



*BRANDYWINE
SCHOOL DISTRICT*

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2022-2023

HANDBOOK

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ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The **Interscholastic Athletic Programs** in the Brandywine School District are viewed as an integral part of the educational process. The development of well-rounded athletes is a challenging and often serious commitment. Every practice session and competition is a teaching/learning opportunity.

Athletics is a vehicle that can promote adolescent development:

- athletics foster student development by promoting mental and physical growth by building confidence and self-image
- athletics teach students to manage time, school, sports, and social events
- athletics show students the reality of life through disappointments and accomplishments
- athletics help to develop confidence in students and teaches them the values of team work
- athletics develop strong healthy habits to enable their bodies to perform the necessary skills for their sport
- athletics instill a sense of responsibility for their actions and a commitment of being counted on when needed

The Brandywine School District desires to promote student-athletes mental, physical, emotional, and social development through well supervised sports as a component of the overall educational program of the District. The athletic program shall be operated in a manner which encourages students to participate, treats students with respect, and provides all team participants with fair opportunity to compete.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

The Brandywine School District follows all eligibility guidelines according to the D.I.A.A.

www.doe.k12.de.us

***All student athletes must be officially registered, enrolled, and attending the school they wish to participate at in order to be eligible to participate in any sport or club activity in the Brandywine School District.**

TRAINING RULES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

The Brandywine School District believes that athletics are an integral part of the educational program. The District's objective is to fairly and consistently administer the rules and regulations for team membership in all secondary schools as they pertain to illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. These consequences would apply under the cancellation of privileges listed under the student code of conduct for the following offenses, these rules shall apply to a student athlete during the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association sports year, regardless of the location or time of day of student involvement. If the forty-five-day penalty is not completed during the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association sports year, it must be completed with the start of the Fall sports season. The following criteria and procedures have been developed to implement this philosophy:

Possession or Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or any Vape

- The first offense penalty for possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or vapes shall be counseling, probation, and suspension from contests for 21 calendar days.
- The second offense penalty shall be disqualification from all forms of athletic participation for 45 calendar days or season qualification, whichever is greater.

Transfer of Alcohol

1. The penalty for each offense for an athlete who distributes alcohol for consumption shall be disqualification from all forms of athletic participation for 180 calendar days.

Possession or Use of Illegal Drugs

1. The first offense penalty for possession or use of illegal drugs shall be disqualification from all forms of athletic participation for 45 calendar days or season disqualification, whichever is greater.
2. The second offense penalty for possession or use of illegal drugs shall be disqualification from all forms of athletic participation for 180 calendar days.

Transfer of Illegal Drugs

1. The first offense penalty for an athlete who possesses illegal drugs for distribution shall be disqualification from all forms of athletic participation for one calendar year (365 days).
2. The second offense penalty for anyone who possesses illegal drugs for distribution shall be permanent disqualification from all forms of athletic participation.

Note: Any penalty for violation of these training rules shall be imposed from the date upon which the Principal determines that a preponderance of the evidence supports the charge, even though such a determination may occur after the date of the offense. If such a determination is not made within 90 days of the alleged occurrence, the allegation shall be dropped.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

A Student may not participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest during the time a suspension, either in-school or out-of-school, is in effect or during the time he/she is assigned to an alternative school for disciplinary reasons.

A student who is legally absent from school due to illness or a personal family crisis determined by the Principal shall not be required to attend a practice or competition.

A student must be legally in attendance at school for half of the school day to participate in a practice, scrimmage or contest except when excused by proper school authorities or for the following reasons:

- weather causing impassable road conditions
- attendance at a funeral
- legal obligations in court or with a lawyer
- college visit

MEDICAL AND INSURANCE INFORMATION

Medical Information

1. Each athlete must have a current **DIAA physical examination form and a parent permission form** before beginning any sport. This is the Head Coach's responsibility to verify eligibility with the school nurse.
2. Major illness or injury will void any sports physical examination. The attending physician must clear the athlete in writing before they resume play in games or practice.
3. Any injury must be reported to the school nurse on a Brandywine School District **Accident Report** form as soon as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

1. The Brandywine School District shall provide transportation for all players, personnel, and coaches of athletic teams in authorized buses when the event has been scheduled away from the school site.
2. Student athletes should take the district transportation to events instead of driving an auto or transporting other members of an athletic squad to a contest.
3. In special circumstances, athletes may drive their own cars to a contest. They must have received prior approval from an administrator or AD. Any use of volunteer adults/parents to drive private autos provided the athletes being transported shall also be pre-approved. In all circumstances, students must have a signed Permission form from their parents on file approving the student driving or being transported.

BUS GUIDELINES

1. A first aid kit **must** accompany all athletic trips and contain the **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARDS** for each athlete and manager.
2. The coach will assume all responsibility for conduct and discipline on the bus in conjunction with the driver who is ultimately in charge.
3. Athletes who miss the bus and arrive at the contest later shall not be permitted to participate without administrative approval.
4. The coach is responsible to see that the bus is left in a clean condition.
5. All participants are always expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on activity trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies during any school athletic event.
6. Only assigned personnel may ride on school transportation. **NO** spectators or coaches' family members are permitted without prior administrative approval.
7. Coaches are to instruct their athletes **NOT TO WEAR SPIKES OR CLEATS** inside school transportation without the driver's permission.
8. The emergency door shall only be used in case of emergency or unless authorized by the driver.
9. The coach will check to be sure that students have everything off the bus upon return to school.
10. The coach shall see to it that the locker room of the host school is left in a clean, orderly condition with no damage. Report any incidents involving team members to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
11. The coach will be prepared to pay tolls as needed and will be reimbursed by the district.

TRIP CANCELLATION

When it is necessary to cancel a trip due to weather or road conditions, the decision will be made by Transportation, in consultation with the Principal and Athletic Director. All parties concerned should be notified immediately if the decision is made to cancel.

TRAVEL RELEASES

Under certain circumstances or exceptional situations where it creates an inconvenience to the family, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event on school authorized transportation. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is a part of a team in all phases of team activity.

1. Parents must make prior arrangements with the student's Coach in advance of the trip.
2. The athlete will be released to the parent(s) or designated adult by the coach.
3. Should a parent approach a coach at an away contest and request their son/daughter ride home with them, the coach shall agree, but inform them of District policy.
4. In **no** cases will an athlete be allowed to ride home with another student driver.

BLUE HEN CONFERENCE

BLUE HEN CONFERENCE GAME REGULATIONS

General Regulations

1. Each visiting school must send an administrator or designee who is responsible for students from that school. This person shall identify himself/herself to the home school's administrators on duty. This shall include football and boys basketball, or when admission is charged. If a school does not follow general regulations they should be reported to the Conference Secretary.
2. Home team shall provide a locker room or enclosed area with toilet facilities for use by the visiting team. **However, valuables are the responsibility of the visiting Head Coach.** Visiting team will leave areas in good order. Reasonable steps should be taken by the home team to secure their locker facilities for athletic contests.
3. Home team is responsible for keeping spectators at a safe and reasonable distance from the playing areas. However, the officials and/or the game manager have authority to stop a game to position any violators.
4. Home team is responsible for reporting the game results to the newspapers, radio stations, and Conference Vice President. One person from the other team shall be available after the game to supply any names needed for the report.
5. Home team shall admit representatives of other teams who are serving as scouts upon proper identification.
6. Games should not be postponed or cancelled unless at the discretion of the administration or AD:
 - Players health is in jeopardy because of playing or weather conditions
 - The field or facilities are not available
 - There is a significant safety or security concern
7. Postponed contests will be made up on the first mutually *available* play date, except that no school will be forced to play more than one contest beyond the number of games DIAA would permit to be regularly scheduled in a calendar week.
8. Fields, floors, or other playing facilities must be properly marked according to the National Federation rulebook for that sport.
9. Games will start promptly at the scheduled times as agreed upon by the conference or individual schools. Visiting team's late arrival could result in a modification or cancellation of the J.V. contest's playing time. This decision

will be rendered by the home team Athletic Director or Principal's designee. Any sport conducted on a weekday afternoon will begin at 3:30 p.m. Indoor night contests will begin at 5:00 p.m. for J.V., and Varsity will begin 15 minutes after the J.V. contest ends.

10. Scouting an opponent's practice or scrimmage is unethical and not allowed. Film exchange and/or scouting reports are at the discretion of the coaches.
11. The home team shall provide approved balls for the contest.
12. Players and coaches not affiliated with the game will not be admitted free to any game for which admission is charged.
13. District or School faculty members of the *participating* schools may be admitted free upon proper identification.
14. No derogatory signs mentioning the opposing school or team will be displayed. Every effort is to be made to eliminate derogatory remarks to or about opponents and officials. Cheerleaders conduct will be closely supervised by the advisor or attending administrator and they will encourage and ensure good sportsmanship.
15. Administrators will be responsible to see that overcrowding does not occur in gymnasiums and that, wherever possible, spectators are limited to the seats available.
16. Whistles, horns, radios, recorders, or any other noisemakers are prohibited at indoor contests. Pep bands will be ruled as noisemakers.
17. Administrators are responsible for police protection by city, county, local and/or state at varsity boy's basketball and football contests.
18. Action must be taken to control unruly spectators by removing them from the contest. Appropriate legal action is encouraged.
19. Extreme caution is to be practiced in preventing attendance at games by spectators who are or have been drinking.
20. Property damage is intolerable and needs to be rigidly controlled. Restitution is to be made to the host school by persons responsible when responsibility can be established.
21. Any coach who is ejected for the second time during the regular season will be dealt with according to DIAA policy.
22. Maximum of **three** scrimmages play dates for each team. Scrimmages are permitted any time during a sports season. Scheduled scrimmages do not take precedence over the next available date rule.

23. The team forfeiting a contest without enough notice or time to notify all personnel, will assume all expenses incurred. Schools finding it necessary to cancel a sport after the start of pre-season practices, will forfeit all contests. Opponents may elect to accept the forfeit or schedule another opponent, thereby, declining forfeiture. Any extenuating circumstances can be petitioned to the Conference.
24. If any school schedules additional games with a Conference school, the originally scheduled game or games shall be official for the Conference standings.
25. The Conference will follow game rules in all sports as approved by DIAA.
26. Bus drivers transporting teams, cheerleaders, or bands shall be admitted without charge to any contest where admission is charged upon submission of proper identification.
27. When, for some reason, an official or officials do not show up for an athletic event, the official or officials at the game site will determine whether the contest can be played safely and officiated properly with the official or officials present.
28. No senior will be permitted to play in any J.V. contest.
29. All Blue Hen Conference Tournament and play-off personnel are to be paid.

BLUE HEN CONFERENCE

OFFICIAL GROUPS

1. Officials approved by DIAA shall be used.
2. Officials are to be given private quarters, if available, and no one is to enter the room except for administrative functioning of the school.
3. An official shall approach the administrator or representative in charge of the game for help before he expels any spectator from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. The Principal of any school in the Conference, at any time during the season, has the right to call the Assignor to make a change of any official from any subsequent game in which that team is involved.
5. All schools will have the opportunity to red-line an official following each of the three sports seasons.
6. Reasons for the red-line must be justified and all listings submitted to the Conference must show the signature of the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach.
7. It is not recommended that an official be red-lined for consecutive years; however, action of this nature will be accepted upon approval of the Blue Hen Conference Red-line Committee. A full explanation of this type must accompany the red-line listing. Any official red-lined will not work the home or away contests.
8. The Blue Hen Conference reserves the right to bar any official from games involving a Conference school.
9. Coaches of all sports wanting officials for scrimmages must make the necessary arrangements in advance.