

BEXLEY CITY SCHOOLS

2021-2022

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**Approved by Board of Education:
July 2021**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

This handbook is being presented to you because your son or daughter desires to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bexley City Schools. You have also expressed your willingness to permit him or her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development.

The Bexley City School District values the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

Likewise, we believe that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations as a parent or guardian of an athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to operationalize and promote the mission of an education-based athletic program. This is achieved only through communication between the Athletic Department and the parents or guardians of our athletes. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook.

Yours in scholarship, sportsmanship and success,
Eli Goldberger

ALMA MATER

To Alma Mater Bexley,
To thee our praise we bring.
To thee whose hallowed halls we tread,
Our toast to thee we sing.
Tho' friends and hope may fade away,
Our blue and white will live forever.
And as the seasons swiftly go,
Thy name and praise shall ring.

BEXLEY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

The Bexley City School District policies can be found on our district website under the Board of Education tab at www.bexleyschools.org

PUPIL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS (IGDA)

Pupil activity programs shall be operated in accordance with the philosophy of education and educational goals and shall safeguard the interests of the school, participants, and spectators. Schools shall not sponsor interscholastic athletics for pupils in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, dependent upon a student's willingness to observe rules that are applicable to participation in that activity. Accordingly, each coach or advisor shall reduce to writing rules applicable to the activity, shall communicate them to participants, and file a copy with the principal. Moreover, each coach or advisor shall not remove a student from participation without offering the student an opportunity to discuss the matter.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (AC, ACA, ACAB, ACB)

The Bexley City School District (BCSD) Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in education. As stated in Board policies (AC, ACA, ACAB, ACB), district programs, activities, and practices shall be free from discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

A staff member, any student or student's parent or legal custodian who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of race, color or national origin may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the District's complaint procedures.

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX (Title IX): ATHLETICS (ACA/ACAA)

Applies to all athletic programs or activities, except that separate teams for members of each sex may be operated:

When the sport involved is a contact sport; or Where selection for the separate teams is based upon competitive skills, provided that where there is not now and has been no such team for the excluded sex, members of the excluded sex must be allowed to try out for the team unless the sport involved is a contact sport. Contact sports are defined as wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, and other bodily contact sports.

HAZING AND BULLYING (HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING) (JFCF)

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

Throughout this policy and procedure the term bullying may be used in place of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation or bullying, including harassment, intimidation or bullying by an electronic act, may be suspended. Discipline procedures will not infringe on any student's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. When the behavior is sexual harassment, the Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed, if applicable, prior to imposing any discipline that cannot be imposed without resolution of the Title IX process.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, bullying and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

The District includes, within the health curriculum, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education in grades 7 to 12. This instruction includes recognizing warning signs of dating violence and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices or electronic means, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. The District educates minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone, tolerate or participate in any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students, including leaders of student organizations, are permitted to plan, encourage or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, bullying and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying and/or dating violence incidents are

reported immediately to the principal/designee and appropriate discipline is administered. When employees have actual knowledge that the behavior is sexual harassment, they must contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the student code of conduct for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process.

The Superintendent/designee must provide the Board President with a semiannual written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District's website, to the extent permitted by law.

The administration provides training on the District's hazing and bullying policy to District employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students and by November 30 annually reports to the Ohio Department of Education compliance with this requirement through the consolidated school mandate report. If the District reports noncompliance the Superintendent/designee must provide a written explanation to the Board within 30 days explaining this noncompliance and a written plan of action for accurately and efficiently addressing the problem.

Additional training is provided to elementary employees in violence and substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

District employees, students and volunteers have qualified civil immunity for damages arising from reporting an incident of hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers, other employees and students who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with State and Federal law.

No one is permitted to retaliate against an employee or student because he/she files a grievance or assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding the charge of hazing and/or bullying of an individual.

STUDENT CONDUCT (JFC)

All student athletes in Bexley High School and Bexley Middle School will abide by the school policies and regulations when on school property or when participating in any school approved activity including field trips and excursions.

The BCSD school board has adopted a discipline policy that is described in both the student's and activities handbooks (Policy JFC). All student athletes are subject to this policy at all times while on school property or at a school sponsored event.

Furthermore, all student athletes and their parents are expected to electronically sign in Final Forms and abide by activity/athletic commitment pledge in order to consistently apply common sense, self-discipline and understanding for the benefit of the athletic program.

LOCKERS

Section 3313.20 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes a board of education to adopt a policy which authorizes a principal to search any student's locker and the contents thereof upon reasonable suspicion that the contents contain evidence of a criminal or school rule violation. Lockers remain the property of the Bexley City School District while on loan to students and are, therefore, subject to supervision and inspection by school authorities when and where necessary. It is the student's responsibility to use lockers for school purposes only and to use a lock to secure all belongings. Lockers are not to be used for articles which may be of such nature as to be harmful, dangerous, in violation of school or legal restrictions or disruptive to the school process. Such articles are subject to confiscation. Students are not permitted to mark or deface the outside of lockers. In such cases, the student breaking locker rules will be assessed a fine.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG PREVENTION GUIDELINES (JFCG, JFCH, JFCI)

The policy is designed to help students and parents cope with drug, alcohol and tobacco use. Therefore, the policy is in place to provide guidelines for each student/family to receive assistance as needed.

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Students are in a highly visible setting of leadership and/or competition/performance. Therefore, students will be held to a higher accountability of conduct and behavior than the student who chooses neither to participate nor to represent Bexley City Schools. The responsibility of an athlete to his/her fellow athletes is a year-round commitment and does not end with the season. Therefore, this policy is in effect for all four years of a student's high school career or all years of a student's middle school career and is enforced all twelve months of the year.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No student is permitted to smoke, inhale, vape, dip or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

1. in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the District or
2. on school grounds, athletic facilities or parking lots.

No student is permitted to smoke, inhale, vape, dip or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours, at any school-sponsored event off campus.

Additionally, no student is permitted to possess cigarettes, lighters or other tobacco products including: filters, rolling papers, pipes, blunt or hemp wraps, electronic smoking devices (e.g., vape pen), and liquids used in electronic smoking devices at any time.

“Tobacco” is defined as any product made or derived from tobacco or containing any form of nicotine, if it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled or ingested by any other means including but not limited to: any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, alternative nicotine products, electronic smoking devices, vapor products, any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew and snuff, in any form.

The Board does not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, offer for sale, consume, show evidence of having consumed or used any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, look-alike drugs or any mind-altering substance while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations, under the authority of the District or in school-owned or school-approved vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any substances represented as a controlled substance, nonalcoholic beers, steroids, tobacco and tobacco products and drug paraphernalia. Students who violate the substance abuse policy are subject to immediate suspension or expulsion proceedings.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (JFCM)

The District is committed to providing an atmosphere in which the values of truth, integrity, personal accountability and respect for the rights of others are modeled. To this end, academic dishonesty is prohibited. Academic dishonesty occurs when students 1) engage in behaviors that give them or others the opportunity to obtain credit for work that is not their own; 2) attempt to obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work that is not their own or 3) obtain or assist others in obtaining credit or attempting to obtain credit for work that is not their own.

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS (IGD)

The Board of Education of the Bexley City School District recognizes the value of athletic activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom. All participants and adults involved in Board-approved athletic activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competition as is expected in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups, and support/booster groups.

The Bexley City Schools Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to ensure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles.

Bexley Athletics is a partner with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). The PCA emphasizes character-education and the teaching of life lessons through sports. Bexley's athletic culture revolves around the concept of "Honoring the Game." In order to keep this culture, we ask that everyone involved with the Bexley athletic program, be it coaches, players, parents, and spectators keep the acronym of "ROOTS" in mind when attending Bexley Athletic events. "ROOTS" is an acronym for: Rules, Opponents, Officials, and Teammates, and Self. By respecting "ROOTS" and providing positive support for our teams, Bexley Athletics strives to establish a program that is known for our competitiveness and sportsmanship.

We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players.

An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. Thus, we require all Bexley coaches to understand their role as a PCA Double-Goal Coach. A Double Goal Coach has two goals:

1. Teaching Life Lessons
2. Winning

While winning is important it is not our only goal. The importance of life lessons is what make the Bexley Athletic experience a strong example of experiential learning, as well as an important part of a Bexley student's overall learning experience. We therefore, expect school administrators, coaches, athletes, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

- 1) Respect should be demonstrated for athletic opponents and for their school at all times. Bexley should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration everyone deserves. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
- 2) Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. As impartial arbiters who are trained to do their jobs to the best of their ability, officials should be given respect and an attitude of good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- 3) Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the rules.

- 4) All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win cannot be accepted as a reason for irrational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
- 5) All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of school affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during and after contests.

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY (KGB)

All persons on District grounds are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations.

No person on District property may assault, strike, threaten, menace or use improper, indecent or obscene language toward a teacher, instructor, other District employees or students at any time. This prohibition is extended to all athletic officials, coaches and athletes in the District and all visiting teams.

All persons on District grounds are prohibited from smoking and possessing or consuming alcohol. Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person is permitted to bring deadly weapons or dangerous ordinances into a school safety zone.

No person may disrupt, disturb or interfere with the teaching of any class of students or any other activity conducted in a school building or upon the campus or grounds at any time.

Whoever violates this policy and/or building regulations will be asked to leave the property by whoever is in charge. Should that person refuse, law enforcement officials will be called. If the offender should be a student, the person in charge should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state and local ordinances.

Good Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Board recognizes the value of co-curricular and extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the classroom.

Students and adults participating in co-curricular and extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and good conduct. The Board encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship in all phases of the educational process, including athletics and all other co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Spectators removed from events cannot

return for at least two subsequent events and must meet with administration to develop a plan for return.

GENDER EQUITY (ACAB)

The Bexley City Schools believe that every student is an important part of our learning community and should be made to feel welcome and supported at school, regardless of their gender identity or gender expression. We are committed to ensuring that every student has equal educational opportunities and equal access to the District's programs and activities.

This policy does not and cannot anticipate every situation that might occur with respect to a student's gender identity or gender expression. In all situations, the needs of the student must be assessed by district staff on a case-by-case basis with the goal of ensuring the student's safety, comfort, privacy and healthy development.

ATHLETIC BOARD (IGDJ)

The Athletic Board is an advisory group to assist the Athletic Director in organizing and supervising the entire interscholastic athletic program. The Director of Operations and/or the Athletic Director will regularly convene a committee consisting of the high school and or middle school principal, a member of the Board of Education, a member of the Athletics Boosters, student-athletes, and coaches of interscholastic teams for the following purpose:

- To review organization and policy and make appropriate recommendations to the Superintendent and/or school board.
- To serve as a sounding board for all recommendations of any school personnel concerning interscholastic athletics and to make recommendations to the principal regarding the same.
- To review and update the Coaches' and parent/Student-Athlete Handbooks.

NON-CHARTERED OR HOME-EDUCATED STUDENT PARTICIPATION (JECBC)

All students enrolled in chartered or non-chartered nonpublic schools are permitted to participate in a particular extracurricular activity if the student is of appropriate age and grade level and: (1) the student is entitled by law to attend the schools of this District; and (2) the chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the particular extracurricular activity. Students who meet these criteria are permitted to participate in the particular extracurricular activity at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year provided that the student meets the eligibility requirements stated in the student and/or athletic handbooks.

It shall be the parent/guardian's responsibility to obtain appropriate documentation for the Superintendent, or designee, to verify the student's eligibility prior to the start of the first practice or other activity of the extracurricular activity in which the student chooses to participate. Thereafter, the parent/guardian of a student participating in an extracurricular activity under this

policy shall obtain additional verification of eligibility every nine (9) weeks on or before 5:00 p.m. of the fifth school day of the beginning of the nine (9) week period until the conclusion of the extracurricular activity in which the student is participating. All documentation related to a student's eligibility shall be verified by the school in which the student is currently enrolled. A student will be deemed ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until all eligibility requirements are met and verified. For purposes of this policy, "parent/guardian" also means a student that is eighteen years of age.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The BCSD Athletic Program is managed by the Athletic Department, headed by the Athletic Director, and is responsible for the interscholastic athletic teams at both the high school and middle school. The mailing address for the Athletic Department is 326 S. Cassingham Rd. Bexley, Ohio 43209

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Athletic Director	Eli Goldberger	614.237.4273 Ext 4177
Athletic Department Secretary	Sharleen Stanley	614.237.4273 Ext 4176
Athletic Maintenance	Dwain Mickey	614.231.4309 Ext 4
Transportation Director	Art Banks	614.372.0516
Athletic Trainer	Gail Swisher	614.231.4309 Ext 5
Athletic Trainer	Alycia Kingcade	614.231.4309 Ext 5
Athletic Trainer	Patrick Barton	614.231.4309 Ext 5
Sports Information Hotline		614.237.4273 Ext. 4890

School Administration contacts:

Superintendent	Dr. Jason Fine	614.231.7611
Director of Operations	Dr. Harley Williams	614.231.7611 Ext 4250
High School Principal	Kristin Robbins	614.231.4591
Middle School Principal	Jason Caudill	614.237.4277
High School Assistant Principal	Craig McMillen	614.231.4591
Middle School Assistant Principal	Racquel Armstrong	614.237.4277

All coaches may be contacted through the athletic department secretary.

Mascot: Lions

Colors: Royal Blue and White

Athletic Department Website: www.bexleyathletics.com

Bexley Athletic Booster Website: www.bexleylions.org

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

All parents are encouraged to participate by volunteering their time and other resources by joining and supporting the Bexley Athletic Booster Club. The Booster Club provides financial and organizational support for all Bexley sports and is open to anyone interested in contributing to the success of Bexley Athletics. Funds are raised through concessions, spirit wear and various annual fundraisers. The club elects its own officers and operates under the supervision of the Athletic Director.

Parents of athletes will be asked to assist with concession operations during one home football game and the season(s) that their child(ren) participates in Bexley athletics.

MID-STATE LEAGUE

<u>Ohio Division</u>	<u>Cardinal Division</u>	<u>Buckeye Division</u>
Bexley Buckeye Valley Columbus Academy Columbus School for Girls Grandview Heights Whitehall-Yearling Worthington Christian Wellington	Berne Union Fisher Catholic Fairfield Christian Grove City Christian Harvest Preparatory Logan Elm Millersport	Amanda Clearcreek Bloom- Carroll Circleville Fairfield Union Hamilton Township Liberty Union Teays Valley

BEXLEY ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

High school athletics is an extension of the classroom and an integral part of the school's program of education. Consistent with the district's mission statement our coaches will strive to provide educational experiences that Engage, Equip, and Empower each student-athlete. Coaches and students are motivated to want to win, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests.

Participation in school athletics by a student is not a "Right," it is a "Privilege" that must be earned in order to be a member of an athletic team. Bexley City School District strives to provide and maintain a comprehensive athletic program that seeks the greatest development possible of its participants within the framework of the total district educational program. The goal is to provide avenues for intellectual and interpersonal growth, social development, as well as to improve student-athletes physically and emotionally.

The Bexley City School District's athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. It is the nature of athletic competition to strive to win. However, the number of wins is only one criterion when determining a season's success. The ultimate goal of athletic competition is to guide a team to achieve its maximum potential. Everyone involved in athletics possesses a unique opportunity to teach positive ideals. Desire, dedication, and self-discipline need to be developed in order to ensure the commitment and personal sacrifice required by athletes.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. The board discourages any and all pressures that might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. The athletic program must at all times be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

If an unusual or extreme circumstance warrants it, exception to athletic policies may be made at the discretion of the superintendent of schools. The superintendent may only make an exception within the applicable regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the statutes of the State of Ohio.

MISSION STATEMENT

High school athletics is an extension of the classroom and an integral part of the school's program of education. Consistent with the district's mission statement our coaches will strive to provide educational experiences that Engage, Equip, and Empower each student-athlete. Coaches and students are motivated to want to win, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests.

VISION STATEMENT

The Bexley Athletic Department mirrors the district's vision of providing exceptional educational experiences for our student-athletes today and tomorrow. The Athletic Department recognizes that the athletic program is complementary to the academic program and total school experience, and is where the athletes acquire significant life skills, attitudes and habits of heart, mind and body in preparation for becoming positive and productive members of our society today and tomorrow.

CORE VALUES

Bexley City School District's Core Values include: Improvement, Inclusiveness, Individuality, Innovation, Inquiry, Integrity, and Investment.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- To give the Bexley Middle and High School student body a variety of opportunities to experience the benefits of participation in athletics and to be meaningfully engaged after school hours.
- To have fun: The main reason people participate in sports and games.
- To be successful: Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- To ensure that student athletes are exposed to positive role models in both coaches and teammates.
- To maintain a consistency of effort and expectation throughout the entire athletic program.
- To develop life skills in student-athletes including resiliency, self-discipline, work ethic, motivation, leadership, time management, sportsmanship, responsibility, self-esteem, and an understanding of the relationship between individual effort and team success.
- To contribute positively to school spirit and community pride.
- To help student-athletes learn and master the skills and knowledge necessary to competitively engage in the sport in which they are participating.
- To teach student-athletes the benefits derived and lessons learned from both winning and losing.
- Sportsmanship: To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- To improve: Continual improvement is a lifelong process. In sports and in life you must establish a goal and constantly strive to reach that goal.
- To ensure that the student-athlete is enjoying the experience that participation brings.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SPORTS OFFERED

Season	Middle School	High School
Fall (August-November)	Cross Country, Football Cheerleading, Field Hockey, Golf, Tennis (Girls), Volleyball	Cross Country, Football Cheerleading, Field Hockey, Golf, Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball
Winter (October- March)	Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading	Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Bowling (Club), Swimming
Spring (February-May)	Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, Tennis (Boys)	Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, Tennis (Boys), Lacrosse

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Differentiated programs are provided for students in grades seven through twelve based on their maturity and skill.

Middle School Program (Grades 7-8)

All students who have the desire and dedication to be participants should be considered for team membership. At times, team size may be limited to reduce teams to a size that is manageable. The coach will make every attempt to ensure participants in a middle school program will receive playing time on occasion throughout the season. However, playing time may not be equal for all members.

Freshman & Junior Varsity (Typically Grades 9-11)

This program provides fair and equal competition for students at this skill level and prepares athletes for the varsity level of competition. The outcome of each contest is slightly more important than at the middle school program. Striving to win while allowing adequate playing time for all team members during the season is considered important, however, all athletes will not receive equal playing time. Although reducing squad size may be necessary, keeping athletes with potential is expected. More emphasis on physical conditioning, refinement of basic skills, and development of team play requires an increased time commitment at this level. It is vital for each team member to have a role and be informed of his/her importance to the team.

Varsity

This level is the culmination of all others and teams are generally composed of players in grades 9-12 with advanced level of skill. Reducing team size may be necessary to have a manageable

squad and all team members may not receive playing time. Less playing time is not a reflection upon the individual's importance in helping the team attain its goals of a successful season. Success at this level is a product of striving to win and reach the individual's and team's maximum potential.

MULTIPLE-SPORT ATHLETES

With the size of Bexley's student body, the number of teams fielded each season, and for our athletic teams to be as competitive as possible, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in a variety of sports if they are capable of doing so.

PLAYING TWO BEXLEY SPORTS DURING THE SAME SEASON

If a student-athlete is planning on trying out for two Bexley teams in one season, this fact needs to be communicated to the Bexley coaches and/or Athletic Director in advance of the upcoming season. The student athlete, their parents/guardians, the coaches, and Athletic Director should meet before the season begins to discuss the feasibility of playing for both teams. There is also the possibility that, after meeting and reviewing the schedules and commitment necessary for both the Bexley teams, it may be determined that the student-athlete cannot meet the requirements for participation on both Bexley teams.

PLAYING OUTSIDE SPORTS DURING A BEXLEY ATHLETIC SEASON

Participation on a Bexley Athletic team always takes precedence over an outside club team. If a student-athlete is planning on trying out for a Bexley team and will also be part of an outside team, this fact needs to be communicated to the Bexley coach in advance of the upcoming season. The student athlete, their parents/guardians, and the Bexley coach should meet before the season begins to discuss the feasibility of playing for both teams. While some accommodations may be made for the student-athlete, with exception of extraordinary circumstances, the Bexley team's practice and contest schedule takes precedence. If agreements are made, they should be documented and stored in the Athletic Director's office. Missed practice or contests shall be addressed as per the attendance policy established by the Varsity Coach. There is also the possibility that, after meeting and reviewing the schedules and commitment necessary for both the Bexley team and outside team, it may be determined that the student-athlete cannot meet the requirements for the Bexley team while playing for an outside team.

STUDENT-ATHLETE INFORMATION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BEXLEY ATHLETE

Being a member of a Bexley City School District athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over the years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our squads have achieved numerous league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won all-conference and all-state honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear “BEXLEY BLUE”, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with them. However, your contributions should be personally satisfying to you.

Responsibilities to Yourself - The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength and character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies and your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, help prepare you for life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Your School - Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. Bexley City Schools cannot maintain its position of having outstanding programs unless you do your best in the activities in which you participate. You should participate in athletics to the best of your ability; you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you and will judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Bexley Middle and High School proud of you and your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

Responsibilities to Others - As a team member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You should always strive to make your family proud. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice and play to the best of your ability every day.

The younger students in Bexley are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Set good examples for these students.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

RISK OF PARTICIPATION

All athletes and parents or guardians must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability or death which may be a result of athletic participation. This is referenced in Final Forms as part of the OHSAA Authorization Form.

INSURANCE

Within Final Forms, parents must sign-off on having their own insurance, or that they are taking out a supplemental policy offered through the school. This is required by Bexley City Schools Policy. All coaches are required to make fliers for this supplemental insurance available to their athletes and parents. These are available in the Athletic Office. Coaches are required to develop team expectations and rules in writing for distribution to athletes and parents. A copy of these rules and expectations with the parent and athlete's signatures should be kept by the coach for the duration of the season. These rules and expectations should state clearly that violation of these rules and expectations could result in disciplinary action up to, and including, denial of participation in practice or games. Coach's rules and expectations should also include this wording: "These rules and expectations are not meant to be all-inclusive. The coach has the authority to evaluate individual situations and administer consequences according to his/her best judgment."

PHYSICALS

Middle & High School Athletes are required by OHSAA to have an updated physical exam on file with the Athletic Department. Athletes may not compete in practices (including tryouts) or games without a current physical (one completed by a OHSAA approved medical provider within the last 13 months) on file with the school. The exam should be completed on the OHSAA Physical Examination Forms that are available online in Final Forms and via the "More" section of the Athletic Department's website -- www.bexleyathletics.com

All physicals are to be turned in to the Athletic office and are not able to be uploaded directly into Final Forms. Physicals are not considered valid until they have been updated in Final Forms by the Athletic Trainers which can take up to 48 hours.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Bexley Athletics retains the presence of three Certified and Ohio Licensed Nationwide Children's Hospital Athletic Trainers in our athletic department. Our Athletic Trainers are experts in injury prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation, particularly in the areas of orthopedics, concussions and medical conditions affecting physically active populations. It is the role of the

Athletic Trainer, in collaboration with the team physician, to ensure the safe and healthy participation of Bexley students in athletics.

The Athletic Trainer has access to a network of physicians and other healthcare providers trained specifically in the treatment of athletes via Nationwide Children's Hospital. Bexley Athletic Trainers can facilitate access to these providers in a timely manner. However, the parent has discretion to choose a healthcare provider outside of the options provided by the Athletic Trainer.

The Athletic Trainer will work with teams on the prevention of common injuries seen within a particular sport, as well as help diagnose injuries and design rehabilitation programs for individual athletes. If an injury occurs that needs a medical evaluation outside of the Athletic Trainer, a note from that physician or health care provider must be on file with the Athletic Trainer in order for the athlete to return to play. The Bexley Athletic Trainers, in consultation with the Bexley team physician and the treating physician or health care provider, will have final say in clearing a previously injured Bexley athlete to return to athletic competition.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

All injuries to athletes should be reported to the athletic trainer and Athletic Director as soon as possible, including injuries sustained outside of school sports. Any athlete who sees a doctor for an injury must bring a note from that doctor clearly stating the diagnosis, participation status, limitation and any instructions for the athletic trainer regarding treatment and/or rehabilitation. The athletic trainer's judgment can supersede a doctor's note when protection of the athlete's health is at stake. The athletic trainer may know of symptoms and risks of which the physician is unaware.

When there is a conflict, the athletic trainer, treating doctor and team physician will discuss the student- athlete's participation before final clearance is given. Athletes with ongoing medical conditions (including, but not limited to, asthma, severe allergies and diabetes) should consult with the athletic trainer and coach to determine the best plan to have their prescribed medications and supplies available at all times during athletic activity. Coaches must ensure that a plan is in place and all prescribed medications or supplies are available before allowing athletes with such conditions to practice or participate in games.

CONCUSSIONS

Bexley Athletics proudly offers concussion baseline neurocognitive baseline testing through our partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital. This is available to all 7th thru 12th grade girls and boys participating in Bexley athletics and is organized by our Athletic Trainers at the beginning of each sport season. This information can be used by medical providers when determining safe return-to-play following a concussion. Baseline Testing is recommended every two years as their young brain grows & matures.

If a concussion is suspected, the student will be removed from all physical activity. Per the Ohio Concussion Law, the student will not be permitted to return to participation on the day of the

injury and must be evaluated and receive written clearance from a physician or Bexley Athletic Trainer in order to return to participation.

Any athlete who is diagnosed with a concussion will be required to complete a multi-step activity progression program before the student will be allowed to resume full sport participation. The athletic trainer, in conjunction with the team physician and any treating doctors the athlete has seen for the injury, will coordinate this program. Parents should report any medical information/recommendations received from their physician, as well as the official diagnosis of a concussion.

SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDELINES

The Bexley City Schools Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship.

POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE (PCA)

Bexley Athletics is a partner with the Positive Coaching Alliance. The PCA emphasizes character-education and the teaching of life lessons through sports. Bexley's athletic culture revolves around the concept of "Honoring the Game." In order to keep this culture, we ask that everyone involved with the Bexley City Schools athletic program, be it coaches, players, parents, and spectators keep the acronym of "ROOTS" in mind when attending Bexley Athletic events. "ROOTS" is an acronym for: Rules, Opponents, Officials, and Teammates, and Self. By respecting "ROOTS" and providing positive support for our teams, Bexley Athletics has been able to establish a program that is known for our competitiveness and sportsmanship.

We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players.

An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. Thus, we expect all Bexley coaches to serve as PCA Double-Goal Coaches. A Double Goal Coach has two goals:

1. Teaching Life Lessons
2. Winning

While winning is important it is not our only goal. The importance of life lessons is what makes the Bexley Athletic experience a strong example of experiential learning, as well as an important part of a Bexley student's overall learning experience. We therefore, expect school administrators, coaches, athletes, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

1. Respect should be demonstrated for athletic opponents and for their school at all times. Bexley should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration everyone deserves. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
- 2) Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. As impartial arbiters who are trained to do their jobs to the best of their ability, officials should be given respect and an attitude of good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- 3) Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the rules.
- 4) All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win cannot be accepted as a reason for irrational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.
- 5) All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of school affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill that is encouraged in our athletic department. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during and after contests.

PLAYERS / CHEERLEADERS EXPECTATIONS

Because athletes are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of spectators. It is important that they embrace the following behaviors:

- 1) Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow human beings.
- 2) Shake hands with opponents and wish them a good game when appropriate.
- 3) Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the officials as just that, the best judgment they could make given what they know and see. Never argue or make gestures indicating lack of respect for the officials' judgment.

- 4) Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- 5) Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.
- 6) Athletes must follow team rules established by coaches as well as the Student Conduct Policy/Code of Conduct (JFC).

Athletes are to refrain from the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Taunting officials, opponents or spectators
- Use of profanity
- Damage/destruction of school property
- Theft of school or personal property

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Denial of participation in an event
- 2) Removal from contest
- 3) Suspension for a portion of the season
- 4) Restitution
- 5) Conference/hearing with school official
- 6) Violations of the Code of Conduct will result in school discipline

STUDENT MANAGERS / STATISTICIANS / TRAINERS EXPECTATIONS

These individuals are considered participants of the sporting event and should follow the same guidelines as players and cheerleaders for their sport.

SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Spectators, by their behaviors and reactions, play an important role in their school's reputation for sportsmanship. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded, too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators embrace the following:

- 1) Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- 2) Respect, cooperate and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches and athletes of all teams.
- 3) Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.

4) Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Bexley fans and opposing fans are not allowed to have hand-held signs or noisemakers or voice amplification devices of any kind. Slogans on t-shirts, written on skin, or any other type of written communication must be in good taste and not violate a spirit of sportsmanlike competition. Students and fans may not verbally or otherwise abuse, harass, denigrate, or demean members of the home or opposing team, cheerleaders, other fans, officials, or coaching staff. In addition, spectators shall not interrupt a contest through unsportsmanlike behaviors such as throwing objects or entering onto the playing areas.

Bexley fans are urged to report unsportsmanlike behavior, profanity, and similar behaviors to the nearest school official or police officer.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Removal from contest
- 2) Conference/hearing with school officials
- 3) Removal from future athletic contests
- 4) Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in school discipline.
- 5) **Entering the playing area may result in a suspension from all athletic contests for one calendar year from the event**

EJECTION OF PLAYERS / CHEERLEADERS / STUDENT MANAGERS / STUDENT TRAINERS FROM ATHLETIC CONTESTS

By adoption of the OHSAA, any student ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student/athlete participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. If the second ejection occurs during the last contest, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the OHSAA commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure that this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible player is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. **In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.**

Bexley City Schools believe that each participant should be committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is in this spirit that the suggested disciplinary actions are proposed. Bexley City Schools also recognizes the importance of communication and cooperation between school officials when incidents of inappropriate behavior arise.

PROCEDURE TO RESOLVE PARENT/COACH DISAGREEMENTS

24-HOUR RULE

Do not confront a coach immediately before or after a contest or practice; instead wait for a full twenty-four hours before making contact of any sort (including emails or text messages). Because meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution, the “24 Hour Rule” will always be in effect. This not only allows for reflection, but for emotions to settle so rational, facts-oriented discussions can take place.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole, a Board member as an individual, the Superintendent, Principal or other administrator, it will be referred to the Athletic Director. A coach who is the object of a complaint will be informed at an appropriate time.

A. Step No. 1 - Direct Conversation

If a parent (complainant) has a disagreement or misunderstanding with a coach, the complainant should address the concern to the specific coach directly involved with the circumstances surrounding the concern. The coach will meet with the parent as soon as possible, but in no case longer than five calendar days after the coach has been notified of the concern (subject to change by mutual agreement).

B. Step No. 2 - Fact and Possible Resolution

For concerns involving any coach in the program other than the varsity head coach: If the complainant or the coach is not satisfied with the outcome of Step No. 1, or the complainant or coach is unwilling to meet independent of an administrator, a meeting with the coach, complainant, varsity head coach will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, but in no case more than five calendar days after the meeting in Step No. 1.

This step is to be informal and verbal. No further action will be taken beyond Step No. 2 unless the complainant submits in writing a signed and dated statement of facts giving rise to this concern, the name of the coach involved and the remedy sought.

For concerns involving a varsity head coach: If the complainant or the varsity head coach is not satisfied with the outcome of Step No. 1, or the complainant or coach is unwilling to meet independent of an administrator, a meeting with the coach, athletic director, and complainant will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, but in no case more than five calendar days after the meeting in Step No. 1. This step is to be informal and verbal. No further action will be taken beyond Step No. 2 unless the complainant submits in writing a signed and dated statement of facts giving rise to this concern, the name of the coach involved and the remedy sought.

C. Step No. 3 - Formal Process

For concerns involving any coach in the program other than a varsity head coach: If a complainant's concern is not satisfactorily resolved at either the first or second level, the complainant should then refer this concern to the Athletic Director in writing. At that time another meeting will be arranged at the convenience of the complainant and coach directly concerned, but in no case more than ten calendar days (subject to change by mutual agreement). The coach has the right to be at all meetings with or without a representative as he/she so determines. Appeals to a decision made at Step 3 can be made to the Director of Operations.

For concerns involving the varsity head coach: If a complainant's concern is not satisfactorily resolved at either the first or second level, the complainant should then refer this concern to the Director of Operations in writing. At that time another meeting will be arranged at the convenience of the complainant and coach directly concerned, but in no case more than ten calendar days (subject to change by mutual agreement). The coach has the right to be at all meetings with or without a representative as he/she so determines.

D. Dispositions

Dispositions at Step 3 will be sent in writing to all parties within ten calendar days of the meeting with reasons stated.

E. Decision

The decision of the Director of Operations is final.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Concerns regarding your child's mental and physical status
- Ways to help your child improve in the activity
- Concerns about your child's behavior or academic status

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Selection of players/Team divisions
- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

CITIZENSHIP POLICY

All athletes shall abide by a **Code of Conduct (JFC)** that will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, discrimination, immorality or violations of law that tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the school will not be tolerated.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The use of 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 or team, or other staff member 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. **Any violation of our social media policy (EDE) may result in disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension and/or dismissal from the team.**

As per policy EDEA, the conduct between faculty/staff and students or parents will be professional and respectful at all times and avoid any appearance of impropriety, misunderstandings, and violations of professional codes of conduct, laws or policies. Improper use of social networking tools and services may result in professional and legal consequences. Faculty and staff should be cautious when establishing, accessing, communicating, and displaying social networking tools and services. The use of personal accounts and services for

communication may subject faculty and staff to Ohio Sunshine Laws concerning inspection and disclosure of public documents/information, just as the use of District-authorized accounts or services.

1. Faculty and staff will communicate with students utilizing only District-authorized social networking sites and accounts on matters pertaining to instructional or professional duties. Faculty and staff who want to use social networking sites and accounts such as Facebook, Tumblr, Skype, etc. to communicate with students will work with the District technology department to create, use and manage sites.
2. Faculty and staff who have a presence on social networking sites or learning management systems are prohibited from posting data, text, documents, photographs, audio, or video on any website or service that might result in the exposure of protected student information or student works; or are inconsistent with educational objectives and educational environments.
3. Faculty and staff shall not use personal social networking websites or accounts to communicate with students unless the employee and student have a familial relationship.
4. Faculty and staff will not require or encourage students to login and/or create accounts for web services or applications that are not approved by the District.
5. Faculty and staff are permitted access to social networking websites for professional, educational or instructional purposes.

Violation of the prohibitions listed above may result in discipline in accordance with State law, Board policies and regulations, codes of conduct and handbooks, and/or staff negotiated agreements.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

As per Policy JHG, The District is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of the children we serve, and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of suspected child abuse and/or neglect in accordance with the law. All Bexley City School District employees, who know or have reasonable cause to suspect that a child under 18 years of age or a mentally challenged, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired child under 21 years of age has suffered or faces threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse and/or neglect of the child must immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to **Children's Services Intake for Franklin County**: (614) 229-7000 or the **Bexley Police Department** at (614) 559-4444.

A referral usually includes the names and addresses of the child and parent(s) or person(s) having custody of the child; the child's age and birth date; the observable/factual information regarding

the nature and extent of the suspected abuse and/or neglect; and any other first-hand/factual information that may be helpful.

TRANSPORTATION

Under the direction of the Superintendent/designee, transportation to student activities by private vehicles is permitted. A Board-approved employee or volunteer may transport students in district-owned vehicles once they have met “van certification” criteria. All other employees are not permitted to transport students (other than their own children) to any school-related activity in their privately owned vehicle.

Drivers of vehicles other than buses for the transporting of students shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Ohio revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code. Employees should refer to the Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules from the Ohio Department of Education. Failure to comply may result in discipline up to and including termination.

A link to the Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules [ODE Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules](#)

CONDUCT OF ATHLETES

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach on and off the field of play. Strong academics reinforce strong athletics. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies. In addition to maintaining strong academics, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE REFERRAL

Any student referred to the office for a rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by either the principal, athletic director, Director of Operations, or head coach.

When school personnel learn that a student has violated or is suspected to have violated any rule, the athletic director, principal or Director of Operations shall be notified immediately. The investigation shall be initiated within 72 hours of notification.

The student may be temporarily removed from an athletic contest and/or practice by the principal, Director of Operations, athletic director, coach or faculty manager responsible for supervision of that activity.

Violations shall be determined based on the totality of all reasonable available evidence. The building principal or principal's designee shall have the authority to hear testimony, receive sworn statements and evidence and take any other reasonable actions necessary to reach a decision. The building principal or principal's designee will inform the student and attempt to inform parents of the disciplinary action.

INDIVIDUAL COACH'S RULES

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 are reviewed by the athletic director and must be given in writing to all athletes and parents at the beginning of each season.

COACH DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

The benching of a student athlete by a coach may be used as a disciplinary action. The benching of a student athlete is defined as allowing a player to dress in a uniform for a game but not being allowed to participate in the game for disciplinary reasons.

Prior to the game, it is the responsibility of the coach to inform the student athlete of the benching and the reason. It is the coach's prerogative to bench a student athlete for one game. If a student athlete is to be benched for more than one game, then the coach must notify the Athletic Director of the reason and the duration of the benching.

A one game Denial of Participation (Student athlete not dressed for one or more than one game) of a student athlete is the prerogative of the coach. All Denial of Participation decisions must be reported to the Athletic Director and to the parents or guardians of the student athlete by the coach, stating the reason(s) and duration of the decision. The Athletic Director must approve denials of participation of longer than one game.

If the coach believes a student's behavior warrants a Suspension or Removal from the team, the coach needs to make a recommendation in writing to the Athletic Director requesting a suspension/removal of a student athlete for an indefinite period of time and state the facts and reason(s) concerning the recommendation.

The Athletic Director will investigate and if appropriate, send written notice of the indefinite suspension/removal to the parents or guardians.

RIGHT TO APPEAL A SUSPENSION

When a student is being considered for a suspension or denial from participation from a team by the principal, athletic director, coach, or other administrator:

- The student will be informed of the potential suspension or denial of participation and the reasons for the proposed action. The student may be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension or denial of participation and to explain his/her actions. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension or denial of participation is issued.
- Suspensions may be appealed to the appropriate chain of command: coach, athletic director, and Director of Operations.
- The student **may practice but may not participate** during an appeal in any official contest pending the outcome of the hearing conducted by the Director of Operations. The decision of the Director of Operations is final.
- Students participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they 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 (See Policy IGDA).

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

BEXLEY CITY SCHOOLS ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (IGDK)

The Board recognizes the value of interscholastic extracurricular programs for students in grades 7-12 as an integral part of the total school experience. Since participation in interscholastic extracurricular programs is a privilege and not a right, students are expected to demonstrate competence in the classroom as a condition of participation. Interscholastic extracurricular programs are defined as school-sponsored student programs involving more than one school or school district.

In addition, students participating in any program regulated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association must also comply with all eligibility requirements established by the Association.

In order to be eligible, a high school student must have passed a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, that count toward graduation, in the immediately preceding grading period. The five courses may be a combination of high school and college courses.

A student enrolled in the first grading period of the ninth grade after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled in the eighth grade.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, the student in grade seven or eight must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period, and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.

Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirements results in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.

If a student received home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student must meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for the continuation of home instruction to be eligible to participate in the program.

If a student did not receive home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period must have met any academic standards established by the District for eligibility to participate in the program.

Any student who commences home instruction after the beginning of the school year and at that time was considered ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for failure to meet academic requirements or any other requirements will be ineligible to participate in the same semester the student was deemed ineligible.

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9-12

1. In the grading period immediately preceding, a student must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation. Please note Physical Education classes are only .25 credit. A grade of "Incomplete" will be considered a failing grade until work is completed per O.H.S.A.A By-law 4-4-1, exception 3. (<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/4-4-1.pdf>)
2. An "Incomplete" days after the term will be considered a "Failing" grade for eligibility purposes.
3. Summer School and other educational options shall NOT be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.

4. A student enrolled in credit flex courses must, at the conclusion of the high school's grading period, provide proof of "passing" their credit flex course in order for this course to be counted toward the five-one credit (or equivalent) courses used to establish athletic eligibility.
5. Students who are being home-schooled and who desire to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities must fulfill the requirements as established by the Bexley City School District Policy IGDK.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 7-8

1. In order to participate in an interscholastic sport or to cheerlead, a student must be passing four courses. An "Incomplete" is recorded as a "zero" and, for athletic eligibility purposes, is considered failing. A grade of "incomplete" will be considered a failing grade until work is completed per O.H.S.A.A By-law 4-4-1, exception 3.
2. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the seventh to eighth grade must have passed a minimum of four classes during the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
3. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.
4. Students who do not meet the OHSAA minimum eligibility requirements at the end of a quarter will be ineligible to participate for the entire following quarter. Students who do not meet Bexley School District Eligibility requirements at the end of the quarter will be ineligible until the student meets the learning expectations of the course and the "zero" is changed. The student will be deemed eligible 48 hours after the athletic director has been notified the "zero" has been changed.
5. Individuals declared academically ineligible may not attend practices, games or travel with the team during the period of ineligibility unless approved by the administration.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADES 7-12

1. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding

grading period become effective. **Exception: Eligibility or ineligibility of athletes for the first grading period begins with the start of the fall sports season.**

2. The following conditions will be established for a student who is ineligible for a grading period:
 - a. A student will be permitted to try out for any sport or activity in which the number of participants is restricted by team selection.
 - b. With approval from the athletic director/coach and parent/guardian/custodian, a student can practice with a team or group.
 - c. The student cannot participate in any athletic contest or scrimmage situations during the period of ineligibility, nor will activity fees be refunded.

3. A student who would become ineligible for two consecutive grading periods would lose all practice condition privileges and would be released from any athletic squad.

ACADEMIC IMPACT MORNING STUDY SESSION (AIMSS)

The Academic Impact Morning Study Session's goal is to keep our student athletes academically eligible to compete and provide additional instructional and study time as applicable. It is a best practice that our athletic program has instituted in the past and has yielded desirable results.

We do not want it to be viewed as a punishment. The intent of the program is to serve students who are struggling academically and, possibly, are not giving the required effort to learning. **The AIMSS begins at 7:40 AM and lasts until 8:25 AM. Tardy is defined as arriving after 7:40 but prior to 7:50.** We chose the morning because there are no conflicts with athletic games, practices and competitions. Students will qualify if they have a 59% or lower in any of their classes as reported in PowerSchool. Failure to attend or to arrive late will have consequences in terms of an after-school study session and/ or athletic competition participation.

Grades are checked on Sunday of each week. Communication to the coaches, teachers, and athletes will be made via email on Sunday. Coaches are expected and teachers are encouraged to communicate with their student athletes about their assignment as well. Teachers may remove a student from AIMSS if he/she believes the student is giving appropriate effort but is still struggling as long as we receive this notification by Monday 3:15 PM. If a student-athlete remains on the list after Monday at 3:15 PM, then they are on the list for the remainder of the week, regardless of whether their grade improves to an acceptable level during the remainder of that week. Students in this situation should see their teacher during Office Hours for support and remediation.

The AIMSS support is week-to-week and the progression in its attendance is below. A failing grade later in the term requires more structured assistance. Please note there are no sessions on Mondays. This day has been established to address appeals made by a student. Because grades are scarce the first few weeks of a term, this program will not be offered until week 4 of each term.

Weeks 4 and 5→Two mornings per week (Tuesday and Thursday) 7:40-8:25 AM

Weeks 6 and 7→Three mornings per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) 7:40-8:25 AM

Weeks 8 and 9→Four mornings per week (Tuesday through Friday) 7:40-8:25 AM

The consequences are cumulative and the results do not reset with each week. Additionally, the ramifications for the tardy or absent student-athlete are applied to the first contest that would occur in the following week. This provision is to allow the coaching staff to prepare for the missing student-athlete accordingly, and minimize the impact on the other members of the team. Finally, the ramifications are for the level of play that the student-athlete generally participates in (A Varsity player sits during a Varsity game, a Junior Varsity player sits during a Junior Varsity game, a freshman player sits during a freshman game). An example follows.

- Student A is tardy to study tables in week 6 of the quarter. Student A will not participate in the first series (football)/ first 4 minutes (basketball)/first 10 minutes (soccer)/first^s ½ inning (softball/baseball)/non-participation in relay events (swimming/track) of a contest in week 7.
- Student A is also tardy during week 7 of the quarter. This is Student A's 2nd cumulative tardy, so they would be subject to the first Quarter (football and basketball)/first 20 minutes (soccer)/first Inning (softball/baseball)/first event (swimming/track) of a contest during week 8.
- Student A is absent for a day during week 8 of the quarter. This is Student A's first absence, and they would be subject to the first offense punishment for their first absence. They would serve this suspension during week 9.

Sport Specific Guidelines

Members of the cheerleading team would follow the same guidelines as the sport for which they are cheering.

Football/Cheerleaders (4 Quarter Game)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 st Series	1 st Offense	1 st Quarter
2 nd Offense	1 st Quarter	2 nd Offense	1 st 2 Quarters (Half-Game)
3 rd Offense	1 st Quarter & 1 st Series	3 rd Offense	1 st 3 Quarters
4 th Offense	1 st Half	4 th Offense	Full Game
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 1 st half)	5 th Offense	Full Game + Coach's Decision

Basketball/Lacrosse/Cheerleaders (4 Quarter Game)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 st 4 Minutes	1 st Offense	1 st Quarter
2 nd Offense	1 st Quarter	2 nd Offense	1 st 2 Quarters (Half-Game)
3 rd Offense	1 st Quarter & 1 st 4 Minutes	3 rd Offense	1 st 3 Quarters
4 th Offense	1 st Half	4 th Offense	Full Game
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 1 st Half)	5 th Offense	Full Game + Coach's Decision

Soccer (80 Minute Game)/Field Hockey (60 Minute Game)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 st 10 Minutes/1 st 8 Minutes	1 st Offense	1 st 20 Minutes/1 st 15 Minutes
2 nd Offense	1 st 20 Minutes/1 st 15 Minutes	2 nd Offense	1 st Half
3 rd Offense	1 st 30 Minutes/1 st 24 Minutes	3 rd Offense	1 st 60 Minutes/45 Minutes
4 th Offense	1 st Half	4 th Offense	Full Game
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 1 st Half)	5 th Offense	Full Game + Coach's Decision

Softball/Baseball (7 Inning Game)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 st ½ Inning	1 st Offense	1 st Inning
2 nd Offense	1 st Inning	2 nd Offense	1 st 3 ½ Innings
3 rd Offense	1 st 2 Innings	3 rd Offense	1 st 5 Innings
4 th Offense	1 st 3 ½ Innings	4 th Offense	Full Game
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 1 st 3 ½ Innings)	5 th Offense	Full Game + Coach's Decision

Volleyball (3 Game Match)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 st 10 Points/1 st Rotation	1 st Offense	1 st 20 Points/1 st 2 Rotations
2 nd Offense	1 st 20 Points/1 st 2 Rotations	2 nd Offense	1 st Game
3 rd Offense	1 st Game	3 rd Offense	1 st Game + 1 st 20 Points/1 st 2 Rotations
4 th Offense	1 st Game + 1 st 10 Points/1 st Rotation	4 th Offense	Full Match
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 1 st Game + 1 st 10 Points/1 st Rotation)	5 th Offense	Full Match + Coach's Decision

Swimming/Track and Field (4 Events)

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	1 Event Removed	1 st Offense	1 Event Removed
2 nd Offense	1 Event Removed	2 nd Offense	2 Events Removed
3 rd Offense	1 Event Removed, No Relays	3 rd Offense	3 Events Removed
4 th Offense	2 Events Removed	4 th Offense	No Participation in Meet/Match
5 th Offense	Coach's Decision (not less than 2 Events Removed)	5 th Offense	Full Meet/Match + Coach's Decision

Cross Country/Wrestling/Golf/Tennis

Tardy Procedure	Game Time Missed	Skip/Absent Procedure	Game Time Missed
1 st Offense	Lunch Detention	1 st Offense	After School Study Table
2 nd Offense	2 Lunch Detentions	2 nd Offense	2 After School Study Tables
3 rd Offense	After School Study Table	3 rd Offense	No Participation in Meet/Match
4 th Offense	2 After School Study Tables	4 th Offense	No Participation in Meet/Match
5 th Offense	No Participation in Meet/Match	5 th Offense	Full Meet/Match + Coach's Decision

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Any absence is disruptive to the team and student-athlete's chances for success. Family/Personal vacations are strongly discouraged during the season and are subjected to the same potential consequences as for any absence. In order to participate in a school-day practice or contest, a high school or middle school student athlete must be in attendance each period of the school day. Field trips, Alternate Learning Experiences, concurrent enrollment, medical/dental appointments and special family situations may be excused by an administrator.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

An athlete is not required to practice or participate in a game if the parent/guardian voices an objection specifically related to a religious holiday the family observes. Athletes may not receive consequences for missing practices or games due to a legitimate and recognized observance. Playing time in contests remains at the discretion of the coach. Athletic practices or events shall not be held on Christmas Day, Good Friday, or from sundown to sundown on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE

Practice sessions are specifically designed to sharpen skills. These skills cannot be applied to contest situations if attendance at practices is inconsistent. Coaches spend valuable time preparing for practices and attendance is absolutely necessary.

- Players and managers must attend all practices unless cleared by the coach.
- Coaches must be contacted if any athlete or manager must miss a practice due to illness or family emergency.
- Make up work may be assigned and decided upon by the individual coach.
- Any player or manager who misses more than two unapproved practices may be removed from the team.
- The athlete may miss necessary mental and physical preparation resulting in non- participation in a future contest.

A. Excused

1. Advance notice from athlete in writing to the appropriate coach
2. Reason considered unavoidable and excusable by the coaches

Consequence:

The varsity Coach in will establish the consequence for an excused absence from a practice throughout his/her program.

B. Unexcused - All absences not falling into the excused category above

Consequences:

The varsity Coach in coordination with the Athletic Director will establish the consequence for an unexcused absence from a practice throughout his/her program.

ABSENCE FROM CONTEST

Being part of an athletic team is a commitment that affects many people (teammates, coaches, teachers, parents, etc.). This commitment cannot be entered into lightly and attendance is extremely important.

- Players and managers must attend all home and away games.
- Coaches must be contacted if any athlete or manager must miss a game due to illness or family emergency.
- Parents should not punish their child by not allowing them to participate in games or practices for Bexley City School District athletic teams to which they have committed. Doing so is a great

disservice to their coach and teammates who depend upon their involvement. All players have a role to play and are needed at all practices and games.

- Any player or manager who misses a game, match, tournament, etc. (except for family emergencies or illnesses) may be removed from the team.

A. Excused

1. Advance notice to coaches
2. Emergency situation

Consequences

The varsity Coach will establish the consequence for an excused absence from a contest throughout his/her program.

B. Unexcused - All other types of absences not falling into the Excused category above

Consequences:

First offense- Suspension from next two contests

Second offense - Suspension for the remainder of the season

HOLIDAYS/VACATIONS

Family/Personal vacations are strongly discouraged during the season and are subjected to the same potential consequences as for any absence.

A. Excused - If an athlete is going on a family vacation with parent or guardian or is attending a school-related activity during a school recess, **advance notice must be given to the coach by the first day of official team practice and the coach will then inform the athletic director.**

Consequences

If a contest is missed, the consequences are:

- Suspended one subsequent contest for each contest missed
- If practice is missed: See 1A

B. Unexcused - Not traveling with parent or guardian, or with a school-related group is an unexcused absence.

FAILING TO COMPLETE A SEASON

An athlete may find it necessary to withdraw from a sport prior to the completion of the season. If this is the case, the following procedures must be followed:

- 1) Talk with your immediate school coach and then the head coach.
- 2) Return all equipment issued.

Depending on the reason for failing to complete the season, the athlete may be denied participation for the next spring season until the first official practice date. Athletes will not be eligible for postseason awards or participation in end of the year banquets as a result of separating from the team. Athletic fees will not be prorated or refunded unless an injury prevents continued participation.

Athletes who fail to successfully complete a season will not be eligible to utilize the PE Waiver for that respective sport season.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

BEXLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AWARDS LISTING

Middle School – the participants at the Middle School level will receive a certificate for each sport in which they participated.

High School

- a. Freshman Team – the participants at the High School level on Freshman Teams will receive a certificate of participation for each sport in which they participated.
- b. Junior Varsity Team – the participants at the High School level on Junior Varsity Teams will receive a certificate of participation for each sport in which they participated.
- c. Varsity Team

First Year – the participants at the High School level on the Varsity Teams who have met the qualifications to letter will receive a certificate of participation for each sport in which they lettered. For the first sport in which a student has “lettered,” they will also get a varsity chenille letter and a pin that is representative of the sport in which they have lettered.

Second Year – the participants at the High School level on the Varsity Teams who have met the qualifications to letter for a second year will receive a 4 X 6 award plaque and a bar that is representative of the second year of participation in that sport.

Third Year – the participants at the High School level on the Varsity Teams who have met the qualifications to letter for a third year will receive a 5 X 7 award plaque and a bar that is representative of the third year of participation in that sport.

Fourth Year – the participants at the High School level on the Varsity Teams who have met the qualifications to letter for a fourth year will receive an 8 X 10 award plaque and a bar that is representative of the second year of participation in that sport.

High School Varsity Teams will also award the following:

1. Most Valuable Player – an 8 X 8 plaque indicating the award as voted on by the team members and coaches.
2. Most Improved Player – an 8 X 8 plaque indicating the award as voted on by the team members and coaches.
3. Sportsmanship Award – an 8 X 8 plaque indicating the award as determined by the coaching staff of the sport.

EARNING AN ATHLETIC LETTER

Varsity coaches establish the awards and lettering criteria for each varsity sport. This criterion is communicated to the Athletic Director prior to sharing with student athletes at the beginning of each season. Lettering standards should be in writing and clearly communicated to athletes and parents in pre-season meetings and materials. Student athletes who do not complete the season because of disciplinary action of quitting the team are not eligible for an award or letter.

Certificates of Participation will be awarded to participants who complete their sports season.

It is desired that the athletic letter be something the athlete must earn by athletic ability, but not be so unattainable that only the outstanding athlete can achieve it. It is also desired that the coach of each sport have a large amount of leeway in determining who receives the letter. Middle School athletes are not eligible to earn school letters.

GENERAL LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

- Varsity coaches establish the awards and lettering criteria for each varsity sport. This criterion is communicated to the Athletic Director prior to sharing with student athletes at the beginning of each season. Lettering standards should be in writing and clearly communicated to athletes and parents in pre-season meetings and materials.
- The athlete must be on the Varsity Roster of the athletic team throughout the entire season.
- If an athlete is added to the Varsity Roster during the course of the season, it will be up to the coach whether the athlete's contribution to the team was significant enough to justify lettering in the sport.
- The athlete must attend all games and practices, except when cleared by the coach.
- The athlete must begin and complete an entire season, including post-season tournaments and playoffs.
- Any student who does not finish a season by his/her own choice or by his/her parents' choice is ineligible to letter.

- If an athlete loses academic eligibility during the season, it will be up to the coach whether the athlete's contribution to the team was significant enough to justify lettering in the sport.
- Any athlete who is unable to finish a season, for disciplinary reasons, will be ineligible to letter.
- If an athlete is injured during the course of the season, it will be up to the coach whether the athlete's contribution to the team was significant enough to justify lettering in the sport.

Wearing of Awards – It is the firm belief of the district Athletic Department that awards should be worn with dignity and class. Athletes are to display their awards in such a manner and are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when wearing them; the athlete represents the team and the school when wearing the award – actions that detract from a positive image will not be accepted.

Managers/Statisticians/Student Trainers – Any student who manages or trains satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport.

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Each year the Athletic Boosters sponsors a College Signing Event to recognize each student-athlete who will be playing a sport at a college or university at any level/division (D-I, D-II, D-III, NAIA, JUCO, etc.).

Students who are signing a D-I scholarship can also request a signing event with the Athletic Director on the designated National Letter of Intent Day(s).

D-I College Signing Guidelines for students participating on Bexley High School athletic teams

- Make a written request to the athletic department one -month in advance of the signing. The written request should include:
 - What College or University the student has chosen to attend
 - What Sport(s)
 - Collegiate Major, if known
 - **High School Team** Statistics and/or Honors Received
- It is recommended that the signings take place at lunch (12:15 – 12:45) or after 3:45. These times will allow fellow students, teachers, and administrators to attend.
- The athletic department will be responsible for the following:
 - Reserve the space, either library or community room
 - Bring and display a “Bexley” banner for pictures
 - Inform the local print media and Public Information Officer of the signing
- Students, Coaches, and Families are responsible for the following:

- Inviting any guests to attend
- Bring any type of light snack (cookies, punch, etc.) for guests
- Bring/wear items representing the college of choice
- Arrange for coaches to speak a few minutes about the signee

GENERAL INFORMATION

REQUIRED FORMS

The following forms must be completed and on file in the Athletic Office or submitted online via *Final Forms* prior to the first day of practice or tryouts (in cut sports): Please note: Item number one will be completed in paper form and turned in to the Athletic Office and items 2-9 will be submitted via *Final Forms*.

1. OHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Form-this form must be printed and completed by a certified physician and kept on file with the Athletic Office.
2. Athletic Code of Conduct Agreement
3. Emergency Medical Form
4. Insurance or an Insurance Waiver
5. Permission to Treat Form
6. Concussion Form
7. Informed Consent Agreement
8. Alternate Transportation Form

FINAL FORMS

[Final Forms](#) is the web-based athletic management system. Final Forms is used to track the multiple credentials each coach is required to have and our coaches use it to have 24/7, 365 access to student-athlete information and forms. From any web connected computer or your cell phone, you can manage and access student-athlete forms such as their EMA, current status on their Pay-to-Participate Fee, uniform and equipment inventories, and parent contact information for each student-athlete.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

All Bexley athletes in grades 7-12 must pay a participation fee. This fee does not include insurance. The fee is \$150 for each high school sport an athlete participates and \$100 for each middle school sport an athlete participates. There is not a family cap in place. Please encourage parents not to pay their participation fee until final team selections have been made. This fee should be paid by parents directly to the Athletic Department by check made out to **“Bexley Athletics” or online via the parent Final Forms account (please note there is a 4% credit card surcharge for using Final Forms)**. Students who have not paid their fee will NOT be

permitted to participate in any contests. Verification of payment can be viewed on the student's Final Forms Account. Coaches are responsible for making sure this policy is followed.

Refund Policy: Paid fees will be refunded according to the following guidelines:

1. 100% returned if the student has a season-ending injury prior to the start of the competitive season.
2. 50% returned if the student misses one-half or more of the regular season contests as a result of a season-ending injury.
3. No refund for loss of academic eligibility unless determined prior to the start of the season.
4. No refund if a student quits or is removed from the team.

Please contact our Athletic Director if you need financial assistance. We never want a student-athlete to be unable to participate due to financial reasons.

FEE WAIVER

Any parent of a Bexley student may apply for a district fee waiver through the Athletic Director or the school's guidance counselor. Students who qualify for a fee waiver are entitled to a Lion's Pride Pass, as are their parents/guardians. The Lion's Pride Pass allows families admittance to all home, regular season (non-tournament) games. All information about fee waivers is private and confidential. If for any reason payment or providing goods is an issue, contact the Athletic Director. The Bexley City School District is committed to full participation by all students, regardless of their ability to pay. (See Appendix)

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Student Opportunity Fund was established to provide all Bexley students (K-12) access to Bexley School sponsored extracurricular activities/educational opportunities through financial support for activity fees and/or special equipment required to participate in a specific activity.

Financial award requests must be made in writing using the Bexley Alumni Student Opportunity Fund Scholarship Request form and submitted to the Athletic Director. The request should not exceed \$100.00. (See Appendix for form)

AGE LIMITATION – OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULE

When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, he/she becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics. There is an exception to this regulation, so if this applies to you, please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review this exception.

OHSAA RESIDENCE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

There are many complicated rules governing residence. Generally, an athlete's parents or legal guardian must live in the Bexley City School District for the student to be eligible. If you have a residency or transfer question, discuss it with the principal/athletic director. All school district and O.H.S.A.A. by-laws apply.

O.H.S.A.A. transfer bylaws (section 7) have been developed which permits a student to become eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics when moving from one school district to another, from a private school to a public school or vice versa, and from different high schools in the same district insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned.

When moving from one school district to another, a bona fide legal change of residence form must be on file with the new district and the O.H.S.A.A. to participate in athletics. Please note, merely signing a lease for an apartment/house in the new district does not constitute a bona fide legal change of residence. The form required for legal change of residence may be obtained from the JALSD or school offices.

When moving from a private to public school, an O.H.S.A.A. Exception Form Six must be on file with the new district and O.H.S.A.A. in order to participate in athletics. This form may be obtained from the school athletic office.

SEASON START/END DATES

The dates for the start of practice, first game, and end of the season for each sport are found in the OHSAA handbook and website.

TRYOUT POLICIES

It is the desire of the Bexley Athletic Department to see a large number of students involved in school athletics each year. Unfortunately, limits must be placed on the sizes of teams for each sport, and when numbers exceed the allotted amount for a particular team, tryouts and selections will be handled by the head coach with as much sensitivity and compassion as possible. Cuts are never easy, but they are, at times, necessary for a variety of reasons. Announcements indicating the starting dates for tryouts for each sport will be given, and all students who meet Bexley and OHSAA eligibility requirements may participate. When possible, tryouts will be held during the first official week of practice in each sport.

- Choosing team members is the responsibility of the head coach of the team.

- Varsity Head Coaches are allowed and encouraged to assist in the selection of sub-varsity teams.
- Before tryouts begin, coaches will provide information to all candidates including the length of the evaluation/tryout period (a minimum of three days), and an explanation of the skills and abilities to be evaluated as well as the commitment necessary to make the team.
- Students should not try out for a team unless they are willing and able to make the emotional, physical and time commitments necessary should they make the team.
- Athletes trying out for a team must be at all tryout practices. Coaches must be notified ahead of time if an athlete is going to miss the first day of tryouts for an excusable reason (illness, death in family, etc.).
- Coaches will consider a student athlete's previous academic performance when making selections.
- Coaches will privately announce and discuss options for individuals who do not make the team before tryouts. One alternative might be to assist as team manager or statistician. Cut lists will not be made public.
- When tryouts are being used to select teams, athletic fees will not be due until teams have been selected.

EQUIPMENT / UNIFORMS

Student athletes are responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and protection of all equipment/uniforms issued. The Bexley City School District is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment. It is suggested that athletes use a lock on athletic lockers to avoid theft.

Student-athletes have one week from the end of their season to turn in all issued equipment/uniforms. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences and can result in transcripts being held until everything is turned in to the coach or paid for. The student athlete is responsible for lost equipment/uniforms and must make monetary restitution at current replacement cost, if applicable, for lost items or for items damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear.

The only acceptable place for a uniform to be worn is for school athletic contests, unless directed by the coach. Athletes will not wear the team uniform for physical education classes or daily wear.

PRE-SEASON TEAM AND PARENT MEETINGS

All coaches are expected to conduct a pre-season "Meet the Team Night Meeting" for all sports/teams. Individual team rules and policies should be distributed by the coach at the pre-season meeting with a copy of these rules being filed with the Athletic Director prior to the meeting. Items to be covered at this meeting:

- a. Attendance at practice and games
- b. Behavior during practices, games, and travel (bus/van)

- c. Behavior towards teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials
- d. Issuance and care of equipment and uniforms
- e. Cutting policy; missing practice policy and procedure
- f. School attendance policy for participation, drug/alcohol policy, academic integrity policy
- g. Date for Senior Night (If applicable)
- h. Dress code for game days
- i. Fundraisers
- j. Eligibility
- k. Reporting injuries
- l. Any additional rules you may have
- m. The tenets of Positive Coaching Alliance and education-based athletics
- o. Athletic Booster membership information and concession stand coverage expectations.

Coaches are expected to make attendance at the parent's meeting mandatory for an athlete's participation. In the event a parent cannot attend the scheduled meeting, the coach will share the information with the parent via email.

PARENTS TEAM SUPPORT

Parents and parent support groups for each sport may fulfill a variety of duties at the discretion of the head coach. The head coach is responsible for oversight of parent support groups and enforcing department policy in this regard. Parents and parent support groups shall not establish a team fee that each parent needs to pay in addition to their participation fee. Coaches and parent groups MAY ask parents for voluntary support to help cover costs associated with: team snacks, senior night, highlight videos, and other items at the discretion of the head coach. When such requests are made the parent group must collect money/take orders privately and never in view of other players or parents.

GAME SCHEDULES

Game schedules will be published prior to the start of every season. While changes will occur from time to time, the athletic department will try to avoid changing games as much as possible and make every effort to inform parents and players of changes in a timely manner. Schedules can be found at the Bexley website under the "Athletics" link or at www.bexleyathletics.com

CONFLICTS WITH EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACADEMICS

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities and, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.

As soon as they are aware, student-athletes should notify co-curricular advisors and coaches whenever there is a time conflict for that student. The student will not be placed in the middle of this resolution process, and it is expected the advisor and coach will communicate to develop a resolution. If a resolution is not found, the following criteria will be used:

- When an athletic contest and a school concert are in conflict, the student is expected to attend the concert, as it is a part of the graded curriculum.
- When an athletic practice and a rehearsal are in conflict, the student should notify the coach and rehearsal director who will attempt to resolve the conflict on the student's behalf.
- During the sports season, the high school or middle school team activities take precedence over any select or outside athletic programs.
- In the event a performing arts student athlete has an unavoidable conflict due to a league make-up game (due to weather) or a league/state tournament contest, the student may choose which to attend; the student will be expected to complete any missed performance assessment, assigned at the teacher's discretion.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER

In the event of a school closing or early dismissal, junior high school and freshman athletic events and practices may be canceled unless it is associated with a varsity event (example: a triple header basketball event).

However, in accordance with the practice of the majority of Mid-State League schools, varsity and junior varsity level athletic activities may still take place later that evening, weather permitting. The decision to cancel contests and practices will be made by the athletic directors, building principals, the superintendent or designee in cooperation with representatives from the competing district(s).

A decision will be made in a reasonable timeframe. If the superintendent or designee determines that it is unsafe to transport students by district buses or van(s), the athletic director, building principals, and the superintendent or designee, may elect to have parents transport our athletes to the contest. Notification of any such closings will be communicated by the coaches of the affected sports.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night is designed to celebrate our senior athletes and their accomplishments. In an effort to maintain a level of consistency throughout our athletic program, BHS will honor its seniors as well as our opponents' seniors in a similar manner for all sports. Our senior athletes and their escorts will typically be recognized either before, during, or after the last home athletic contest. When senior night occurs before a contest, coaches should plan for the ceremony to last no longer than 15 minutes. Funds for gifts for our senior athletes may be procured through the BoE approved donation process outlined in this handbook. Senior night festivities do not include

an expectation of playing time. Playing time and game strategy decisions are always left to the discretion of the coach.

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes are expected to travel to and from contests in a district bus or van when the district provides transportation. When school transportation is not available, parents will be responsible for arranging transportation for their student to the site of the practice/athletic contest. In special situations a parent or guardian may provide transportation with advance written permission approved by the Athletic Director. Exceptions to this on an emergency basis are to be made at the coach's discretion, and then communicated to the Athletic Director. When approved, parents may NOT transport any student other than their own child/children. A parent may NOT give approval for others (parents, siblings, etc.) to transport their children. Parents must notify the coach when leaving with their children. The following guidelines govern travel conduct:

1. Coaches and student-athletes are responsible for the care and cleanliness of vans and buses.
2. Athletes must adhere to any seating arrangement designated by the coach and/or driver and remain seated in a manner that keeps the aisle open and accessible.

FAN / SPIRIT BUSES

As stewards of the public's finances, requests to the building principal for a Spirit Bus should be made on a limited basis for tournament contests. Only students from the participating school may ride on the Spirit Bus. For approved Spirit Buses, the district will provide the bus and fuel. The student bus rider fee will cover the cost of the bus driver. The price will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students with financial need who wish to ride on the Spirit Bus can make a waiver request to either their counselor or the principal. The following are the criteria that will be used in deciding whether to approve a request:

1. The event location must be over 50 miles from the Cassingham Complex.
2. A Board of Education approved employee must serve as a chaperone/supervisor.
3. There must be 20 or more students committed to riding the bus.

LOCKER ROOMS AND SHOWERS

The in-season sports teams have the priority use of the locker room and shower facilities. Students shall have access to a locker room that corresponds with their gender identity. Any student uncomfortable using a shared locker room, regardless of reason, shall be provided with a safe and non-stigmatizing alternative.

No cameras, video recorders or other devices that can be used to record or transfer images may be used in the locker room at any time. No person may use a cell phone to capture, record or transfer a representation of a nude or partially nude person in the locker room or to take any other photo or video image of a person in the locker room.

Students and staff violating this policy shall be subject to school disciplinary action and possible legal referral, if applicable. Other persons violating the policy may be subject to penalties outlined in state law. The building principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for enforcing this policy.

END OF SEASON BANQUET

A season ending banquet will be held at the end of the sports season for all teams. All coaches and athletes are expected to participate in the season-ending recognition night sponsored by the Athletic Department. At the conclusion of the season, if any student athlete is not a team member in good standing, the athlete will forfeit the privilege to attend the banquet and to receive all letters and/or awards. The date and time will be established by the coaches and the cost of the banquet is covered within the Participation Fee.

STUDENT ATHLETE/PARENT PROGRAM SURVEY

Student athletes and their parents are encouraged to provide feedback regarding their coach at the end of each season. Feedback is important to the coach evaluation process and surveys are confidential. An anonymous survey will be sent to student-athletes and parents via Final Forms at the conclusion of each season.

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE 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. Student athletes should begin the process of registering with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) at the end of junior year to establish their collegiate eligibility. 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 plan to see the athletic director and the high school College & Career Counselor as soon as practical.

TEN PRINCIPLES FOR PARENTING AN ATHLETE

1. Be positive with your student-athlete. Let them know they are accomplishing something simply by being a part of the team.

2. Avoid offering excuses for the student-athlete if they are not playing or seeing only limited action. Encourage them to work hard, reach their potential and contribute to the team's efforts.
3. Open criticism of the coaches is unnecessary. By openly criticizing the coaches, your student-athlete becomes trapped between the coach's authority and the parent's criticism. This erodes the athlete's effectiveness and affects their contributions to the team effort.
4. Encourage and support your student-athlete's efforts to follow the team's rules and athletic code.
5. Emphasize the importance of academics and understand the academic requirements necessary for participation in athletic activities. With few exceptions, most student-athletes do not receive athletic scholarships. Their future as an active, contributing citizen is much more likely to be determined by their academic abilities, not their high school athletic abilities.
6. Criticizing or showing envy in relation to the failures or successes of other student-athletes is inappropriate. Most are trying the hardest on any given day and they deserve respect for their efforts. Living your life vicariously through your student-athlete puts undue pressure on all concerned. Remember, a sport is a game and it is supposed to be fun!
7. The coaches work with the athletes on a regular basis and they have had the opportunity to evaluate the athletes' strengths and weaknesses objectively. Focus your energy toward being a supporter of the team and do not waste it tearing the team down. Remember, every team is composed of three groups: athletes, coaches and parents. Be a positive part of the team.
8. Emphasize good sportsmanship with your student-athlete. Win or lose, they must show respect for opponents and demonstrate the maturity necessary to show class. In addition, encourage your student-athlete to respect the authority of the officials. Self-respect begins with self-control.
9. Emphasize that "team" must take precedence over the individual. Recognition of individual contributions happens at the end of the season. Recognition is directly affected by the success of the team and the individual's contribution to the team's success.
10. Emphasize that the lessons learned through athletic competition are lessons for life. The skills learned are for leisure in the future. Keep sports in perspective.

APPENDIX/FORMS

BEXLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT TRAVEL RELEASE

This is to certify that _____ has my permission to
(Student Name)

ride (to from both) the _____ athletic contest on
(Circle one) (Sport)

_____ 20_____, at _____
(Location of Contest)

I certify I am personally transporting the above-named student. The reason for not riding the bus/van is

(Reason must be sufficiently urgent in terms of family needs to justify not riding the bus)

I understand the Bexley City School District Athletic Department rules require that students ride buses to and from all athletic contests and a departure from this requirement will release the Bexley City School District from all liability for any adverse result that may occur.

I agree to release the Bexley City School District and its employees and officers from all liability with reference to the above stated transportation.

This form must be on file in the Athletic Office prior to the dismissal of school on the day of the contest.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Athletic Director/Designee

Date: _____

Time Received: _____

Circle One: APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM

BEXLEY ALUMNI STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND

Created by the Class of 2004
(007-2690-880-9013-100)

** PLEASE ATTACH THIS COMPLETED FORM TO A
COMPLETED REQUISITION **

Date of Request: _____

Name of Student: _____

Name & Address of Person or Organization to be Paid (Receipt/Flyer/Bill–ALL
REQUIRED AND MUST BE ATTACHED):

Description of Activity/Special Equipment Request:

Name of Person Making Request/Relationship to Student:

Amount of Request: _____

Name of Student's School Principal: _____

Signature of School Principal: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

STUDENT ATHLETIC FEE AND WAIVER FORM

The Bexley City School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Bexley Athletic Board, approved an annual athletic fee of \$150 for high school athletes per sport and \$100 for middle school athletes per sport. Students not eligible for a waiver based on guidelines for Parts II-VII of this form or otherwise approved for a reduction or payment plan must pay the participation fee or have a payment plan approved by the Director of Operations prior to the first regular season contest. The student pay-to-participate fee may be paid online via Final Forms (please note Final Forms charges an additional 4% surcharge to process credit card payments) or paid in the Athletic Department office via cash, money order or check. Checks should be made out to *Bexley City Schools Athletic Department*. If paying by a check, please record the student's name and sport on the memo section of the check. Once you have paid your student-athlete's athletic fee, please select **Part I** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Athletic Director.

DO NOT pay the fee before tryouts have been completed and the student is placed on the team roster by the coach.

To be eligible for a fee waiver, a family must meet ONE of the following six criteria:

1. **FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH CERTIFIED:** Students who receive Free or Reduced (FRL), either through application or being directly certified, are eligible for a full athletic fee waiver. Approved students will have received a letter from BCSD School Nutrition verifying their eligibility. If applicable, please select and complete **Part II** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form, attach the FRL letter of eligibility, and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director. Contact BCSD School Nutrition at 614-231-7611 to request a duplicate copy of the meal verification letter if needed.
 1. **FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH ELIGIBLE:** Since students are not required to submit the application for FRL, only students who are directly certified will have received a letter from BCSD School Nutrition. Students not directly certified may be eligible for a fee waiver, but to be considered for a waiver based upon FRL criteria parents must submit a FRL Application (See Bexley Website for FRL Application) along with **Part III** selected of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director.
 1. **ALTERNATE HOUSING SITUATION:** Students who live in federally subsidized housing, a foster home, is a ward of the state, or is currently homeless are eligible for a full athletic fee waiver. If applicable, please complete **Part IV** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director.
 2. **250% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL:** Families whose income falls below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for a full academic fee waiver. If applicable, please

select and complete **Part V** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director.

1. **300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL:** A 50% reduction in fees is available to families whose income does not exceed 300% *of the FPL*. If applicable, please select and complete **Part VI** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director.

1. **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP:** BCSD understands that unique or temporary circumstances may make the athletic fee a financial burden. If you feel you are unable to pay the student athletic fee due to a family financial hardship, you are encouraged to select and complete **Part VII** of the Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form and submit to the Director of Operations or Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up to discuss the need and, if verified, to establish a payment plan.

THIS FORM IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Bexley City School District **Student Athletic Fee and Waiver Form**

Name of Student _____

School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

All information submitted to BCSD on this application and as part of the application process, including correspondences, will be kept completely confidential. Only the Superintendent and/or Director of Operations will have access to this information.

Part I

- This student does not qualify for a waiver and will pay the \$150 (HS) / \$100 (MS) fee.

Part II

- This student has been approved for free and reduced meals and we have received the letter from the BCSD School Nutrition. (Attach copy of the letter)

Contact BCSD School Nutrition (614-231-7611) to request a duplicate copy of the meal verification letter if needed.

Part III

- This student has not been approved for Free or Reduced Lunch in the past but is attaching a completed application with this form and will wait for eligibility determination.

Part IV

- This student's family receives public assistance, or
- This student lives in federally subsidized housing or in a foster home, or
- This student is a ward of the state, or
- This student is homeless.

Please attach appropriate documents as evidence.

Part V

- This student's family income is at or below the 250% FPL. Check the box below that best matches your household size and yearly income. Must provide verification of household income. Please attach a copy of current month's pay stub(s)

Check	# in Household	Yearly Income Less Than
	2	\$43,550
	3	\$54,900
	4	\$66,250
	5	\$77,600
	6	\$88,950
	7	\$100,300
	8	\$111,650

Part VI

- This student's family income is at or below the 300% FPL and is eligible for a 50% reduction of the athletic fee. Check the box below that best matches your household size and yearly income. Must provide verification of household income. Please attach a copy of current month's pay stub(s)

Check	# in Household	Yearly Income Less Than
	2	\$52,600
	3	\$65,880
	4	\$79,500
	5	\$93,120
	6	\$106,740

Part VII

- We do not meet any of the categories above, but would like to be considered for a waiver, reduction, or payment plan based upon current financial circumstances or hardship.

As parent or legal guardian of the student named above, I affirm the information provided on this form is accurate and all income is reported. I understand that school officials may verify the information. I understand that if I give false information, my child may not receive a waiver or reduction of fees. I also give school officials permission to use this form as a release to obtain information necessary for verification of eligibility.

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Approved _____ Denied _____

Comments: