BEAUFORT COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Student-Athletic Participation in High School Programs

Requirements and Expectations

Purpose

These guidelines are designed for students, parents, and the community to clarify questions related to middle school student participation in high school athletic programs of the Beaufort County School District (BCSD).

Philosophy

BCSD believes that a well-managed and comprehensive athletic program is essential for the overall development of young individuals. An effective program should provide diverse opportunities for a varied student population, feature well-trained and student-focused coaches and advisors, and establish clear expectations and regulations for participation. Clearly defined roles for both students and parents are crucial for ensuring that programs benefit students and cultivate pride within schools and the community.

Middle School Student Participation in High School Teams

Middle School students may join high school sports at the middle school level, provided the following guidelines are followed:

- Parents/legal guardians meet with both the high school and middle school Athletic Directors to complete the **Middle School Student-Athlete Participation Form**.
- Middle school athletes added to sub-varsity or varsity teams cannot return to the middle school team for the same season.
- Parents/legal guardians acknowledge the maturity differences between pre-teens and teens in athletic settings and recognize potential challenges.
- Parents/legal guardians understand that there are no guarantees of playing time on sub-varsity and varsity teams.
- Parents/legal guardians recognize that remaining with their appropriate age group at the

middle school level may lead to future opportunities at higher levels.

- Transportation from the middle school to sub-varsity or varsity events is not provided; parents/legal guardians are responsible for transporting the student-athlete.
- Parents/legal guardians acknowledge the possibility that the student-athletes may be transferred to sub-varsity or varsity teams when appropriate, after the middle school sports seasons have concluded.

Characteristics of an Exceptional Middle School Student-Athlete

- Learning easily and quickly
- Thinks clearly and comprehends sport-specific drills and progression
- Retains demonstrated skills in practice with minimal individual attention from the coach
- Exhibits independence, individualism, and self-sufficiency
- Focuses intently
- Adapts swiftly to complex maneuvers and ideas during drills
- Demonstrates skills, performance, maturity, and attitude at a level comparable to sub-varsity and/or varsity teams

Tryouts

All students who meet the eligibility criteria established by the high school, BCSD, and the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) may try out for athletic teams. The tryout period must be a minimum of three (3) days, allowing students to adequately showcase their skills. This duration may include practice sessions for routine learning, such as cheerleading.

- No student should feel pressured to choose one sport over another.
- Coaches and advisors must not use their authority to influence or restrict participation in specific sports.
- If a student misses the tryout period due to unforeseen circumstances, parents or athletes may appeal to the school's Athletic Director and Principal.
- A student officially joins a team on the first day of practice if no tryout is required, or when the team list is posted after tryouts.
- Coaches must discuss tryout outcomes with students. If a student does not make the team, feedback on areas for improvement should be provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

(*Student Name)* _____ is currently a student at _____ (*Name of Middle School*) and will try out at _____ **(***Name of High School***)**

The parent/legal guardian and student-athlete have been informed of the competition level expectations at his/her zoned high school.

Middle School Athletic Director Signature**:** _____
Date: _____
Middle School Head Coach Signature: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____
Date: _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

(*Student Name*) _____ will try out at _____ (*Name of High School*)

We have communicated with the Middle School Athletic Director, and I support the choice of the parent/legal guardian for this student-athlete to have immediate athletic eligibility at the high school upon successful completion of tryouts.

High School Athletic Director Signature: _____
Date: _____
High School Head Coach Signature: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____
Date: _____

APPROVAL STATUS

Approved: _____
Denied: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____