



Athletic and Co-curricular Code of Conduct

Participation in athletic and co-curricular programs in Bloomfield Hills Schools is considered an honor and a privilege that entails a commitment by students to an individual school, the District and the community. This Code is in effect year round (12 months), and participants are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, including functions that occur outside of school.

The Bloomfield Hills Schools Athletic and Co-curricular Code of Conduct has been developed and implemented to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in athletics and co-curriculars. The Athletic and Co-curricular Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that apply within every program; however, the code is not intended to be all-inclusive. If an infraction occurs that is not included in the code, the coach or advisor has the authority to determine the consequence.

All Bloomfield Hills students are governed by the Uniform Code of Student Conduct. In addition, student-athletes are further governed by the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), National Federation, league rules and specific team rules. Some commonly used MHSAA regulations are listed below. **This list is a partial list and not intended to cover all MHSAA regulations.**

MHSAA Requirements for Athletes:

A. Enrollment - To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled in a high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or the fourth Friday of February (second semester). The student must reside in the school service area in which he/she attends school unless he/she has received prior District and MHSAA approval to compete in a different school.

B. Age - A student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

C. Physical examination/Parent approval - No student shall be eligible to represent a high school for whom there is not on file in the offices of the principal or athletic director of that school, a statement for the current school year certifying that the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices, and contests. The physical examination must take place April 15 or later to be used for the current school year. The student SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE in any practice sessions or contests until the completed form has been submitted to the building athletic coordinator or trainer.

D. Seasons of competition/Semesters of enrollment - A student, once enrolled in grade 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first semesters and four second semesters. A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive.

E. Awards - A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$25. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed.

F. Maintaining amateur status - Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs, meaning those student-athletes who have not received gifts of material or money and have not received other valuable considerations, including special considerations for loans, because of athletic performance or potential. Treatment of or privileges received by athletes or their families that are not provided or available to all students violate the principles of amateurism in interscholastic athletics. Gifts or loans to family members, based on the student's athletic performance or potential, are treated as gifts or loans to the student and violate that student's amateur status.

G. Limited team membership - A student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) days of competition and a maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year (unless otherwise specified in the MHSAA Handbook).

H. Transfers - A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage for 1 full semester in the school to which the student transfers (unless the student qualifies under one or more of the exceptions listed in the MHSAA Handbook).

Bloomfield Hills District Requirements for Athletic and Co-curricular Participation:

A. Academic eligibility - To be academically eligible to participate, a student shall have successfully passed 6 out of 7 classes the previous semester, of which at least four classes must be a grade of C- or better (a "G" is a passing grade but not equal to a "C-"). If the student is ineligible based on the previous semester final grades, the student will be ineligible for participation for **the complete following semester**.

In addition, for a student to maintain academic eligibility during a semester he/she must successfully be passing at least six classes with a grade of C- or better in at least four of the classes. Academic eligibility will be checked each marking period (including progress reports). If the student is not meeting the standard, the student will be ineligible for competition/participation until the standard is met, a period of not less than one calendar week. The athletic coordinator, coach, or sponsor reserves the right to review a student's grades throughout the semester. If a student is found to be at risk of failing, the athletic coordinator, coach, or sponsor may impose restrictions/interventions to ensure academic success. Deficiencies, including incompletes and failures from a previous semester, may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated when the school accepts the credit.

B. Student attendance at school during the day of competition - Students are to attend all scheduled classes during the school day if they plan to participate in athletics or co-curriculars during the same day or evening. Exceptions must be approved by a building administrator.

C. Attendance at practice sessions or competitions - Attendance at practice sessions is necessary to prepare students physically and mentally for competitions. Team members shall be at **all practice sessions and scheduled competitions**. There are situations when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury, religious classes or days of recognized religious observances. The participant shall make **prior arrangements** with the coach or sponsor for an excused absence.

Required practices will not be held from the day following the close of school for Winter Recess (December) until the first school day after New Years; Mid-Winter Recess (February) for all teams with the exception of those teams who have scheduled contests during this time period; and Spring Recess (April) from Friday through the following week when school begins on Monday. Students not attending practices or scheduled competitions outside of these dates for reason of **personal vacation or personal business** will be considered unexcused.

Students wishing to participate in more than one sport or co-curricular program, within the same season, must make prior arrangements with the appropriate program sponsors and/or coaches and/or building athletic coordinator to resolve any potential participation conflicts.

D. Summer and off-season programs - A wide variety of sports, clinics, and training programs are offered to students during the summer months and off-season by colleges, organizations, or individual coaches. Since these programs are held in the summer and off season and are **voluntary**, in no way shall a student be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on the athletic team for the succeeding school year or sport season.

Conduct Expectations

The health and safety of our students is of primary importance. Enforcement of this section will take place

year-round and shall include violations of this Code that occur outside of regular school functions.

A. **Substance use** - Students participating in athletic and co-curricular programs are prohibited from the use, possession, or transmittal of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any drug substance not prescribed to the student by a doctor.

B. **Conduct** - Students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of conduct at all times. All students participating in athletic and co-curricular programs are to display personal control under practice, competition, and spectator conditions toward their teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, sponsors and other spectators. Failure to follow the BHS Uniform Code of Student Conduct will result in disciplinary action as specified below.

Conduct Consequences

Sanctions for violating the Athletic and Co-Curricular Code of Conduct are set forth below. In the event that the Code or other school policies do not cover unanticipated situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by district or building administration to warrant the enforcement of a single violation as if it were a second or third violation. The district athletic director or a building administrator and/or his/her designee may suspend or exclude a student from participation in a program.

A. **First offense** - After confirmation of a violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate for 20% of the regular season competitions. If less than 20% of the regular season remains, the suspension will carry over to any post season competitions. If the student is unable to complete the suspension within the current season, the suspension will be prorated into the next season in which the student participates and completes the season in good standing, even though it may carry over into the next school year.

B. **Second offense** - After confirmation of a second violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in 50% of the regular season competitions. If less than 50% of the regular season remains, the suspension will carry over to any post-season competitions. If the student is unable to complete the suspension within the current season, the suspension will be prorated into the next season in which the student participates and completes the season in good standing, even though it may carry over into the next school year.

C. **Third offense** - After confirmation of a third violation, the student will be dismissed from participating on all athletic and co-curricular teams for the next twelve months.

Appeal Procedure

Appeals of any section of this Code must be in writing and initiated by a student or their parent/guardian. Appeals must first be directed to the district Athletic Director for athletic violations or a building principal for co-curricular violations.

1. A request for an appeal shall be made in writing within three (3) days of the assignment of the consequence. Written appeals must include rationale for appeal.

2. The student and/or the student's parents/guardians and affected teachers, sponsors, or coaches have a right to be present at all appeals hearings and must be notified in advance of the time and place. Both the student and the administration have a right to present witnesses at all appeals.

3. Based on review of the appeal, the District Athletic Director (for athletics) or building principal (for co-curricular) will adjust, revoke, or sustain the action.

4. The student is not eligible to participate in competition or activity during the appeal process.

5. In cases where action was taken directly by the district Athletic Director and/or building principal and/or cases where dissatisfaction exists with the results of the appeal hearing, a secondary appeal may be made, within three (3) days of the conclusion of the first appeal, in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services. The

secondary appeal must be held within three (3) days of receipt of the appeal. This is the final level of appeals.

6. The student and/or parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the secondary appeal within 24 hours. This decision is final.

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