

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The following rules define eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bridgman High School. The rules have been adopted to:

- Encourage student athletes to maintain good health practices at all times.
- Encourage student athletes to recognize their classroom academic responsibilities.
- Encourage student athletes to set high standards in school attendance and citizenship.

PHILOSOPHY OF PLAYING TIME

Developmental Stage (MS and 9th grade): The optimum goals at this stage include teaching fundamentals of the sport, emphasizing sportsmanship and to provide practice and game playing time for all participants. Winning can be discussed to build team pride, but should not be stressed as to circumvent the original aforementioned goals.

Post Developmental Stage (JV level): Coaches should balance student-athlete participation with the success of the team in this stage. Fundamentals in practice and sportsmanship are still goals for all participants. During games, personal strategies can be made by the coaches to aid the success of the entire team. However, every effort should be made to provide as much playing time to all participants as possible.

Varsity Stage (varsity teams): The success of the team is the main goal at this stage. Student-athletes should learn that in varsity athletics all participants are working together for the good of the unit. This is a lifetime skill. Game participation is handled exclusively by the coaching staff and although playing time will be provided for as many student-athletes as possible, the success of the team will be paramount. Coaches should stress to all participants that each is an important contributor to the team in many ways, but playing time cannot be afforded equally to all. Maximum student-athlete game participation is stressed but not mandated at this level.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Any student transferring into the Bridgman school district should check with the Athletic Department to verify his/her eligibility.

TRANSPORTATION

Student-athletes are expected to ride to athletic events on school sponsored transportation. Any exceptions must be approved by the athletic director and be in accordance with individual coaches policy (i.e. some coaches may require you ride the bus to and from events). Students wishing to return home from a contest with parents need to obtain permission from the coach, and that student's parent must sign the student-athlete out with the coach after the event.

There may be some select dates in which transportation will not be provided for certain teams, to certain locations in close proximity to BHS. Parents will be notified of these dates at the beginning of the season. Additionally, certain events may be drop-off only. In the event that district transportation is not utilized, an alternate transportation form must be completed a day prior to the scheduled event.

In the occurrence when school transportation is unable to be provided, it is the responsibility of the

parent/guardian to contact either the high school or athletic office to verify in writing whom the student-athlete will be riding with to and/or from that particular athletic event. Student-athletes - if given permission to drive to an event - are NOT PERMITTED to transport other students.

JOINING A TEAM

No student can join a Bridgman athletic team after 2 weeks of official MHSAA practices by that sport, except with special permission from the athletic director. For fall sports, no athlete can join a team after the first full week of school, except with special permission from the athletic director. Joining a team late for any reason requires special permission from the Varsity coach in that sport.

Under no circumstances may an athlete who quits a team after “cuts” have been made, join another team during the same sport season.

PHYSICALS

No student-athlete will be allowed to participate in practices or games without a current physical on file. A current physical is one given after April 15 of the previous school year. All attempts will be made to offer a reduced price physical at the High School.

FINANCES

There is a \$45.00 participation fee, per student, per season. Any student that qualifies for free or reduced lunch will only pay \$20.00.

Bridgman Public Schools DOES NOT have any legal liability nor assumes any financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which the student may participate if she/he so desires, but they do so at their own risk. Parents and athletes are responsible for primary coverage of any athletic injury. Bridgman Public Schools DOES NOT provide additional insurance for athletes.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association provides athletic participants at each MHSAA member high school with insurance that is intended to pay accident medical expense benefits resulting from a **concussion**. The suspected concussion must be sustained while the athlete is participating in an MHSAA in-season covered activity (in-season practice or competition). Policy limit is \$25,000 for each accident.

Covered students, sports and situations follow the catastrophic accident medical insurance (see above). This program intends to assure that all eligible student-athletes in MHSAA member high schools, male and female in all levels of all sports under the jurisdiction of the MHSAA, receive prompt and professional attention for head injury events even if the child is uninsured or under-insured. Accident medical deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies are reimbursed under this program.

DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

Studies have shown student-athletes perform best (physically and emotionally) in one dynamic of athletics in a particular sports season and it is the position of the Bridgman Athletic Department in that our student-athletes make a determination of one area of emphasis per respective sports season.

On rare occasions, our school system does have a student-athlete who possesses the academic, athletic, mental and social abilities to pursue dual sport participation. In such instances, the following criteria must be met and agreed upon:

- Mutual agreement between the athletic office, the head coaches of each respectively affected athletic programs, and the potential student-athlete as well as the parents/guardians of the potential student- athlete.
- A selection/designation/determination of the “primary sport” and that of the “secondary sport.”
- The primary sport takes precedence over the secondary sport when contests, events and/or competitions at the varsity level are scheduled simultaneously (on the same date). Compromises may be considered in regard to league events, “important contests” or MHSAA competitions, but not guaranteed.
- For validity purposes, this contract must be willingly signed and dated by all designees and is on file in the athletic office.
- All involved parties MUST COMMUNICATE AND WORK TOGETHER.

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

Despite all scheduling efforts by the administration, conflicts will develop between co-curricular activities. The athletic department recognizes that each student-athlete should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of co-curricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.

Student-athletes have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This includes being cautious about belonging to too many activities prior to becoming involved in the activities.

If a conflict occurs, sub-varsity student-athletes are expected to attend the academic related function. Varsity student-athletes have the option to choose what school sponsored event to attend, without any pressure from the coach or faculty member. Once a decision is made, neither the faculty member, nor the coach, will penalize the student-athlete in any way. Student-athletes who may have missed for any of the above reasons may be deemed less- prepared for an upcoming competition, and for that reason playing time may be affected immediately upon their return. Based on the wording of the coaches rules, it may be required that any missed practices be made up to reinstate standing within the team.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

For a student-athlete to remain eligible to participate from week to week in athletic contests, they must be passing all of their classes weekly and maintain a weekly GPA of 2.0 or better. Our student-athletes must also be passing all of their classes at the end of a semester. This will ensure that our students will continue to earn credits towards their purpose at Bridgman High School, earning a diploma at graduation. Our staff is dedicated to working with our student-athletes to ensure that they gain the necessary knowledge both in the classroom as well as on the field of play to excel in their post-high school lives.

Weekly Eligibility

Bridgman High School has a zero “F” policy along with a minimum 2.0 weekly GPA check. Grades checks will be conducted weekly on Thursday morning. The first grade check at the beginning of each quarter will occur on the Thursday of the THIRD week of the quarter, a grade check will be conducted on

the second week of the sports season to let the students know where they are, but they will not be held out of any contests from this pre-eligibility check.

Students who are ineligible will be informed throughout the day on Thursday that they are on the ineligibility list, with their coaches receiving notification that day as well. All accountability falls on the students who have until 3:00 PM on Friday to provide written documentation/evidence the grade(s) has been raised to a status meeting the eligibility requirements. If a student is able to raise their grade between Thursday morning and Friday afternoon they will turn in a signed Athletic Grade Update Form to either the athletic director or the principal by 3:00 PM.

All responsibility for removing themselves from the ineligibility list rests with the student. It is their responsibility to raise their grades to meet eligibility and turn in the signed Athletic Grade Update Form to the office by Friday 3:00 PM.

If a student remains on the ineligibility list as of 3:01 PM that Friday, they will be ineligible to participate in contests from that Sunday through the next Saturday, with another grade check taking place that week Thursday. In most cases the next grade check occurs the following week, however due to the district calendar this may amount to multiple weeks (Winter Break, Thanksgiving Break, Spring Break, etc...).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Grade check at 7:00 AM *Students must be passing ALL classes	Athletic Grade Update Form due by 3:00 PM to the athletic director	

Ineligible status begins	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible Grade check at 7:00 AM. *Students must be passing ALL classes to regain eligibility status for the following week.	Ineligible	Ineligible status ends if all classes are passed as of 7:00 AM Thursday or 3:00 PM Friday.
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Semester Eligibility

Semester Eligibility is determined once semester grades have been finalized. If a student fails one or more classes they will be considered academically ineligible to participate in athletic contests for the next six weeks of an athletic season. Meaning:

- 1st semester failures if the student is IN a winter sport = Immediate loss of six weeks of competition,
- 1st semester failures if the student is NOT in a winter sport = Loss of six weeks in spring sport,
- 2nd semester failures = Loss of six weeks of fall sport.

The six week count begins the sports first day of official practice as set forth by the MHSAA and Athletic Department of Bridgman High School.

ATTENDANCE

On the date of a contest, participating student-athletes must be considered present (see attendance policy) in all of their classes in order to participate in that day’s contest. Exceptions will be granted for pre-arranged excused absences (i.e. appointment, funerals, etc). Students must be considered present for a half day of school in order to participate in after school practices.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Student-athletes, as representatives of our school and community, are held to the highest standards of personal behavior at all times. Participation in the athletic program of the school district is a privilege not a right for which a student must maintain eligibility by adherence to the highest standards of personal behavior both physically and socially. The student-athlete must abide by all training rules with respect to physical conditioning and health practices. Student-athletes must not engage in any behavior in violation of this student-athlete code of conduct or behavior which is disruptive to the athletic activity or event in which the student-athlete participates or which constitutes a violation of any law or ordinance involving an act of violence, or dishonesty. The student-athlete must comply with these standards of personal behavior through the entire twelve-month calendar year.

Failure to do so will subject the student to disciplinary measures which may include suspension and/or expulsion from participation in the student athletic program. Disciplinary measures shall be determined by the athletic director after consultation with the head coach.

Student-athletes are prohibited at all times from using or possessing illegal drugs and from consuming, or possessing, alcoholic beverages. Actively aiding or encouraging the unlawful possession, or consumption, of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is a violation of the training rules and subject to the penalties listed in that section.

Actively aiding or encouraging the unlawful possession or consumption or usage of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and illegal drugs are violation of the student-athlete code of conduct. Student-athletes shall not attend events at which alcoholic beverages are served other than family or religious events. At social events sponsored by adults, which are normally attended by all ages, attendance is

permitted, (examples would include weddings, graduation parties, etc.) but consumption is still prohibited under all other circumstances. Remaining in attendance at an event with underage drinking is a violation of training rules and subject to the penalties listed in that section.

Attending social events at which illegal drugs are used is prohibited under all circumstances. The use of illegal drugs is prohibited under all circumstances.

If there were extenuating circumstances regarding the student's presence at the event, the principal and athletic director reserve the right to alter the penalty based upon extenuating circumstances.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT

Athletes shall conduct themselves in a manner to bring no discredit to themselves, their family, the team, or the school. An athlete will not engage in or be an accomplice to the act of stealing, extortion, gross disrespect or vandalism. Determination of the disciplinary action shall be left to the judgment of the athletic director, building principal, and the coach involved.

It is expected that student-athletes will not be involved in unlawful acts. Student-athletes are expected to inform their coach of any occurrence that could alter their eligibility.

Inappropriate communication and/or pictures found on Internet sites that show the student-athlete behaving inappropriately, will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct. Such acts could be, but not limited to, pictures of students holding alcoholic containers, tobacco products, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, or doing other inappropriate acts. Defenses such as "the container was empty," etc. will not be a case of defense.

Undesirable conduct and unlawful acts could result in dismissal from athletics even without conviction within the legal system. Decisions of this nature will be discussed and acted upon by coaches, athletic director, and principal.

Acts of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to the following: actions detrimental to the health, safety, and well-being of others; disrespect; insubordination; abusive or improper language; taunting and/or inciting; harassment; fighting/initiating a fight; negative attitude; theft or involvement in theft (personal/school); falsifying documents or otherwise providing false information; destruction of school equipment; vandalism; conduct detrimental to the team or school; criminal/civil infractions; violation of MHSAA rules and regulations; violation of school district and/or school rules and regulations; team policy offenses; or any other conduct as determined by the coach(es) or administration which could cause embarrassment or criticism to the team and/or school, or which is inconsistent with a student-athletes position as a leader and role model.

Disciplinary action for improper conduct described in this section is based upon the severity of each case and is subject to the minimum MHSAA rules regarding sportsmanship and fighting. Examples of discipline for behavioral infractions include, but are not limited to the following: A conference may be required involving the student-athlete with his/her coach and/or school officials and/or parents to resolve the issue; suspension from practices and/or contests; suspension from the team for the remainder of the season; suspension from athletic participation for a longer period of time in the event of severe or recurring infractions; suspension from athletic participation pending a resolution with school officials; withholding of athletic letter/award; monetary restitution for vandalism and/or destruction or loss of property; hours of school based community service.

STANDARD OF PARENT CONDUCT

Just as we expect our athletes to conduct themselves in a manner to bring no discredit to themselves, their family, the team, or the school - we expect the same of our parents and spectators. Attendance at Bridgman Public Schools athletic events are a privilege. Please keep in perspective of the immeasurable amount of dedication, time and hard work from the student-athletes, coaches, officials, staff workers and the administrations of all competing schools that allow these privileges to take place.

We highly encourage fans and spectators to cheer for our teams and your student-athletes with class, dignity and pride. However, whether the Bees come out "on top" according to a scoreboard or not, please keep in mind the true essence of athletics at the high school level. Life lessons are learned daily through participation in athletics Good sports are not only winners in sports, but as well as in everyday life.

Here at Bridgman, it is expected our Bees Nation patrons will allow for the coaches to coach and the players to play. Therefore, all off-season workouts, in-season workouts, and practices are closed to all non-coaching and/or non-school staff.

CONDUCT – COMMISSION OF A MISDEMEANOR

Misdemeanor – Disciplinary measures may include suspension and/or expulsion from participation. Discipline will be determined by the athletic director after a consultation with the head coach.

CONDUCT – COMMISSION OF A FELONY

Felony: Charged: Suspension pending legal system investigation. Conviction: Expulsion pending review.

TRAINING RULES

A well-trained body is essential to any student-athlete. Therefore, the use, and/or possession of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, cannabidiol (CBD), alcohol, and drugs - other than doctor prescribed - is prohibited. Violation of these rules affects the physical fitness of the violator as well as having a negative effect on the mental attitude of the rest of his teammates. These regulations are considered in effect for the entire calendar year.

Actively aiding or encouraging the unlawful possession or consumption or usage of alcoholic beverages, tobacco (including electronic cigarettes) and illegal drugs are a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and is subject to the penalties listed below. Student-athletes shall not attend events at which alcoholic beverages are served other than family or religious events. At social events sponsored by adults, which are normally attended by all ages, attendance is permitted, examples would include weddings, graduation parties, etc.) but consumption is still prohibited under all other circumstances.

If there were extenuating circumstances regarding the student's presence at the event, the principal and athletic director reserve the right to alter the penalty based upon extenuating circumstances. Students who are forthright and come forward about any violations not involving a legal citation could receive a lesser penalty.

CONSEQUENCES OF TRAINING RULE VIOLATIONS (ALCOHOL/E-CIGS/CBD/TOBACCO)

First Offense: Suspension for 20% of the current/next season the student participates in, or two games, whichever constitutes more (written parental permission required for continued participation).

Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current/next season the student participates in (written parental permission required for continued participation). Referral to a guidance counselor for information and advice on substance abuse is required for further participation.

Third Offense: Suspension for one calendar year from date of suspension (written parental permission required for continued participation).

Fourth Offense: Expulsion from athletics at BHS.

CONSEQUENCES OF TRAINING RULE VIOLATIONS (ILLCIT DRUG USE/POSSESSION)

First Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current/next season the student participates in (written parental permission required for continued participation).

Second Offense: Suspension for one full calendar year (written parental permission required for continued participation). Referral to a guidance counselor for information and advice on substance abuse is required for further participation.

Third Offense: Expulsion from all athletic teams at BHS.

*An athlete who violates multiple rules may be subject to steeper consequences held at the discretion of the athletic director.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

MHSAA rules apply for all Bridgman sports, including cheerleading.

A student should realize that these guidelines apply at all times throughout the student's school career; including off-season and all vacation periods. The guidelines are not limited to the time period in which the student participates in a particular sport, nor are the guidelines limited to student behavior at school-sponsored sports or on school property. A student who violates these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the penalty provisions. In addition, a student participant and his/her parent or guardian must sign and return their profile sheet to the school office, which acknowledges the student and his/her parent or guardian understands these guidelines.

All penalties for violation of this code of conduct shall be cumulative beginning with the student enrollment at the school they attend in the Bridgman Schools, whether or not the student becomes part of a sports team, or participates, or is eligible for participation. For purposes of this policy, a student is considered to be in high school following the first day of practice of fall sports. Parents or guardians will be notified in all cases of violations of these guidelines.

No penalties will run concurrently. For example, if the second offense occurs during the first penalty period, the second penalty will begin at the conclusion of the first penalty. No penalty will be served while a student is academically ineligible. The penalty will be served if/when they reinstate their academic eligibility.

Serious offenses may result in the second offense penalty being applied on the first offense at the discretion of the athletic director and building principal.

Penalties are based on the whole season, not just the games remaining in a season. Penalties will carry

over from one sport to another until completed (e.g. 20% eligibility loss due to first violation may equal 3 of 20 basketball games during one school year and 1 of 9 football games during the following school year).

When the percentages are figured, all numbers will be rounded up.

If a scheduled game is cancelled due to weather, it does not count towards the suspension.

If a student is subject to a suspension “for the remainder of the current/next season,” this will mean that if the season has not yet started, or is 50% or less completed, he/she will sit just for the rest of that season. If the season is over 50% complete, he/she will have to sit the remainder of the current season, and 50% of the next season.

The administration has the right to invoke any disciplinary measure necessary to insure the positive operation of the school and the department of interscholastic athletics.

REPORTING & RESOLVING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Use or possession shall be determined by assessment of objective evidence such as a police report or similar evidence deemed by the athletic director to be both credible and relevant. Anonymous reports of any nature will not be deemed credible or relevant. Alleged violations are to be reported to the building principal or athletic director.

Appropriate procedural due process as determined by the athletic director will be followed throughout the investigation and disciplinary process. The athletic director will promptly notify a student of allegations being investigated and will determine whether a violation has occurred. The athletic director shall notify, in writing, the parents or guardian of the alleged violation and action taken or recommended by the athletic director, if any.

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

All suspensions are at the discretion of the athletic director after consultation with the coach.

Student-athletes serving an ISS will be allowed to participate in practice, but may be suspended from athletic contest(s) depending on the time spent in ISS.

In the case of all athletic suspensions, the athlete may practice with the team and attend all contests (not in uniform) as long as the coach still wants the athlete as a member of the team. If the athlete is suspended for a full season, the athlete will need to get special permission from the coach and the athletic director to be part of the team in a specified role. An athlete who has been suspended for one full year is not to be part of any athletic team in any role.

ADDITIONAL RULES PER SPORT

The coach of any sport’s team may add additional rules, relative to participation in that sport. These rules will be available in written form and ‘acknowledgment sheet’ will be signed by the athlete, parent and head coach. The ‘sheet’ will signify that all parties understand and will abide by these additional participation rules.

ENFORCEMENT

Relative to enforcement of the aforementioned rules, the following definitions shall apply:

- School year shall refer to the date the first official practice can begin for fall sports until the

last contest has been completed for spring sports.

- When a student goes out for the first time and begins official practice, that student is regarded as a student-athlete. Student-athletes are subject to the provisions of the athletic handbook for the remainder of their high school career.
- Season shall refer to the date the first official practice can begin until the last contest has been completed for all levels of a particular sport.
- Suspension – Athlete remains on the team to practice but may not participate in interscholastic contests, including scrimmages.
- Expulsion – Athlete is removed from the team and may not participate in any manner.
- Felony (Charged) – For the purposes of this handbook, the student-athlete is considered “charged” with a felony once they have been arraigned.

The high school principal, in consultation with the athletic director, shall make appropriate judgmental determinations as necessary related to the Athletic Code of Conduct.