

BUCKLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Athletics are part of the overall educational program at Buckley Community Schools. We believe that participation in athletics provides our students with a wide variety of rewarding experiences and the opportunity to develop many worthwhile traits. Participation in athletics develops a student's self-respect, self-discipline, character, leadership skills, decision making skills, and social skills. Participation in athletics also develops a knowledge base and appreciation of physical fitness, which will promote continued physical fitness as a lifelong goal. Participation provides student-athletes the opportunity to cooperate with other individuals to achieve common goals, create a respect for competition, and develop a sense of sportsmanship. We believe it is an honor to represent Buckley Community Schools, our alumni, fellow students, staff, and the citizens of Buckley as a student athlete.

The Athletic Code of Conduct will be reviewed prior to the start of each season by the Athletic Director. Athletes are required to submit a signed Code of Conduct review form for each year in grades 7 – 12 before participation in any contests. Changes to the Code of Conduct are to be made only with the approval of the Board of Education. Reasonable interpretations of how policies are applied are at the discretion of the Superintendent, Principal, and Athletic Director.

I. ATHLETIC POLICIES - The following policies will apply to all athletes. Violations of these policies will result in disciplinary action.

A. All students must be eligible under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's most current academic requirements.

1. Students must have to his or her credit a minimum of 66% (50% middle school) of full credit load potential for the last semester enrolled. Students entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his or her record in the 8th grade.

2. Weekly eligibility checks will be performed three weeks into each marking period. Students must be passing all classes. Students declared academically ineligible will be notified in person by the Athletic Director, parents will be notified by phone or email. The first offense will exclude the athlete from all scheduled contests for that week. The second offense will exclude the athlete from contests and practice for that week. The third offense will result in the removal of the athlete from his or her current team. A student may request and follow a P.E.P. to regain their position on the team. Eligibility checks will be enforced on Monday and will be in effect for one calendar week.

B. Students must have a current physical on file with the Athletic Office before participating in any practice or contest. Physicals performed on or after April 15th will be accepted for the following school year.

C. Athletes must be in school all day in order to practice or participate in contests scheduled for that day. Scheduled doctor appointments must be accompanied by a doctor's note. Family emergencies and extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration. Exceptions to this may be granted by the Athletic Director or Principal.

- D. All athletes must travel with the team bus to and from away contests. Exceptions to this are if a parent signs out their own child with the coach. A student may not travel with anyone else except with prior, written approval of the Athletic Director or Principal. Students are never allowed to drive themselves to/from team competitions, camps, scrimmages, ect.

E. Athletes are financially responsible for the care and condition of uniforms and equipment issued to them. Athletes must return all equipment and uniforms at the conclusion of the season. Failure to do so will result in the athlete being prohibited his or her next season of participation.

F. Athletes are encouraged to keep their personal belongings in the locker rooms during practices and contests. All lockers should be secured with a lock. Loss of personal items are not the responsibility of Buckley Community Schools.

G. Athletes are required to treat equipment and facilities with care and respect. This also includes the equipment and facilities at "away" venues.

H. Athletes are required to report all injuries to his or her coach. An athlete that has been withheld in writing by a doctor will not be reinstated until cleared to participate in writing by a doctor.

I. The coach of each team will evaluate the abilities and condition of the athlete to determine the amount of contest playing time.

J. Athletes will adhere to additional team rules established by the coach. Team rules may include, but are not limited to, dressing up on game days, curfews the night before games, or personal grooming.

II. TRAINING RULES - Training rules are in effect on a year round basis. These rules apply to all grades 7 – 12. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his or her 8th grade record. The following actions are punishable offenses:

1. Use or possession of tobacco or vape in any form.
2. Use or possession of alcohol.
3. Use or possession of illegal or prescription drugs.
4. Acts of dishonesty or unlawfulness other than routine traffic violations on or off school property.
5. Acts committed inside or outside of school that are deemed detrimental to the school or athletic program.
6. Accumulation of 3 or more days of suspension per school year.

III. SUSPENSIONS - All suspensions will be administered as follows:

A. A first-time violation will result in the athlete being given two options.

1. Option 1 would result in a suspension of 50% of scheduled contests for the current or next season.
2. Option 2 would result in a suspension of 25% of scheduled contests for the current or next season, and the completion of 15 hours of school/community service. Service hours must be completed before reinstatement will be issued. Athletes must maintain academic eligibility for contests to be counted toward their suspension. Athletes exercising declared academically ineligible during Option 2 will immediately be placed under Option 1. Athletes must also attend all practices and contests during their suspension in order for missed contests to be counted.
3. A second violation will result in a suspension of 365 calendar days.
4. A third violation will result in a permanent suspension from athletic participation.

IV. SELF DISCLOSURE - A student who admits to his or her violation prior to the investigation will be given the option of reducing his/her suspension dates or hours. This will be offered one-time during a career.

V. DUE PROCESS - All athletes involved in disciplinary action are allowed to appeal the facts of the situation. An appeal must be made within the hierarchy of Buckley Community Schools as follows:

1. Head Coach, 2. Athletic Director, 3. Principal, 4. Superintendent, 5. Board of Education

VI. DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION – A student may participate in only two sports simultaneously in one season. Students must declare which sport will be their primary using the dual-sport form and participation conflicts will be as follows:

1. Regular season primary sport
2. Postseason over regular season regardless of primary sport
3. If both sports are in the postseason, the decision will be made in writing by both the student and parent.

** Sub-varsity participation cannot be primary over participation in a varsity sport

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT

We the undersigned acknowledge the risks of practicing or participating in athletics at Buckley Community Schools. We have read and understand the Code of Conduct and the conditions if an infraction occurs. We agree to uphold these rules and regulations on a year-round basis. We agree to uphold the principles of good sportsmanship; treating spectators, opponents, coaches, and officials with respect at all times.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

(revised 7/2024)