention) is an honor bestowed on outstanding athletes in the Niagara-Orleans Athletic Leagues. The selection process is written in the by-laws of the N-O Constitution. All-League Honors are presented following the season. First team All-League recipients receive an All- League patch.

Niagara-Orleans/Section VI Sportsmanship Award: Each season, the Niagara-Orleans coaches vote for the team and an individual representative from the winning team that models the best sportsmanship practices. Each recipient will receive a patch.

N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete: To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. If a team DOES NOT meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90.00 or above GPA are still eligible to receive a pin and will be considered an Individual Scholar-Athlete. In either case, only individuals with a 90 or above individual GPA qualify for a pin and all eligible scholar athletes must be a member of the varsity team at some point during the regular season.

Niagara-Orleans Championship: The Niagara-Orleans League presents a plaque to the team that wins the League Championship. The Varsity Club purchases each individual on that team a championship plaque.

Additional Awards: All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete, All-Western New York Athlete, All-State Athlete, Sectional Champion, Regional Champion, and/or State Champion.

Barker Central School Honors & Awards Assembly & Graduation

US Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award: Certificates recognizing students for excelling in the classroom and in athletics.

US Air Force Award: Certificates recognizing students for academic excellence in math and science, technology and as scholar-athlete.

US Marine Corp Award: Recognizing students with the Distinguished Athlete, Scholastic Excellence and Semper Fidelis Awards.

Student Award: Monetary award to a male and female who have maintained an average of 85% or better while earning varsity or junior varsity letters in 3 sports in their high school career.

Sports Information

Visit **barkercsd.net** for the latest sport stories, team rosters, schedules, results, directions, a copy of the student handbook, Family ID registration link and more!!

Varsity scores and stories are reported to the following: The Orleans Hub, The Buffalo News, and The Lockport Union-Sun & Journal. The 2026-2027 revisions include an update of the sports that we offer and our current combined teams.

Sports Offered

Fall Boys:	**Winter Boys:**	**Spring Boys:**
Mod. Cross Country	Mod. Basketball	J.V. Baseball
Var. Cross Country	J.V. Basketball	Var. Baseball
Mod. Football (7-9) *	Var. Basketball	Var. Tennis***
Var. Football (10-12) *	Basketball Cheer	Mod. Track & Field
Golf	Mod. Swimming	Var. Track & Field
Sideline Cheer *	Var. Swimming (9-12)*	
Mod. Soccer **	Mod.Wrestling	
J.V. Soccer **	Var. Wrestling *	
Var. Soccer **	Unified Bowling	

Fall Girls:	**Winter Girls:**	**Spring Girls:**
Mod. Cross Country	Mod. Basketball	J.V. Softball
Var. Cross Country	J.V. Basketball	Var. Softball
Mod. Field Hockey (7-9)	Var. Basketball	Var. Tennis***
Var. Field Hockey (10-12)	Basketball Cheer	Mod. Track & Field
Golf	Mod. Swimming	Var. Track & Field
Mod. Soccer **	Var. Swimming *	
J.V. Soccer **	Mod. Wrestling	
Var. Soccer **	Var. Wrestling *	
Sideline Cheer *	Unified Bowling	

· Combined Team with Roy-Hart*
· Combined Team with Lyndonville**
· Participating under the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Mixed Competition Rule ***
· Modified Sports are for 7th and 8th graders with the exception of field hockey and football in which 9th graders are allowed to participate.
· J.V. and Varsity: Grades 9th -12th (Note: See rules on APP and Age Limit)

Use the link in family ID to acknowledge that you have read and understand the handbook and agree to follow procedures.

Good luck this season and

GO BULLDOGS!!

ALMA MATTER

Just outside our little village
With its buildings tall;
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
Known and loved by all.

Raise your voices, Seniors, Juniors
Each and everyone;
Help to praise old Barker Central
For the victories won.

Our strong ties can ne'er be broken
Formed in B.C.S.
So we'll love and honor Barker
Far above the rest.

Raise your voices, Seniors, Juniors
Help us to express;
All our love for Barker Central
Dear old B.C.S.

Though we'll leave old Barker Central
With its memories dear;
All our joys and all our sorrows
Will still linger near.

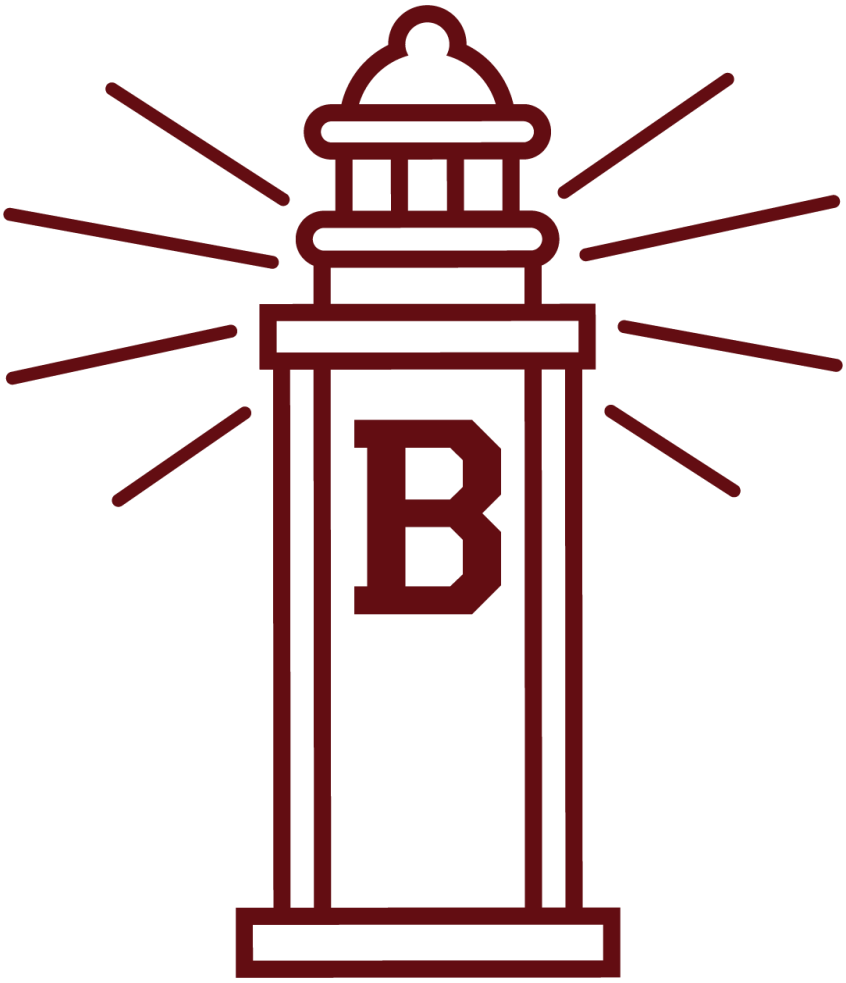
Raise your voices, Seniors, Juniors
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee our Alma Mater

BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL

Dr. Jacob L. Reimer, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Chris Cornwell, Coordinator of Curriculum and Professional Learning/Assistant Principal
Dr. Micaela Love, Principal
Mrs. Deborah Lingle, Assistant Principal
Ms. Julia Duerr, Director of Instructional Services
Ms. Connie Miner, Business Administrator
Mr. Rob Mucha, Athletic Director

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