

BUCKEYE VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

The athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.

Athletic Objectives

The student shall learn teamwork, self-discipline, respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Students must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BUCKEYE VALLEY STUDENT ATHLETE

Being a member of a Buckeye Valley athletic team carries a certain set of responsibilities.

- **Tradition/ Reputation** Student athletes have inherited a tradition to win with honor and are challenged to uphold it. Student athletes represent their school as well as themselves when wearing Brown and Gold. Compete to the best of ability.
- **Character** Broaden yourself and develop strength of character. Gain the greatest possible good from school experiences in preparing for adult life.
- **Leadership** Student athletes are under a spotlight. Communities judge our school by our conduct and attitudes, on and off the field. This is a way to contribute to school spirit and community pride.
- **Home / Community** Student athletes represent their families. Do not do anything that would make your parents ashamed. Set good examples for younger athletes.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The OHSAA, MSL, and athletic department believe in basic sportsmanship principles. Students should:

- Believe participation is more important than winning.
- Participate to their best ability with honor.
- Display respect for athletic opponents and their schools.
- Display respect for officials.
- Respect the rules and conform to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- Strive to maintain self-control.
- Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

Responsibilities of Parents (Spectators)

- Demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- Exercise self-control. Never argue or make gestures.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- Practice positive cheers and encourage our own team without demeaning the opponent.
- Never attempt to distract opposing players or interfere with performance.

Examples of Inappropriate Behavior (not limited to)

- Use of profanity.
- Berating officials, players, coaches, or spectators including signs, chants or cheers.
- Inciting other spectators or players to inappropriate behavior.
- Theft / Damage / Destruction of school property.

- Interruption of contest including throwing objects on the playing area, entering the playing area, or other disruptive behavior.

Possible Consequences

- Conference/hearing with school officials.
- Possible suspension/termination as participant or coach.
- Removal from contest/premises.
- Restitution.

Ejection of Coaches or Participants from Athletic Contests

By adoption of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, any coach or participant ejected from a contest, shall be suspended from participation for the remainder of that day as well as the next two contests (one in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season then the suspension will carry over into the next sport in which the offender participates. In accordance with OHSAA bylaw 12 and 8.3.1, further, more progressive consequences will be administered for further violations. This can include permanent suspension or termination.

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to display proper behavior at all times. This includes the classroom (academics come first), on and off the playing field. There are consequences for students who display inappropriate behavior. Consequences will be progressive as poor behavior continues. The policies governing the Athletic/Activities Code of Conduct are in effect during the school year. This begins with student's fall activities or the first day of school whichever comes first. This ends with the student's last day of school or upon the completion of the student's spring activities whichever comes last. The following matrix shows the progression.

Behavior	Consequence
School Discipline Referral (Any referral to office for a school rule violation)	May be denied privilege of participation. To be determined by either the coach/advisor or AD.
Truancy	One week suspension after infraction is discovered
On the Field	Any penalty imposed by official Any penalty imposed by coach/advisor in Conjunction with team rules
Off the Field (On Field on addressed above) (More serious violations including but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect not addressed by the official, immorality, other violations of the law, bench rule, fights, and acts that tarnish the reputation of the school or athletic programs)	Coach/Advisor and Athletic Director shall determine penalty. It shall range from a minimum of 10% suspension of season or succeeding season to a maximum of permanent denial of participation

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Buckeye Valley community is concerned with the health habits of student athletes. It is convinced that athletics and the use of tobacco, alcohol or any illegal drug are not compatible. Students are prohibited from the use or possession of these products year round on and off the field.

Definitions

Core Team The Core Team shall meet as needed for the purpose of intervention and to assist students with directives to help them in regaining full participation status.

As part of the intervention program, the Core Team will plan and implement meetings with students as needed (generally once a month). These meetings shall be designed to meet the needs of the students in attendance. The meetings are to inform, counsel, educate and make students aware of organizations and services that may be available to them. Student athletes who miss required meetings/intervention will be suspended until the meeting is made up.

The Core Team shall consist of:

- Assistant Principal
- Athletic Director
- High School Counselor
- One Male Faculty Member
- One Female Faculty Member

Intervention Any student found guilty, to the satisfaction of the head coach or administration, of a violation must enter an intervention program approved or designed by the Core Team. If a student athlete refuses to enter an intervention program, the student will be denied participation in athletics for 30 days or the remainder of the sports program, whichever is longest. If this overlaps the beginning of mandatory workouts for the next season, the athlete will not be allowed to try out before or after the 30 denied participation.

Denied Participation This is different from an athletic suspension in that students cannot:

- practice
- attend any team activities
- receive any athletic awards which may have been earned during that season

A hearing will precede this denial of participation. The athlete, coach, athletic director, and any witness deemed necessary by the athletic director will attend the hearing.

The athletic director will notify the parents/guardians of the student athlete. The parents may ask for an appeal hearing with the principal within three days of the denial of the right to participate. The appeal hearing will be held as soon as possible after the request. The principal's decision will be final.

Athletic Suspension During an athletic suspension students must attend all practices and team meetings. Students will not participate in game night activities. They cannot wear team apparel nor participate. They should, however, be in attendance.

All athletic suspensions carry over from one activity/sport to the next. The student will serve a suspension for end-of-a-season infractions in the next activity in which the student participates.

Policy Intent The policy will govern extra and co-curricular off school grounds and non-school functions. The intent is to provide assistance and opportunities for any student who has an admitted or potential problem with tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. Assistance will be through educational meetings, counseling, team/activity and coach/teacher involvement. Opportunity to regain the privileges of participation in school activities will be determined by the Core Team.

Violation A violation is the act of using or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.

Referral A referral is the suspicion of using or possessing tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs. A student may refer himself for help. Any student who does not refer himself prior to being confronted by administration will be considered a violation.

Please refer to appendix A for consequences.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Eligibility to participate begins when all the following items have been completed:

- Athletic responsibility acknowledgment and pledge form on file, signed by parents and athletes.
- Physical examination completed and cards on file in the athletic office.
- Uniform and any other fees paid.
- Emergency Medical Form.
- All academic eligibility requirements have been satisfied.
- Attend a rules meeting accompanied by parents/guardians prior to the start of the school year. Required for first year athletes, but open to all athletes.
- Written acknowledgment of insurance responsibilities.

Scholastic Eligibility Requirements

All students are required to meet eligibility standards in order to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Ohio High School Athletic Association Standards

A student must receive passing grades in 5 credits during the preceding grading period. Incoming freshmen must pass 75% of the previous grading period. Summer school classes do not count.

When Dropping and/or adding a class it is the ultimate responsibility of the student and parent to review all requirements for extracurricular eligibility, class rank, and fulfilling the requirement for graduation. The parent and students are encouraged to check with a counselor, coach, or athletic director prior to submitting a Drop/Add Request.

Buckeye Valley High School Standards

The minimum 9 week GPA for athletes is 2.0.

The athletic director will notify students. The student's parent/guardian may request an appeal of the suspension. There will be 1 appeal per school year. The eligibility committee will hear the appeal. The committee will consist of the AD and 2 classroom teachers. Appeals may be granted or denied and are based on individual circumstances. The principal will hear appeals from the committee.

Students must show improvement over the probationary period. If there are two unsatisfactory grade checks then students will be ineligible for the rest of the 9 weeks.

Preseason- The athletic director cannot investigate eligibility until the coach provides a list of participants for each sport. It is the coach's responsibility to check the eligibility of each participant.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

If students have an IEP on file, at the time of declared ineligibility, their case shall automatically be reviewed. The principal, athletic director, the student's guidance counselor, and the student's special education teacher shall conduct the review. The review committee can waive the eligibility requirement if, in their opinion, the student has made every effort to meet the standard.

Other Requirements

Age Limitation

Students age 19 prior to August 1 shall be ineligible to participate in athletics. Students age 15 prior to August 1 shall be eligible to participate in high school athletics. School records shall be final in determining age.

Residence Requirements

Generally, an athlete's parents or legal guardian must live in the school district. One exception is open enrollment. Questions on residence requirements should be referred to the AD or principal.

Transfers

Transfers from other schools (public or private) without change in residence shall make the student ineligible for one year. A student may be ruled eligible by the commissioner of OHSAA if legally released by formal action of the former school's board of education.

Attendance

An athlete must attend school at least half of the day to be eligible to participate in a contest or practice that day. The principal or AD may make exceptions prior to the athlete missing school. An athlete missing school on Friday or any day prior to a vacation day is still eligible on the following day.

A student athlete on out-of-school suspension cannot play or practice during the suspension. In-school suspension and Saturday school students may participate except during the Saturday school hours.

Curfew

Coaches may set curfew times for their individual sports. Students are expected to abide by the curfew hours set. Consequences may vary depending on the sport.

Dress Policy

The following dress policies will be adhered to by team members:

- Athletes shall dress appropriately at all times.
- Only uniforms issued by the athletic department will be worn at contests.
- Uniform shirttails will be tucked in at all times.

Individual Sport Rule

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the coaches. Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Dropping or Transferring Sports

Athletes who quit teams may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. If there is good reason to quit a sport, then students should:

- Talk to the immediate school coach and then the head coach.
- Report your situation to the athletic director.

- Check in all equipment issued.

Athletes wishing to change sports during a season must:

- Receive approval of both coaches (Cannot recruit from other teams)
- Receive approval of the athletic director

Failure to follow this procedure can result in loss of all athletic privileges.

Financial Obligations and Equipment

Uniforms

In several sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform. Any item purchased will become the student's property.

Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to financial penalty.

- All equipment issued to players will be worn only at practice or scheduled events involving that specific sport. The coach must approve exceptions.
- Before any item is attached, added to, removed from or worn with a uniform, the athlete must secure permission from the coach.
- Athletes are responsible for all issued equipment. It must be kept clean and in good condition. Buckeye Valley is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Students should use locks on lockers.
- All athletic equipment is the property of the Board of Education and the athletic department. School equipment may not be taken from the school building for personal use or other organizations. The athletic director must approve exceptions.
- All equipment issued to athletes must be returned at the end of the season. Missing or damaged equipment must be reimbursed at replacement cost within one week of the last contest. An athlete will be denied the right to participate in athletics until equipment is accounted for.
- Under certain circumstances, equipment can be sold to athletes at the end of a season. The head coach and athletic director will control the sale. Price will be set by the athletic director and will be the replacement cost of the item. Money will be collected prior to disbursement of equipment.

Lockers

- Coaches assign lockers for the specific sport season only.
- Coaches will give verbal notice to athletes to remove all articles from their locker at the end of the sport season.
- After 1 week, the coach will give written notice to athletes that locks will be removed in 1 week.
- After 2 weeks, the coach, under supervision of the athletic director, will remove the lock and contents of the locker.
- The contents will be put in a bag and held for 1 week. After this, contents will be given to charity.

Missing Practices

An Athlete should consult his coach **before** missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely.

Vacations Policy

Vacations by athletes during a season are extremely discouraged. Parents and athletes wishing to do so may wish to reassess their commitment to athletics. When an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- Be accompanied by his parents or guardians while on vacation.
- Contact the head coach **prior** to the vacation.
- Practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition. Contest day will count as a practice day.
- Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc.

Transportation

- Classroom time missed will be kept to a minimum. All coaches and players will be excused at a specific time to travel to away contests. No team will be excused from class for any other reason unless approved by the principal.
- Team members must travel to and from an event on the bus when provided. The only exception will be if the student gives the coach a completed transportation release form signed by the parent and principal. This must be completed a minimum of 24 hours prior to an event.
- Athletes are responsible to see that the bus is clean after returning from an event.
- Athletes on any trip are under school jurisdiction from the time they enter school property until they leave school property after returning from the trip or until released to their parents. Athletes on a team staying overnight are considered under school jurisdiction until returning to school and are liable for any rule violation during that time.
- Occasionally a team is asked to travel by car to an away contest or practice site. At an away contest all vehicles are to go in caravans under the direction of the coach. Students are under school jurisdiction until all vehicles return to the point of origin. After a practice or home contest students are released from school jurisdiction when leaving the site.
- When no bus is provided to an event, the Board of Education will reimburse drivers at the current mileage rate. Coaches will also be reimbursed by the board for mileage to the rules interpretation meeting, tournament drawings, MSL selection meetings and any other function necessary to fulfill one's supplemental contract and approved by the athletic director.

College Recruitment Policy

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he has an obligation to work through his coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the guidance office.

Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will be in a position of conflicting obligations.

The athletic department recognized that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities. The department will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict, including belonging to too many activities. Students should notify faculty sponsors involved immediately when

conflicts arise. Sponsors will meet to work out solutions. If there is not a solution then the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- The relative importance of each event.
- The relative contribution the student can make.
- How long each event has been scheduled.
- Talk with parents/guardians.

Parental Permission and Physical Examination

Athletic participation forms for all participants shall be signed by a physician, the participant, and the parent. This must be on file in the athletic director's office before athletes may practice each year.

Risk of Participation

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability, or death as a result of athletic participation. The school district will use the following safeguards:

- Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to learn the most up to date techniques and skills in their sport.
- Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in specific sports.

Parental Acknowledgment of Athletic Policies

Upon entering high school, or when trying out for a team, athletes will be presented with this handbook. Coaches will present all forms presented in this book. Each parent shall read all the enclosed material and certify that they understand the eligibility rules and policies. This signed document will be filed in the athletic department.

Insurance

Athletes must have accident insurance, either school insurance or a parental policy. An insurance waiver form indicating adequate insurance must be completed and on file prior to participation.

The OHSAA has lifetime catastrophic insurance which covers athletes involved in sponsored events.

AWARDS

Athletic Letter

An athlete earns a "BV" letter by athletic ability. It is not to be unattainable so that only outstanding athletes earn it. The coach will determine who receives a letter with the following guidelines:

- The coach will provide written criteria to participants and parents prior to the first contest. The AD is to approve it.
- Seniors who have played all four years will receive a letter.
- Coaches can award injured athletes a letter if he feels the athlete would have lettered. The athlete must remain part of the team. The athlete must attend all practices/games if medically possible.
- Coaches may award varsity managers a letter.
- Coaches may award statisticians a letter if they worked for three years.
- For lettering and point awards, fall and winter cheerleading will be considered separate sports.

Wearing of Awards

Awards should be worn or displayed with dignity and class. Athletes are to behave appropriately while wearing awards. Any action that detracts from a positive image will result in denial of awards for any future participation.

Awards System

Season Awards

Each Participant – certificate

Freshman – Numerals,

Junior Varsity – certificate

First Varsity Letter – Chenille BV

First Letter in Each Sport – metal insert

Second, Third, and Fourth Letter in Same Sport – Service bar

Captain of Varsity Team – Captain pin

Statistician – Stat Pin

Each sport is allowed, but not required, to give a Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, and Baron Award. Coaches may specialize these awards pending approval of the athletic director. An example is Most Valuable Runner. The coach will determine the selection process. These awards will be given at the sport banquets. Any coach wishing to give more than these three awards must pick up the expense and have it approved by the athletic director.

Any student who manages satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport.

Baron Contributor

Sports may wish to give a baron contributor award to a person who has helped during the season. An example is a person who has run chains for every game the last 15 years.

Championship Award

All members of a varsity team that wins a league, district, regional or state championship will receive a chenille emblem of that sport indicating the championship. Conference runner-up in sports that do not participate in divisional play (i.e. track, cross country, wrestling) also will receive an emblem.

Senior Scholar Athlete Award

The senior player with the highest cumulative grade point average in each sport will receive an award. The average will be determined through the third nine weeks grading period and must be a minimum of 3.0. It will be given at the May academic banquet.

Honeter Trophy

This award was named after one of our early board of education members, Lyle Honeter. He provided outstanding support to the athletic program. The teaching staff rates the nominees (3.2 GPA and higher) in six areas: Athletic Ability, Competitive Spirit, Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Leadership, and Scholarship. A plaque is awarded to a senior female athlete and her name is added to the trophy.

Hardin Trophy

This award was named after one of our early board of education members, Ralph Hardin. He provided outstanding support to the athletic program. The teaching staff rates the nominees (3.2 GPA and higher) in six areas: Athletic Ability, Competitive Spirit, Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Leadership, and Scholarship. A plaque is awarded to a senior male athlete and his name is added to the trophy.

CHEERLEADERS

There are varsity, reserve, and freshman teams (determined by athletic director) for fall and winter sports. Each team consists of students selected in a "try-out" on the basis of scholarship, citizenship, voice, and physical ability to perform routines.

Cheerleaders are considered athletes and therefore, are required to adhere to all rules and regulations of the athletic department.

CONSEQUENCES

	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Violation			
Student denies involvement	Athletic Suspension 20% of season Intervention or 30 day denial of participation Any other directives of Core Team and Administration	Denied Participation 12 Calendar Months All Core team/Administration Directives prior to participation.	Denied Participatio Meeting with parent to discuss available assistance.
Student admits involvement	Athletic Suspension 10% of season Intervention or 30 day denial of participation Any other directives of Core Team and Administration	Denied Participation 12 Calendar Months All Core team/Administration Directives prior to participation.	Denied Participatio Meeting with parent to discuss available assistance.
Referral			
Student denies involvement	No Suspension Core Team/Administration Make suggestions	No Suspension Core Team/Administration Make suggestions	No Suspension Core Team/Adminis
Student admits involvement	No Suspension Complete any directive of Core Team and Administration	No Suspension Core Team/Administration Make suggestions	No Suspension Core Team/Adminis

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ABBREVIATIONS THROUGHOUT HANDBOOK

- OHSAA = Ohio High School Athletic Association
- MSL= Mid-state League
- AD = Athletic Director
- BV or BVHS = Buckeye Valley High School (Local Schools)

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