

**BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT**



**ATHLETE HANDBOOK
AND
CODE OF CONDUCT**

Adopted by the Board of Education
Date: February 27, 2006
Resolution No.: 02-06-075

Table of Contents

	Page
Sportsmanship, Conduct and Integrity.....	2
Participation Expectations	5
Athletic Team Practice Times.....	6
Team Selection.....	6
Coaches	6
Player/Coach Relationship.....	7
Playing Time in Games.....	7
Games/Practices During Breaks	7
Bus Safety and Decorum Guidelines	8
Parents.....	8
Player/Parent Concerns.....	9
General Rules and Requirements for Participation.....	9
Pledges	12

Sportsmanship, Conduct and Integrity

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in organized interscholastic athletic activity outside of the traditional classroom.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board-approved athletic extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process and by all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups and support/booster groups.

Athletes are highly visible representatives of the Beachwood City Schools. Younger boys and girls, future athletes, fellow classmates, and citizens of the community look to school athletes as examples. With this in view, proper conduct on and off the field is of the utmost importance.

To be a Beachwood City Schools athlete is unquestionably a privilege. Athletes are provided the following Athletic Code of Conduct prior to joining a team and must fully familiarize themselves with its contents, requirements and consequences. Acceptance of the pledge contained in this handbook by an athlete and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) is considered a serious obligation. Athletes should not compete for the Beachwood City Schools if they cannot accept its terms.

Athletes will be subject to penalties for any violation of the Code of Conduct during their respective seasons. This period includes summer practices and all vacation days during their sport's season.

In situations where consequences for actions or behavior by athletes are prescribed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, consequences may exceed those contained in this handbook.

Provision 1. School Citizenship – Athletes are to conduct themselves as school citizens in accordance with school policies. Examples of poor school citizenship are misconduct in class, disrespect for teachers and staff or fellow classmates, stealing, fighting, or any insubordination to a teacher or coach. This list also includes any violation of the Student Conduct Code, procedure, or regulations. An athlete shall not engage in disruptive activities against the school or members of its student body. Any unsatisfactory school citizenship is contrary to this provision and could result in disciplinary action and denial of participation in extracurricular athletic activities. Final determination of proper conduct will be the determination of the school's administrators in accordance with existing school policy.

Consequences for Violation

A coach may exclude a player from an activity for a 24-hour period for a minor infraction. For any longer exclusion, the coach must contact the parents and review the infraction. Ultimate consequences will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

- Provision 2. Community Citizenship** – Athletes shall conduct themselves in a satisfactory manner as citizens of the community. Any unsatisfactory community citizenship that reflects poorly upon athletics and the school district is contrary to this provision and will be judged accordingly.

Consequences for Violation

Provisions 1 and 2 (school and community citizenship) will follow the Students Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities policy as described in the Student Handbook. In severe cases, an athlete may be denied participation from the team.

- Provision 3. Training Rules** – Athletes will adhere to prescribed training rules. They will not involve themselves in any actions or conduct that would be detrimental to their personal well-being or in direct violation of basic athletic training rules. Consequences will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

- Provision 4. Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs - Specific rules and regulations**

The use of the aforementioned substances are prohibited in the Beachwood City School District. Should a school district employee or legal authority find that an athlete possessed, used, distributed or was under the influence of any substance mentioned above, whether on or off school property, the following consequences will apply:

Consequences for Violation

First Offense: The athlete will lose 50% of the contests designated for that season. This could be reduced to 20% subsequent to a drug and alcohol assessment acceptable to the school’s Administration. If this violation occurs at the end of the season, it is carried over to the next sports season in which the athlete is involved.

Example: Basketball season is 20 games. 20% of 20 = 4 games.
If violation occurs with 2 games remaining in the season (including post-season competition), the athlete would lose 2 games in Basketball and 2 contests in the next sport he/she participates.

Second Offense: The athlete will lose the right to participate in athletics for one year from the date of the infraction. Should an athlete wish to continue in athletics after his/her one-year suspension, he/she must provide written proof to the Athletic Director that he/she has attended mandatory substance abuse counseling at the parents' expense and that there are no further documented instances of the types of abuse noted above.

Third Offense: If an athlete is in violation of the policy, he/she will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career.

"Drugs" does not include those prescribed by one's physician or over the counter medication taken in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

Provision 5. Anabolic Steroids or Other Performance-Enhancing Drugs – In addition to the consequences contained in Provision 4, Beachwood's athletes are subject to the regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Specifically, "A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs." "In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes."

Consequences for Violation

Violation is in accordance to OHSAA Handbook Sports Regulations/ page 65/section 39, or similar revised standard, if any.

Please note – Multiple violations of Provisions 4 and 5 will be considered to be cumulative over the term of a student's high school athletic eligibility.

Provision 6. Personal Appearance – Athletes will strive at all times to meet the high expectations placed upon them in regard to their personal appearance. Athletes are expected to:

- 1) Maintain a reasonable appearance and be well-groomed according to standards set by the Head Coach.
- 2) Dress properly on athletic trips, meeting the standards set forth by the Head Coach.

Any violation or neglect of these expectations is contrary to this provision, and consequences are at the discretion of the Head Coach.

Please Note: If an athlete is dismissed from or quits a team due to any disciplinary actions or consequences contained in this Code of Conduct, he/she will not be able to participate in any other sport or conditioning until the current season is completed and/or the athletic suspension is terminated.

Participation Expectations

When students join a Beachwood team, they are expected to commit themselves to the team for the entire season, including pre- and post-season training and competition. Athletes are expected to attend practices each day and attend all games. Students should understand that by joining a team they are accepting not only the pleasure and privilege of participating but also accepting the responsibility and commitment to that team.

Being a Beachwood athlete requires that the student balance his/her school work with the expectations of the coaches, teachers, and Athletic Department. It is imperative for the well being of the team that students fulfill their requirements to their chosen sport/team. If students do not commit to the team, then the other players are put at an unfair disadvantage.

Before the fall season, all athletes must attend the pre-season practices; to this end, students and families should plan accordingly. During the school year, students must balance their schoolwork and their athletic commitments. Athletes must make arrangements with teachers and coaches when they recognize potential conflicts balancing their athletic and academic commitments. Academic requirements are paramount to athletic requirements at all times; however, athletic requirements are compulsory in order to remain a member of any team.

Although minor variations may exist from coach to coach or from sport to sport, Beachwood has general expectations for all athletes at all levels. These expectations include:

- 1) Attendance at all practices
- 2) Punctuality and preparedness for all practices and games
- 3) Maintaining a level of academic achievement in accordance with current Ohio High School Athletic Association standards; current standards mandate that no student may participate if he/she has not passed five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
- 4) A desire to improve skills and knowledge of the sport
- 5) A willingness to work hard and be attentive in practices
- 6) Behavior representing one's self, team, school, family and community in a dignified and sportsmanlike manner
- 7) Attention to and respect for designated authority figures

Athletic Team Practice Times

During the winter season, because of limited indoor space, athletes may have staggered practice times, either evening or morning. Practices for varsity and junior varsity athletes could start as late as 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.; some practices may start as early as 6:00 a.m. and end by 7:15 a.m. Practices typically run after school and occasionally on weekends. Therefore, many practices may occur at varying times.

A gym schedule is made before the season begins for all levels of basketball. If teams need to practice late, an afternoon study hall, proctored by a coach, must be arranged for the team. During the spring season, athletes can expect to practice shortly after classes end.

Team Selection

Beachwood encourages all students to participate in athletics. However, teams must be kept at a manageable size to ensure an experience as rewarding as possible for the individuals and as successful a season as possible for the team. In some sports, it is preferable to have large numbers of student-athletes. In some sports, it is in the best interest of the student and the team to have a smaller, more manageable roster. In some sports, teams may only carry a certain number of players as dictated by State rules. If not addressed by State rules the Head Coach will determine roster size. When necessary, coaches hold tryouts. If too many students express interest in participating on a team, coaches will make cuts to accommodate an appropriate team size.

The Athletic Department expects that students consider their availability for games and practices during school breaks when making their decision to participate on an athletic team. If a player is unable to make a commitment to the team, he/she should not try out for a team. The disruption of missing players during preseason or during the season is not acceptable. Consequences for absence (s) from practice or competition will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

Coaches

Coaches must understand the necessity to communicate with parents and participants about their expectations. The better the lines of communication, the more easily processes move during the season. Not all coaches are full-time Beachwood employees; coaches will meet with participants and parents at the beginning of each season to answer questions and clarify expectations. Participants are required to respect these expectations when interacting with the coaches and team during the season.

Player/Coach Relationship

Coaches and players maintain a similar relationship to that of teachers and students. A level of mutual respect is required. Coaches must exhibit a positive expression of sportsmanship, respect for the game, understanding of adolescence, and willingness to communicate in a timely and constructive manner. Athletes must respect the decisions of the coach(es) and respect the sport in which they participate.

Playing Time in Games

Competition and winning are important aspects of any athletic program but should not dominate the ethos of the program. As a general philosophy, we strive to have all of our team members in games. However, at the varsity and junior varsity level, coaches are playing to win a close contest. Particularly at the varsity level, not all team members will play. It is at the discretion of the coach to provide the appropriate amount of playing time commensurate with each member's practice preparation and ability or in response to specific game situations. Substitutions should be made without risking the eventual outcome of the game. For example, a ball game won by a dozen points with every player participating is to be favored over a game won by 30 points with only a small portion of the team participating.

Games/Practices During Breaks

Conference Contests - Often conference games occur during school breaks and holidays. Students who choose to participate on teams that have games or practices over school breaks or during holidays should plan accordingly to avoid any conflicts that may arise. If a student foresees a problem attending practices or games during a scheduled break, that student should address the issue in advance with the Head Coach. Consequences arising from missing practice or competition in this circumstance will be at the discretion of the Head Coach. In all fairness to other students on the team, all athletes should have the same expectations for games/practices. Beachwood expects that students will make the appropriate commitment to the sport so as not to jeopardize the team experience for others. Therefore, the summer preseason, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break are times when, in season, students should make sure they are not missing valuable practice or games times. Coaches will distribute practice and game schedules for the season. A Head Coach shall have discretion to excuse participation in practice or competition on a case-by-case basis.

Holidays - We will make every effort to schedule practices and games away from religious and national holidays. However, there may be a need to schedule a practice due to extenuating circumstances. These practices will not be mandatory for those observing these religious holidays. There will be no consequences for those athletes missing practices and games under the aforementioned circumstances. Student-athletes should not feel they have a difficult choice to make in regards to observing religious holidays.

This policy supports the rights of students to exercise their religious freedom; however, the district does not want to put our teams at a competitive disadvantage. There will be no contests or practices on the following days: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter.

Practices of the eve of these holidays must end no later than 4:00 p.m.

Bus Safety and Decorum Guidelines

State law prohibits any eating or drinking on school buses while they are in motion. Equipment must be placed on the seats, in the luggage compartments, or on laps. The aisle must remain clear at all times.

Cleats are not permitted to be worn on the bus. Cleats may be carried on the bus. Anyone wearing cleats will be refused entry onto the school buses.

When traveling to and from games on school buses, athletes must remain seated and relatively quiet. Students must be respectful of the bus and the bus driver. No objects will be thrown. No profane language or loud music will be permitted. Players may not yell or gesture at or to opposing coaches, players or fans, or throw objects out of windows. A violation of these rules will result in consequences equivalent to Provision 1 as described on page 2. Coaches must travel with athletes to monitor the behavior of their team(s).

Parents

Parents can be an integral part of a team's overall success. At all levels and for all teams, parents help by supplying or hosting pre-game meals, preseason meetings, and/or post-season events; some parents facilitate fund-raisers, and/or help during games as ball chasers, concession stand attendants, ticket takers, swim timers, computer operators, scoreboard operators, and enthusiastic fans. POSITIVE parental involvement is a wonderful aspect of the Beachwood educational and athletic experience.

The Athletic Department encourages the organization of parent volunteers to support certain functions for each team, such as organizing an introductory family gathering, team social events, and/or providing meals for athletes before games.

Parent participation should be coordinated and consistent with the desires of the Head Coach and the Athletic Director.

Player/Parent Concerns

Parents must trust the coach to make appropriate decisions. If concerns arise, parents should encourage their child to speak with the head coach. If a parent needs to intervene, they should call to make an appointment with the coach. Parents should never question or make recommendations to a coach during or immediately after a contest when the coach must focus on the game and the athletes. If a parent has communicated appropriately to the coach without result, then the parent may schedule a meeting with the coach and the Athletic Director who has authority to handle the concerns.

General Rules and Requirements for Participation

Medical Release Forms

Each athlete must have an OHSAA Participation Physical Evaluation (current for each school year), Emergency Medical Authorization Form, Acknowledgement of Warning and Athletic Eligibility signed off by both student/athlete and parent and in the athletic office prior to preseason participation.

Each student and parent must complete a state-required Emergency Medical Authorization form. This form will release and disclose personal health information to the Beachwood Athletic Director, Coach and Athletic Trainer. The Athletic Eligibility Consent form also requires a parental signature indicating understanding of the OHSAA brochure entitled "Your Athletic Eligibility."

OHSAA requires all athletes, including those who are 18 years old and playing high school sports, to have parents sign the above referenced forms to participate.

All notes concerning a player's physical condition must be delivered immediately to the Athletic Trainer. The Athletic Trainer must authorize the note if it is allowing a student to return to practice or play. All limitations to practice or play, as determined by a doctor, will be accommodated. Only an appropriate physician can remove play/practice restrictions that have been placed on an athlete by a physician.

Insurance: All athletes must carry school insurance or have a signed waiver form indicating that they are covered with insurance by a family policy. This waiver is on the bottom half of the Emergency Medical form. School insurance is a low-cost policy that covers every sport except junior varsity and varsity football. Because of the greater risk of injury, junior varsity and varsity football insurance is available at a higher rate.

Physical: All athletes must have an Ohio High School Athletic Association Physical Examination form signed by a doctor along with the date

of last physical exam on file in the Athletic Department before they begin conditioning. This exam must be current during each school year in order to be eligible to play. Physical forms are available in the Athletic Office and at all coach's parent/athlete preseason meetings.

Eligibility: The Beachwood City School District scholastic eligibility requirements for student athletes will be strictly adhered to.

Academic/Athletic Eligibility: The purpose of academic/athletic eligibility is to reinforce the priorities of the educational process. Since interscholastic athletics are a privilege, it is essential for the student/athlete to follow these requirements for participation.

Basic Requirements

- A. The student must have and maintain a full complement of classes.
 - 1. Six classes in the high school
 - 2. Five classes in the middle school
- B. In compliance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association minimum requirements, the student must:
 - 1. Pass five major classes in the high school the previous quarter.
 - 2. Pass 75% of the classes in the middle school the previous quarter.
- C. The student must comply with all attendance policies as outlined and must exhibit behavior consistent with Board of Education Policy No. 5000 (or similar revised policy) Student Code of Conduct , in and out of school. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in denial of participation.
- D. The Principal and the Athletic Director will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Equipment/ Uniforms:

Players are responsible for all equipment/uniforms issued to them. Awards and the opportunity to participate in another sport will be withheld until all equipment/uniforms issued are returned or paid for (in the case of lost equipment.) Equipment or uniforms purchased by the school district will not be permanently given to any player.

Attendance:

Players must be in school all day on the day of a contest, or in the case of a Saturday contest, be in attendance all day on the Friday before the contest. This provision applies to practices as well.

School Attendance Requirements

- A. A student must be in school and in compliance with the rules regarding the Open Campus practice at the High School the entire day in order to participate in an activity that day. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment or personal/family matter, in which case the student must present to the Attendance Office a signed statement from an appropriate authority regarding the absence.
- B. If a student is absent the last day of the week, and the event is on a non-school day, the student may not participate in that weekend event. It is recommended that the coach call the parents regarding the absence.
- C. A student who has been injured and limited or prohibited from athletic participation by a physician cannot participate again until that physician indicates in writing that it is safe.
- D. Non-valid absences from classes during the season will result in:
 - a. First offense: Denial of participation for the very next contest following the infraction.
 - b. Second offense: Denial of participation for the remainder of the season.

Before any denial of participation provided for under these rules shall take effect, the student shall be verbally advised by the head coach of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action. If, after such conference, the head coach is satisfied that a denial of participation is justified, the student, the parents and the Athletic Director shall all be notified.

Contract:

Before “trying out” for an athletic team, all athletes must have on file with the Athletic Department an Athlete’s Pledge Card (Exhibit A, page 11) signed by the athlete and one parent. This will indicate that both student and parent understand their obligations to the Training Rules, and the consequences of violation of the Beachwood City School District Code of Conduct for Athletes and Student Rights and Responsibilities as set forth in the Beachwood High School and Middle School Parent-Student Handbook by Board of Education policy no. 5000.

Exhibit A

Pledges

Athlete's Name: _____
(Please Print)

I agree to follow the bylaws and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

I agree to assume full responsibility for all equipment issued to me and to confine the use of that equipment to practice, games or meets.

I further agree to pay for any and all equipment that I do not return at the end of the season.

Date: _____ Athlete's Signature _____

I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth in the Beachwood City School District Code of Conduct.

Date: _____ Athlete's Signature _____

I, as a parent of the above athlete, have read and agree to the policies and rules as set forth for athletic participation at Beachwood City School District.

Date: _____ Parent or Legal Guardian
Signature _____