

BISHOP HARTLEY

HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

REVISED 8/09

Bishop Hartley High School (BHHS) retains membership in and abides by the constitutions, by-laws and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Central Catholic League (CCL). The high school principal or his/her designee shall represent the athletic department in matters concerning the OHSAA and the CCL. Any student enrolled in BHHS and who meets the various academic and athletic requirements as set forth by BHHS, the CCL, and OHSAA may try out for any interscholastic sport. All student-athletes are held to the policies and procedures as set forth by OHSAA, the CCL, this athletic handbook and the BHHS student handbook.

The athletic department, in conjunction with and sponsored by OHSAA, offers the following interscholastic sports:

Boys:		Girls:
	FALL	
Football		Cheerleading
Soccer		Soccer
Cross Country		Cross Country
Golf		Tennis
		Volleyball
		Field Hockey
	WINTER	
Basketball		Basketball
Bowling		Bowling
Swimming		Swimming
Wrestling		Cheerleading
	SPRING	
Baseball		Softball
Tennis		Track & Field
Track & Field		

A club sport, not sanctioned by OHSAA, is offered for Girls Lacrosse in the Spring.

This handbook is presented to you because your son/daughter/ward has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. It is the belief of the administration and Advisory Board that participation in athletic activities will provide opportunities and experiences to assist the student athlete in personal growth. These opportunities are believed to be a critical part of a student's total development as they assist in the building of positive character and leadership traits.

The Athletic Department, through its administrators and coaches, and the administration and faculty of BHHS are concerned with the educational development of our student athletes and strive to provide a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student-athletes educational maturity. By virtue of your son/daughter's participation and your acceptance of this participation, you as parents/guardians have committed yourself to certain responsibilities and obligations. It is the athletic department's intent through this handbook to acquaint you with the policies that are necessary for an organized program of athletics.

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the concern of the athletic department to communicate to the athletes, parents and community the goals, philosophy and rules by which the department operates. Only with the cooperation of all parties involved can a successful program be maintained.

One of the most important lessons learned from athletic participation is that of TEAMWORK. To be an effective member of a team, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must place the team and its objectives higher than their personal desires.

1. Strive to be successful: We will not always win the contest we participate in, but we succeed when we continually strive to win. We can learn to accept defeat when we strive to win with honest dedication and hard work. Develop a desire to excel.

“The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur.” Vince Lombardi

2. Play with sportsmanship: Accept success and defeat like a true sportsman. Know that we have done our best. Treat others as we would have others treat us. We must develop desirable social traits including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
3. Improve as an individual: Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete one must establish a goal and constantly strive to reach this goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved.
4. Enjoy athletic participation. It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve our team and ourselves.

MORE IMPORTANT THAN VICTORY IS EFFORT.

**AT THE CENTER OF EFFORT IS COURAGE,
IN SPORTS AND IN LIFE.**

TEN PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING AN ATHLETE:

1. Be positive with your student athlete. Let him/her know they are accomplishing something positive simply by being a part of the team.
2. Avoid offering excuses for the student athlete if he/she is not playing or seeing only limited action. Encourage them to work hard and strive to reach their potential and contribute to the team's efforts.
3. Open criticism of coaches is unnecessary. By openly criticizing the coaches, your student athlete becomes trapped between the coach's authority and the parent's criticism. This situation merely 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 rules and athletic code. Remember: you sign a parent athletic pledge stating your support of the athletic code, its enforcement and its penalties. This is a year-round responsibility and not limited to the athletic season.
5. Emphasize the importance of academics and understand the academic requirements necessary for participation in interscholastic athletics. With few exceptions, most student athletes do not receive athletic scholarships to college. Their future as an active, contributing member of society is 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 displays inappropriate behavior to others. Most are trying their hardest on any given day, and they deserve respect for their efforts. Living your life vicariously through your student athlete puts undo 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 athlete's strengths and weaknesses objectively. Focus your energy toward being a supporter of the team and the program and do not waste time and effort tearing it down.
8. Emphasize good sportsmanship with your student athlete. Win or lose, athletes must show respect for their opponent. Always demonstrate the maturity necessary to show class. In addition, encourage your student athlete to respect the authority of the coaches and 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. There is no "I" in the word team.
10. The lessons learned through athletic competition are lessons for life. The skills learned will maintain a great value in the future. Keep sport in perspective.

PARENTAL PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING A CONCERN

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions and decisions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach.

A. Communication you should expect from the coach.

1. Philosophy of the coaching staff.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team.
3. Location and time for practices and contest scheduled.
4. Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
5. Procedure should your child become injured during participation.
6. Discipline which results in the denial of your child's participation.

B. Communication coaches expect from parents.

1. Concerns are to be expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the programs at BHHS, he/she will experience some very rewarding moments, and conversely there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child may wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

C. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches.

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is sometimes difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions everyday based on what they believe to be the best for all student athletes individually and the overall team. The list above shows certain things that can and should be discussed with a coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

D. ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES.

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other athletes
5. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach and meetings at these times do not promote resolution. It is for this reason we ask you to wait 24 hours after a contest to speak with a coach.

E. WHAT TO DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A RESOLUTION TO THE CONCERN.

- a. Call and make an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
- b. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDELINES

The Bishop Hartley High School administration and athletic department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the OHSAA should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to insure that all participants have a common understanding of these basic principles. While winning is always important, it is more important to play with class and display good sportsmanship. 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 and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players. The development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. All school administrators, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders and spectators are expected to know and embrace the following fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

1. Respect should be demonstrated for an athletic opponent and for the opposing school at all times. We should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the considerations all persons deserve. Accordingly, visiting teams 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. Officials must be assumed to be and accepted as impartial arbiters who are trained to do their job, and expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
3. Knowledge of and a proper respect for 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 spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules.
4. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win can not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational 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 affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all coaches, athletes, cheerleaders and spectators understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during and after contests.

Coaches:

The coaches bear the greatest responsibility for the development of sportsmanship as they have the greatest influence on the attitudes and behaviors of players, the student body and the Bishop Hartley community. Coaches must value sportsmanship and teach it through their words and by their example. Bishop Hartley coaches should embrace and practice the following appropriate behaviors:

- Instruct their players in the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- Teach the value of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- Make sportsmanlike behavior a matter of team discipline, with appropriate consequences for team members who display inappropriate behavior.
- Remind the student body and fans at every opportunity that visiting teams are guest and, as their hosts, they should be polite and courteous.
- Respect the officials' judgment and interpretation of the rules.
- Demonstrate publicly the ideals of good sportsmanship by such acts as shaking hands with officials and opposing coaches before and after contests.

Coaches should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

1. Use of profanity.
2. Ejection from contest.
3. Berating officials or players.
4. Inciting players/spectators to inappropriate behavior.

Athletes:

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

- Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow athletes.
- Shake hands with opponents and wish them good luck when appropriate.
- 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.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing Bishop Hartley.

Athletes should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Use of profanity.
- Ejection from contest.
- Berating officials or fellow athletes.
- Inciting spectators and/or other athletes to inappropriate behavior.
- Leaving the bench area when not competing, or becoming involved in any type of altercation.

It should be noted that coaches and athletes ejected from interscholastic contests will be accountable to the disciplinary procedure bylaws of the OHSAA as printed in the associations handbook. Further action above and beyond this may be invoked by school administration.

Cheerleaders:

Cheerleaders are representatives of the student body. By setting a good example the cheerleaders can influence and control the actions of the student spectators. They should:

- Establish standards of desirable behavior in keeping with the fundamentals of good sportsmanship for the cheerleaders and student spectators.
- Use positive cheers to encourage their own team without demeaning their opponents.
- Use discretion in deciding when to cheer and which cheers to use.
- Never attempt to distract opposing players or in any way interfere with their performance.
- Serve as hosts to the visiting cheerleaders.

Spectators:

Partisan spectators by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded, and should keep in mind, that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing interscholastic teams. They expect to be treated in that manner. Spectators should be reminded too, that the contest should be between the teams and athletes engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

- Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Respect, cooperate and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches and athletes of all teams.
- Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is inappropriate.
- Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- Respect the judgment and professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Spectators should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Verbal/physical abuse of contest officials.
- Berating athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators with chants, signs or cheers.
- Interruption of contests by throwing objects, entering the area of competition or becoming involved in disruptive behavior.

Each participant should be committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. In this spirit, it should be understood, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when incidents of inappropriate behavior occur. The quality of our athletic program depends upon this natural respect, and implementing proactive procedures and guidelines is vital to the education of our students and spectators.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BISHOP HARTLEY ATHLETE

Being a member of a Bishop Hartley interscholastic 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 hard work from many people over many years. As a member of a Bishop Hartley team, you have inherited this tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win, and to win honorably. The desire to win should be strong motivation in your athletic character, but only to win with honor to yourself, your teammates and Bishop Hartley. Such a tradition is worthy of your best effort on the playing field, as well as in the classroom. Bishop Hartley has achieved more than its share of conference and state sponsored championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-League and other individual honors.

It is not easy to contribute to and to perpetuate this athletic tradition. To compete for your school means that you have agreed to abide by a higher code of conduct. You will have to say “no” to temptations an athlete can not afford. When you wear a Bishop Hartley uniform, we assume that you not only understand these traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with them. The contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

A. Responsibilities to Yourself:

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

B. Responsibilities to Your School:

Another responsibility you assume as a member of an athletic team is to your school. Bishop Hartley cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding athletic reputation unless you do your part to uphold this reputation. By participating in interscholastic athletics to the best of your ability you are contributing to the reputation of your school. Are you doing your best???

C. Responsibilities to Others:

As a squad member, you also bear a responsibility to your home and family. You should never give your family anything of which to be ashamed. You must measure up to all the training rules. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game “all out”, you keep your self-respect and your family can be proud of you.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

As a student athlete attending Bishop Hartley you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following items have been completed and submitted to the proper person:

1. Physical Examination Form
2. Emergency Medical Form
3. Handbook Awareness Receipt
4. Risk Waiver Form
5. Code of Conduct Parent/Athlete Pledge Form - failure to sign prohibits participation
6. All academic eligibility requirements satisfied

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be academically eligible at Bishop Hartley to participate in athletics, all students must meet a three part standard. The standard is as follows.

1. All high school athletes must meet the OHSAA academic requirement which states that the athlete is required to have passed the equivalent of five credits toward graduation the preceding grading period in order to participate the following grading period. Any change in OHSAA eligibility status for a student athlete becomes effective on the start of the fifth school day after the end of the grading period.
2. Student athletes at Bishop Hartley must achieve a grade point average of 1.50 or above in course work taken the preceding grading period. In addition the student may not have more than 2 grades of "F".
3. The student will be subject to weekly eligibility checks. If the student has 3 or more grades below C-, or 2 F's, or 2 conduct marks, he/she will be declared ineligible for a period of 7 days. The weekly eligibility will be from Tuesday through Monday, based on the grades received from teachers as of the preceding Friday.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS AND CODE

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that an athlete's behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

1. At school

In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person cannot be lazy in the classroom and reach their full potential as an athlete. As an athlete you must plan your schedule to allow sufficient time and energy to your studies to insure acceptable grades. An athlete must also be respectful to other students and teachers at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not appropriate behaviors. Any student referred to the administration may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by either the coach and/or a school administrator. Any suspension from school will include denial of participation from all athletic activities for the same duration of time as the suspension from school. Additional consequences are at the discretion of the coach. Any student suspension that ends on Friday will also include the denial of participation on the following days until the next day of classes.

2. At athletic events

In the area of athletic competition, a true athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics, and learns fast that losing is part of the game. You should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

3. Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The administrators and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics.

All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct that will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in interscholastic athletics affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Examples of unacceptable conduct are, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law. Tarnishing the reputation of those associated with the school and the athletic programs will not be tolerated.

Students participating in athletics must conduct themselves as mature young men and women. Participation in athletics is a privilege not a right. An athlete involved in conduct construed to reflect discredit upon a team and/or the school, will be subject to disciplinary action by the coach and/or administration. Hazing of any type is strictly prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation or punishment toward any student or team member that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Any person participating in hazing faces denied participation from athletics as well as disciplinary action by BHHS administration. Issues of misconduct not addressed within this document will be dealt with on an individual basis. This is an extension of the Bishop Hartley High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

4. Individual Coach's Rules and Expectations

Each coach is encouraged to set their own team rules in addition to the rules in the Code of Conduct. Rules and penalties for tardiness, curfew violations, inappropriate practice/game dress and misconduct are examples of acceptable coach's guidelines. These rules should be given in writing to all athletes, parents and the athletic director at the beginning of each season.

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Statement

Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of tobacco, alcohol, or any type of mood modifying substance produces harmful effects on the human body. You cannot compromise athletics with substance abuse. The student who wishes to experiment with such substances should

remove himself/herself from the team before he/she jeopardizes team morale, team reputation and team success, and does physical harm to himself/herself and/or other participants.

Bishop Hartley High school and the athletic department are concerned with the health habits of student athletes and are convinced that athletes and the use of these substances are not compatible. It is also a fact that when students have a strong interest to participate in athletics, their desire to use substances is reduced. Students must decide whether they want to compete in athletics. If so, they must make a commitment to become competitors. A large part of this commitment is to follow a simple set of training rules:

SIMPLE TRAINING RULES

NO USE OF TOBACCO, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NO USE OF DRUGS

B. Principle Belief

It is the belief of Bishop Hartley High School that there is no such thing as responsible use of controlled substances/mood altering chemicals, alcohol or tobacco by any high school student. Adolescent use is not only against the law – it jeopardizes the student’s health and safety, and it inhibits attainment of individual potential. Therefore, any use of controlled substances/mood altering drugs, alcohol or tobacco by student athletes will not be tolerated.

DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

A. A student shall not illegally or in violation of school rules sell, possess, use, conceal, transfer, deliver or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during their high school career, either on or off school property.

1. Any student who illegally possesses, uses, or conceals drugs or alcohol shall be denied participation in athletic activities for a period of one year from the date of discovery. However, this penalty may be commuted if evidence is submitted to the principal that enrollment has been obtained in a school approved drug/alcohol program within 14 days of the discovery date, and the student subsequently completes the program. Failure to complete the program will result in loss of athletic participation for one year. The commuted penalty for a first offense will be as follows:

A. The student will be denied participation in 25% of the contests that season (rounded to the lowest whole number). This penalty will be carried over to the next season in which the student participates if necessary.

Any student who sells or provides illegal drugs or alcohol shall be denied participation from all athletic activities for one full year. No reduction of this consequence is possible.

2. If during or after the completion of the drug/alcohol program, there is a second offense, the student shall be denied participation from all athletic activities for the duration of the student’s career. An athlete’s participation may be reinstated by the school principal provided evidence is shown that the student has satisfactorily completed, (or repeated), a school approved program, and is unlikely to repeat the offense. The commuted penalty for a second offense will be as follows and cannot be served concurrently with a first offense penalty:

- A. The student shall be denied participation in 50% of the contest for the season, rounded to the lowest whole number. This penalty will carry over to the next season of participation if necessary.
- 3. In the event of a third offense, the student shall be denied participation from all athletic activities for the duration of his/her career.
- 4. Any athlete using tobacco products will be denied participation in 25% of the contest for their sports season. This penalty will be carried over to the next season of participation if necessary.

OTHER ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

- 1. The athletic department has a policy that requires payment of a fee for participation in athletics. This fee is used to offset the costs to provide athletic activities. The payment of this fee does not guarantee the playing time of your student. The amount(s) as announced at the beginning of each school year will be in effect for the entire school year. The athletic director will be responsible, through the coaches, to monitor payment of this participation fee.
- 2. All equipment issued to athletes must be turned in to the coach at the end of each season. Any equipment not accounted for will be billed to you.
- 3. Attendance – To be eligible to participate in athletics, the student must be in class before 4th period, under the regular class schedule, or 10:30 a.m. and must remain in school for the rest of the day. This rule applies to practices as well as contest. If a student/athlete is involved in legitimate school related activities, field trips, etc., a prearranged college visit or is absent due to activities related to the death of a family member, or is not present due to some unforeseen extenuation which is recognized by the school administration, the student may participate,
- 4. Tattoos must be covered during school hours and when participating in extra-curricular activities.

Finally, this handbook by design is not all inclusive and does not address all instances that may occur with regard to athletics in general, student/athlete behavior or conduct or the like. The final interpretation of this handbook and ultimately all administrative decisions are left to the discretion of the Bishop Hartley High School administration.