

BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Athletic Handbook

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Athletic Program Goals and Objectives

Barnwell County School District athletic programs play an essential role in teaching our students to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, strive for excellence, persevere through adversity, make sacrifices and compete with dignity and pride. It is a goal of our programs to develop, within our student athletes, a commitment to teamwork and service to our school and community. Barnwell County School District aims to build strong teams by teaching our athletes how to work together, to communicate effectively, and to be known for outstanding sportsmanship.

Our athletic director, school administrators, staff, and coaches are committed to providing a challenging, supportive, and caring environment where our student athletes can reach their academic, athletic, and personal potential. We expect our coaches and athletes to consistently conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect and sportsmanship both on and off the field.

We expect our student athletes to strive for the following:

Competence

- To develop the skills necessary to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the rules and strategies of the game.
- To demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of healthy behaviors and abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.

Character

- To be dependable in fulfilling obligations and commitments.
- To accept responsibility for consequences of actions, to not make excuses or blame others.
- To persevere and excel.
- To demonstrate truthfulness.
- To abide by the rules of the game.
- To control anger and frustration and refrain from displays of temper and inappropriate language.
- To accept losing and winning graciously.

Sportsmanship

- To practice good manners on and off the field.
- To refrain from displays of temper and inappropriate language.
- To treat all persons respectfully, including coaches, officials, captains, teammates, and opponents).
- To set a good example for teammates, younger athletes, fans, and school community.

Teamwork

- To keep commitments to the team.
- To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
- To put the good of the team ahead of personal goals.

We also expect every student athlete in our programs to abide by all rules and regulations developed for each individual sports team, all regulations approved by the Board of Trustees and contained in the student code of conduct section of the student handbook, as well as the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League (www.schsl.org).

Student-athletes who violate the code of conduct will face disciplinary action. Depending on the violation, penalties may include losing athletic privileges, suspension, or expulsion, in accordance with applicable laws and board policies.

Athletic Academic Requirements

All athletes must meet all academic standards of Barnwell County School District and the South Carolina High School League. Academic performance is a priority. The athlete's primary responsibility is school work. Grades and/or progress reports of student athletes will be reviewed by the athletic director.

SC High School League Rules for Student Eligibility

Section 1

In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina High School League, a student must be enrolled in and attending a member or associate member school. The student must also meet other necessary requirements of all sections of this article.

Section 2 – Age Limitations

- A student who becomes 19 years of age prior to July 1 of the upcoming school year, will not be eligible to compete in any athletic activities during that school year.
- Should a student become 15 years of age prior to July 1 of the upcoming school year, he/she shall be too old for a 7th- and 8th-grade team, he/she would have to play junior varsity if that sport is offered. If not, he/she would have to start their 9th grade eligibility if the sport is classified as a contact sport.
- The SCHSL's age rule may not be set aside under the special conditions provisions of the governing documents of the SCHSL.

Section 3 – Birth Certification

- Schools shall have on file a copy of an official birth document for all student-athletes. Any questions on authenticity will be submitted to the SCHSL Office.
- Official birth documents must meet the following criteria:
 1. It must be an original certified document.
 2. It must be obtained from the state, county, or city government in which the student was born.

3. It must include the given and surnames.
 4. It must be legible and unaltered.
- C. Children born abroad may supply one of the following documents:
1. If born abroad of American citizens:
 - Foreign Service Forms 240 or 545
 - Department of State Form 1350
 - Citizenship papers
 - Passport
 2. If born abroad of alien parents who are now U.S. citizens:
 - Immigration and Naturalization Service Form G-350
 - Original Naturalization Papers
 3. If born abroad and still a citizen of the foreign country:
 - Birth Certificates
 - Alien Card
 - Passports issued in foreign countries
 4. The following will not be accepted:
 - Hospital Certificates
 - Birth Notices
 - Copies certified by Notaries

Section 4 – Academic Requirements

To participate in interscholastic activities, students in grades nine through twelve must achieve an overall passing average and either:

- A. Pass at least four academic courses, including each unit the student takes that is required for graduation.
The required courses are as followed:

- English/Language Arts 4 Units.
- U.S. History and Constitution 1 Unit.
- Economics (1/2 Unit), Government (1/2 Unit) 1 Unit.
- Other Social Studies 1 Unit.
- Mathematics 4 Units.
- Science 3 Units.
- Physical Education or ROTC 1 Unit.
- Computer Science (Including Keyboarding) 1 Unit.
- Foreign Language/CATE 1 Unit.

or,

- B. Pass a total of five academic courses.

Students must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding participation in the interscholastic activity, if the interscholastic activity occurs completely within one semester or in the semester preceding the first semester of participation in an interscholastic activity if the interscholastic activity occurs over two consecutive semesters and is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League.

- C. Academic requirements for students enrolled in the 7th and 8th grades, including first-semester 9th graders

1. Students passing the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades by academic promotion pursuant to district policy are considered as having met the requirements for academic eligibility for the first semester.

2. Students in grades 7 and 8 must be meeting the school district promotion policy at the end of the first semester in order to be eligible second semester. Second-semester 9th grade students must meet SCHSL academic regulations.
 3. A 7th- or 8th-grade repeater shall not be eligible during a school year if academic requirements for promotion were met during the previous year.
 4. A student who previously failed the 7th or 8th grade is eligible during the second semester if he/she has satisfactorily passed first-semester work. Second-semester eligibility begins when the first semester ends and the student is added to the certificate of eligibility form signed by the principal.
- D. Schools will follow the procedures outlined in the School Administrators Guide, published by the S.C. Department of Education, in accepting or rejecting credits received by a student while the student is enrolled in private schools, including home schools and/or out of state schools.

Requirements for Participation

A. Physical Examination

- A yearly physical examination is required.
- The physical must be completed after April 1.
- Must be completed by a licensed physician.
- Must be on a form approved by the SCHSL. [Upload document to FinalForms.]
- Preparticipation History Form must be filled out. [Upload document to FinalForms.]

B. Parent's Permission and Acknowledgment of Risk of Participation

All athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must realize serious injury may occur as a result of athletic participation. BCSD and the SCHSL require that the parent's permission and risk of participation form be signed by athletes and parent(s)/ guardian(s) prior to participation. [Digitally sign on FinalForms.]

C. Concussion Form

It is mandated by the state that every athlete be given information on the causes, signs, and symptoms of concussions. Every athlete prior to participating on an athletic team must read the required information regarding concussions. Before participating on an athletic team, the approved form must be digitally signed by the student/athlete and parent(s)/ guardian(s) on FinalForms. [Digitally sign on FinalForms.]

D. Parent and Student Eligibility Waiver

Waiver needs to be signed and dated by parent/guardian and athlete consenting for grades/information to be released to determine academic eligibility. [Digitally sign on FinalForms.]

Participation Policies

A. Participation

- Athletes may participate in more than one sport per season if all coaches agree and priorities are set to resolve scheduling conflicts prior to the season.
- A student chosen to be a member of a team is a representative of that sport, their school, community, and Barnwell County School District. It is vital that student-athletes continue their involvement and participation throughout the season. The list below are the consequences for not continuing their commitment for the entire season.
 - **DISMISSAL – AN ATHLETE DISMISSED FROM A TEAM FOR VIOLATION OF RULES OR CONDUCT CANNOT PRACTICE WITH OR JOIN ANOTHER TEAM UNTIL THE SEASON OF DISMISSAL IS COMPLETE.**
 - **QUITTING – AN ATHLETE QUITTING A TEAM FOR ANY REASON DURING THE SEASON WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TRY-OUT FOR ANOTHER TEAM UNTIL THE SPORT HE/SHE QUIT IS COMPLETE.**

B. Equipment

- School equipment and uniforms issued to the student/athlete are the athlete's responsibility.

- Loss of any equipment or uniform is the athlete's financial obligation.
- Failing to return or replace equipment or uniforms may result in denial of participation in the athletic program.

C. Attendance

- Athletes marked absent for more than half of the school day will not be able to play in a contest or practice on that date. Athletes with just reason may be excused from this policy. Just reason shall be anything beyond the control of the student, with the exception of illness. Doctor/dental appointments and school related absences are just reason. Confirmation notes must be given to the AD or coach of that sport.
- An athlete who leaves school early due to an illness is considered too ill to participate in athletics.
- An athlete who arrives at school late because of sickness must arrive before 11:30 a.m. to be granted permission to compete.
- Students must comply with the minimum attendance requirements in all classes to remain eligible.

D. In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions

- **ATHLETES ASSIGNED IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICE AND/OR A CONTEST THE DAY OF THE SERVED SUSPENSION.**
- **ATHLETES ASSIGNED OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICE AND/OR A CONTEST THE DAY(S) OF THEIR SUSPENSION.**
- **ATHLETIC PENALTIES FOR IN-SCHOOL OR OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL COACH OR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.**

NOTE: Students and coaches should be aware that students serving out-of-school suspensions are not allowed to be on campus or attend any school function.

E. Team Selection

- Choosing members of the athletic teams is the responsibility of the coaches, and they have the final authority in doing so.
- Selections are based on skill and knowledge of the sport.
- All of the team must meet the eligibility requirements of the SCHSL.

F. Reporting Injuries

- All injuries should be reported to the coach, athletic trainer and athletic director.
- The athletic trainer and athletic director must be notified immediately.
- Injuries must be documented on the School Incident Form and medical treatment offered if needed.

Athletic Code of Conduct

The Board of Trustees, district administrators, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. Another consideration is the instilling of honor, duty, loyalty, and values within the students that participate in athletics. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the program affords.

Students who take part in the athletic program serve as special ambassadors of the school they represent. Consequently, the behavior of those students who choose to participate in these activities draws such public interest and attention that it is unique in its capacity to elevate or diminish the School District's standing in the public mind. Strong public education programs cannot exist without strong public support. Athletes who exhibit misconduct while in uniform will face immediate disciplinary action and potential suspension from the team. Any conduct, while in season or out of season, that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school, whether on campus or off campus, will not be tolerated. Therefore, all students participating in the

athletic program who are charged by law enforcement authorities with criminal conduct or who engage in other acts of misbehavior may be subject to suspension and/or possible exclusion from participation.

Unacceptable Conduct:

Unacceptable conduct is categorized as either a Level 1 Misconduct or Level 2 Misconduct.

Level 1 Misconduct

Substance Abuse – to be using, under the influence of, or having illegal possession of nicotine related products, alcohol, drugs, unauthorized controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia on school property, at a school event or within the community.

Disruptive Behavior – any behavior which negatively impact the school climate, are deemed inappropriate according to the district's code of conduct and/or endangers the health or safety of oneself or others.

Social Media – any type of cyber bullying, posted derogatory comments, negative pictures of any student, athlete, coach, official, teacher, and/or administrator, or any violation of the district's code of conduct in a digital forum.

Level 1 Misconduct Consequences

First Offense

1. Suspension for a number of games (including playoff games, if necessary) equal to 10% of the regular season contests. (This includes practice/s prior to game suspension.)
2. The suspension may be waived after a minimum 1-game suspension if the student/athlete participates in and ultimately completes a school-approved counseling program to address the problem. The suspension will be lifted at the time the student/athlete presents evidence that he/she is enrolled in an approved program.
3. Lack of satisfactory progress in the counseling program will result in the suspension being reinstated immediately.
4. If the student/athlete faces legal charges, the suspension will be lifted after a minimum one-game suspension if the charges are dropped, or if the individual is found in court to be "not guilty" of the charges.
5. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum one-game suspension if the principal determines the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Second Offense

1. Suspension for a number of games (including playoff games, if necessary) equal to 15% of the regular season contests.
2. If the student/athlete faces legal charges, the suspension will be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the charges are dropped (for reasons other than participation in a counseling program), or if the individual is found in court to be "not guilty" of the charges.
3. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Third Offense

1. Suspension from practice and games for the remainder of the current athletic season.
2. If the student/athlete faces legal charges, the suspension will be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the charges are dropped (for reasons other than participation in a counseling program), or if the individual is found in court to be "not guilty" of the charges.
3. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Fourth Offense

1. Suspended immediately from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. Eligibility for the athletic participation for the next school year will be subject to review.
2. The student athlete cannot participate in any athletic function (in-season or out-of-season) until suspension is served.
3. If the student athlete faces legal charges, the suspension will be lifted after a minimum three-game suspension if the charges are dropped (for reasons other than participation in a counseling program), or if the individual is found in court to be “not guilty” of the charges.
4. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum three-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Note: The school administrator has the discretion to lessen the consequence as appropriate. Depending on the seriousness of the offense(s), consequences may include immediate removal from a team.

Level 2 Misconduct

Criminal Misconduct – any behavior which significantly disrupts the learning environment, poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of oneself or others or violates state and/or federal laws.

Level 2 Misconduct Consequences

Any student athlete arrested or detained for a criminal offense during athletic season and out of season (not to include minor traffic violations) will be subject to consequences that will include but are not limited to the disciplinary sanctions listed below, consistent with the District’s policy and code of conduct. In addition, to the sanctions listed below, a student may be referred to the District’s hearing officer depending on the nature and severity of a particular offense. Depending on the severity of a particular criminal offense, a student athlete may be prohibited from participating in any team sports for the remainder of a season or the remainder of his/her time as a student in Barnwell County School District on the first offense and may receive disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion from school.

First Offense

1. Suspension for a number of games (including playoff games, if necessary) equal to 25% of the regular season contests.
2. The suspension may be waived after a minimum one-game suspension if the student/athlete participates in and ultimately completes a school-approved counseling program to address the nature of the offense. The suspension will be lifted at the time the student/athlete presents evidence that he/she is enrolled in an approved program.
3. Lack of satisfactory progress in the counseling program will result in the suspension being reinstated immediately.
4. The suspension may be lifted after a minimum one-game suspension if the charges are dropped, or if the individual is found in court to be “not guilty” of the charges.
5. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum one-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Second Offense

1. Suspension for a number of games (including playoff games, if necessary) equal to 50% of the regular season contests.
2. The suspension may be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the charges are dropped (for reasons other than participation in a counseling program), or if the individual is found in court to be “not guilty” of the charges.
3. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum two-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

Third Offense

1. Immediate suspension from athletic participation for one calendar year. The student athlete cannot participate in any athletic function (in-season or out-of-season) until the suspension is served.
2. The suspension will be lifted after a minimum three-game suspension if the charges are dropped (for reasons other than participation in a counseling program), or if the individual is found in court to be “not guilty” of the charges.
3. If the student/athlete does not face legal charges, the suspension may be lifted after a minimum three-game suspension if the principal determines that the individual is not guilty of the offense.

SCHSL Fines and Suspensions

1. An athlete who is ejected for using abusive language, flagrantly or maliciously contacting another person, making obscene gestures to opponents or spectators, shall be ineligible for a minimum of the next contest to the maximum of one year depending on the seriousness of the violation.
 - a. Player(s) ejected from a contest may remain in bench area.
 - b. A suspended athlete may be in the bench area provided they are not in uniform.
2. Any ejection that warrants game(s) suspension will require the removal of the athlete’s eligibility until the suspension has been served at the level of the ejection. Suspensions carry over from sport to sport and/or year to year. The student athlete is eligible for scrimmages and jamborees when the suspension is carried over from a previous sports season.
3. Game(s) suspension (depending on the nature of the ejection) may result in the following: – a minimum of one game competitive cheer/sideline cheer, football, – a minimum of two games for volleyball, cross country, golf, wrestling, track & field – a minimum of three games for basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis Ejections during post season play for all sports may result in a minimum one game suspension.

Social Media Expectations

Barnwell County School District recognizes and supports student-athletes’ rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student athlete must remember that playing and competing for teams in Barnwell County School District is a privilege. As a student athlete, you represent the district, the school and the community and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the district in a positive manner at all times.

Everything an athlete posts is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it. What you post may affect your future. Many coaches and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters). All athletes are required to sign an Athletic Contract prior to participating on an athletic team. This contract includes but is not limited to **FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA.**

- Disrespectful comments/behavior online will not be tolerated.
- Any posts, pictures, videos, etc. creating a serious danger to safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person are unacceptable.
- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors are unacceptable.

- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional will not be tolerated.

It is important to understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

Barnwell County School District Athletic Contract

Barnwell County School District expects our athletes to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, strive for excellence, persevere through adversity, make sacrifices and compete with dignity and pride. Our athletes are expected to commit to teamwork and service to our school and community. We expect Barnwell County School District athletes meet the standards set up in this contract, not only during the seasons(s) of their respective sport(s), but throughout the school year. It is our belief that by meeting these standards and setting a positive example they will serve as role models for all students in Barnwell County School District schools.

In representing Barnwell County School District in athletic events, I realize that my behavior reflects on myself, my team and my school. Expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

Practices and Scheduled Contests

- Players are to attend all practices and scheduled contests. It is the responsibility of the coach or athletic director to set practice and contest times. If a player must miss a practice and/or contest, it is the responsibility of the players or their parents to contact the coach prior to the practice or contest time.
- Players are to be on time for all practices and scheduled contests. Coaches should be notified of school meetings or events or appointments which will result in the athlete being tardy prior to the practice or scheduled event.
- Players are to remain at practice for the duration. If a player must leave practice early, he/she must notify the coach before practice with a written note from the parent.

Behavior and Ethics

Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to the following:

Substance Abuse – to be using, under the influence of, or having illegal possession of nicotine related products, alcohol, drugs, unauthorized controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia on school property, at a school event or within the community.

Disruptive Behavior – any behavior which negatively impact the school climate, are deemed inappropriate according to the district's code of conduct and/or endangers the health or safety of oneself or others.

Social Media – any type of cyber bullying, posted derogatory comments, negative pictures of any student, athlete, coach, official, teacher, and/or administrator, or any violation of the district's code of conduct in a digital forum.

Criminal Misconduct – any behavior which significantly disrupts the learning environment, poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of oneself or others or violates state and/or federal laws.

Additionally, the following conduct is expected:

- Timeliness to all meetings, practices, work-outs and school events including classes.
- Proper dress at meetings, practice and games. This includes wearing only school issued and/or approved equipment.
- A positive attitude.
- Appropriate language and good sportsmanship at all times.
- Respect towards coaches, teammates, teachers, classmates, school employees, opponents and community members.

Student athletes are expected to act in the best interest of Barnwell County School District. Any conduct detrimental to the school or team will result in suspension or dismissal.

I fully understand the expectations of the Barnwell County School District athletic program and agree to abide by these expectations and policies throughout the year, not only when my sport is in season.

_____ Athlete (print)	_____ Athlete Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian (print)	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Date