



# Athletic Handbook

## **2430.03 - ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic philosophy of the Bryan City Schools is to marshal all available resources toward the optimum development of students according to their capacity for development. The learning experience offered by a public school should be of adequate breadth to satisfy, to the greatest extent possible, the mental, social, emotional and physical goals and needs of all youth who attend.

A primary goal of the Bryan City Schools is to provide experiences to assist all students to realize their full potential in life, to recognize their duties as a citizen of the school, the community, and the nation, and to understand the rights of others. Toward this end, opportunity for students to participate in a structured, wholesome, amateur athletic program is offered as an integral part of the Bryan City Schools' educational program.

### **School Philosophy**

We believe that education in the schools should help each individual discover himself/herself as a person, to develop a positive self-image and to develop legitimate grounds for self-respect.

We believe that each child is a unique individual, that s/he has unique skills, talents and hopes. Therefore, the purpose of education in the schools shall be to provide the environment and the support which will encourage each child to develop to his/her full potential and to gain those skills which are necessary for him/her to function effectively in society.

We believe that a positive learning environment can exist only where there is a free and open exchange of ideas; this exchange must be predicated on a mutual respect and understanding between the learner and the teacher – a respect based on the dignity and worth of each individual.

We believe that the education of youth grows out of an interaction of the school, the home, and the community. Education is a broad responsibility involving a variety of agencies and people. The educational process should provide each student with the opportunity for success, personal growth, and accomplishment.

We believe that schools must be part of life as well as preparation for life. Therefore, education should be an integration of the academic and "real" world experiences of the learner. It is only through interaction with adults, other students, community institutions, and real life work situations that the learner makes a personal assimilation of academic data. Students should become involved in those institutions which are a part of their lives and have the opportunity to explore the resources of the larger community as an integral part of the school curriculum.

The Board, within legal and economical constraints, recognizes its obligations to provide these experiences. It is clearly recognized that the primary goal of the Bryan City School District is academic excellence.

## GOALS

### A. CREATE A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ATHLETICS BY PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

1. Receive the benefits and appreciate the value of physical activity and the increased fitness which results.
2. Learn skills which can contribute to one's use and enjoyment of leisure time.
3. Enhance the individual's self-respect and self-esteem as well as to promote the development of self-control.
4. Understand others through team participation.
5. Express creative and competitive behavior.
6. Learn the value of sportsmanship and fair play.
7. Learn to cope with the feelings of elation and anguish, acceptance and rejection, and competency and inadequacy.
8. Learn self-discipline under adverse circumstances.
9. Become efficient manager of one's time.
10. Develop a sense of responsibility to self and others in a team situation.
11. Participate in a program which aims to increase schools, parent and community spirit and pride.
12. Benefit from the lessons learned when experiencing both victory and defeat.

- B. INCLUDE AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE IN THE VARIOUS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS BY:
1. The active recruitment of non-participating students to become involved in any or all phases of the athletic program by coaches, teachers, parents and/or community members.
  2. The inclusion of as many players as possible in a meaningful portion of each regular season game (meet, match, etc.) through the junior high level.
  3. The establishment of reserve teams when sufficient numbers dictate to accommodate participants who do not qualify for the inter-scholastic teams at the junior high level.
  4. The establishment of new athletic programs in other than NWOAL inter-scholastic sports when the need, facilities, and funding exist.
- C. In NWOAL interscholastic sports, strive for league championships at the varsity level. In non- league sports strive for a strong competitive level. In both cases competitive goals should not be skewed at the expense of other program objectives.

## COMPONENTS

A. COACHES COUNCIL:

The purpose of the athletic council is to discuss and analyze the condition of the total athletic program and make recommendations for new or amended policies and procedures to the athletic administration. Membership on the council will include all head coaches, athletic trainer, and the athletic administrator.

The council will meet an appropriate amount of times during the school year and if necessary, during the summer months. Attendance is considered important for all members. The council offers the most appropriate method of dealing with internal problems and changes. Any coach unable to attend must notify the Athletic Administrator prior to the meeting.

All coaches may approach the athletic administrator to have items included in the meeting agenda.

B. COACHES:

1. Continuity in coaching methods at all levels directed by the head varsity coach.
2. Coordination of programs both vertically and horizontally.
3. Coaches who are knowledgeable about their sport and coaching techniques as well as adept at the transmission of this knowledge.
4. Coaches who recognize and accept the different rate of physical and mental development of students and work with and teach accordingly.
5. Head varsity coaches who are responsible to the school and community to see that:
  - a. Opportunity is available for appropriate early exposure to athletics and for a progressive skill development program which is carried out for each sport.
  - b. Athletics are both enjoyable and challenging for the participants.
  - c. There is mutual respect and support between members of all athletic teams.
  - d. A spirit of cooperation exists throughout the Bryan City Schools' athletic program.

C. PARENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. Meaningful qualified parent or other adult involvement in support of the students' participation in athletics and in support of those individuals responsible for coaching.
2. A viable Booster Organization.

## COACH-ATHLETES

Our coaches should demand a great deal from our athletes. Only by doing so will our program lead to success. Athletes must be prepared to give and sacrifice in order to benefit from athletics. Coaches in turn will give a great deal to the athletes. A relationship where each party is called on to give of oneself must be founded on trust and respect. The following statements are most important:

- A. Coaches will notify athletes in writing **at the beginning of the season** of all rules, regulations, game and practice schedules, procedures for squad selection, and other information that will help avoid possible conflict during the season.
- B. Athletes will follow all such rules and procedures established by the coach, or face denial of participation.
- C. When concerned or confused about such rules and procedures, the athlete will approach the coach as soon as possible for clarification and explanation. Athletes **should not** bring complaints or queries to the attention of others before the coach is asked for clarification and explanation.
- D. The coach will respond to questions from athletes concerning such rules and procedures and explain when necessary the purpose and reasons behind the rules.

Use of the above strategies for open, honest communication will create the mutual trust and response necessary for the coach and athlete to work together for success.

## COACH-PARENT RELATIONSHIP

Coaches and parents must have an open and honest relationship because each is directly involved in the athletes who are the center of the athletic program. This relationship should be characterized by the following standards:

- A. Coaches will meet with the parents **at the beginning of the season** and explain all rules, procedures, game and practice schedules, and other information the parents will need in order to help their student/athlete meet his/her obligations to the team. (Parents who cannot meet with the coach should make alternate arrangements.)
- B. No athlete will be allowed to participate in any regular season contest until the parent's obligation in letter A above has been met.
- C. Coaches will explain such rules and other information to parents when they

need clarification. However, coaches will not meet with parents during a practice, a game, or other times when the coach has a duty of care for other students or athletes.

- D. Coaches should seek to be as cooperative as possible with parents when the parents have questions concerning the type of information referred to above. However, no coach should be subjected to questions and criticisms from parents concerning starting line-ups, play-calling, skill techniques, and other items that by their very nature can only be determined by the objective and/or subjective judgment of the head coach.

Open and honest communication between coach and parent that follows the principles above will lead to good relationships between parent, coach **and athlete.**

#### **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY GRADES 9 THROUGH 12**

- A. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have carried a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 1.85\*. Any athlete failing two (2) or more courses for the last grading period of eighth grade will automatically be ineligible for that first grading period.
- B. Any athlete failing two (2) or more courses for a grading period will automatically be ineligible for the next grading period. In addition, during the preceding grading period the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation, and carried a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 1.85\*.
- C. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, or until grades are posted, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. Exception: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.
- D. All other OHSAA rules apply for scholastic eligibility.
- E. An athlete that is ineligible is permitted to participate in practices or other team functions. S/He may not participate in any official OHSAA contests, games, matches, or scrimmages.

## **GRADES 7 AND 8**

- A. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.
- B. Any athlete failing two (2) or more courses for a grading period will automatically be ineligible for the next grading period. In addition, during the preceding grading period the student must have carried a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 1.85\*.
- C. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, or until grades are posted, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. Exception: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.
- D. All other OHSAA rules apply for scholastic eligibility.

## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

Athletes must attend school regularly to demonstrate the responsibility and dedication that are rewarded by the privilege of interscholastic competition. Regular attendance is also important in maintaining scholastic eligibility. Student must always remember that schoolwork comes before athletics, for high school sports would be impossible without high schools.

To demonstrate the importance of schoolwork relative to athletic competition, the following attendance rule applies to all Bryan athletes:

A student athlete must be in attendance the entire school day in order to participate in any game or practice after school or in the evening. A school-athlete must be in attendance the entire school day on Friday in order to participate in any game or practice after school that evening or any time on Saturday. The only exception to this is when the student is excused in advance by principal building administrator. A student denied participation because of the all day attendance provision may seek permission to attend said practices or games as a spectator only.



## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

While participating in athletics, the athlete is expected to follow all rules and regulations set forth in the student handbook and Athletic Handbook.

Any athlete receiving Friday School or Out of School Suspension may be denied the privilege to participate in practice(s) and interscholastic competition at the discretion of the Athletic Administrator or Head Coach.

## **ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The Bryan Board of Education and the Bryan Athletic Department feel one of the major objectives of interscholastic athletics is to aid the character formation of the student-athletes so they may become healthy and productive citizens later in life. All student-athletes have a serious responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and the school community to be physically prepared for competition and to serve as a positive representative of the Bryan City Schools.

Participation in athletic competition is not guaranteed by the laws of the State of Ohio and the policies of the Bryan Board of Education. It is a privilege given to students which may be revoked if the student does not abide by the rules established to meet the responsibility above.

- A. Due Process: Nothing in these rules and regulations may be construed so as to deny the student due process.
1. The head coach gives written notice to the Athletic Director of violations and his/her intent to deny participation to an athlete.
  2. The Athletic Director and/or coaching staff then conduct a hearing with the athlete to permit him/her to state his/her side of the story.
  3. The athlete or parent has the right to appeal to the Athletic Administrator and Superintendent in the order presented here.
  4. Verification of Violations:  
  
Violations of these rules must be verified by a member of the coaching staff, teaching staff, or administrative staff.
  5. Period of Enforcement:

These rules and penalties apply all year round.

## ABSENCE FROM GAMES OR PRACTICES

Student-athletes have a responsibility to their teammates to be at all practices and games. This is consistent with the goals of responsibility, selflessness, and teamwork that are such an important part of the athletic program. Athletes must remember that participation in sports is a privilege and that the head coach will make the decision on who plays according to what is best for the team and the athletic program. Student-athletes who miss practices or games for no justifiable reason may expect to be denied interscholastic participation.

However, the athletic staff realizes there may be justifiable conflicts that arise between athletics and family responsibilities, athletics and class work, and athletics and other extra-curricular duties. Each athlete will be given a team schedule at the start of the season and should make every attempt to avoid conflicts. In the event an unavoidable conflict does arise, the following procedures will be followed:

- A. The athlete will notify the coach as soon as s/he is aware of the conflict.
- B. Every attempt will be made by the athlete, coach, athletic administrator, parents, teachers, or other persons involved to resolve the conflict through special arrangement:
  - 1. Permission from the coach to miss the practice or game.
  - 2. Special travel arrangements so the athlete so the athlete may participate in both events.
  - 3. Make-up work for class time missed, provided this does not threaten the academic standing of the student.
  - 4. Any other arrangement satisfactory to the parties involved.
- C. If the conflict cannot be resolved, no punitive action will be taken against the athlete. However, the athlete must be aware that during his/her absence, someone else practiced and played at that position and that person may have earned the opportunity to play the position until the athlete who was absent regains it.

B. Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs: The use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs will result in the following disciplinary action.

1. First Offense-Denial of participation in a number of contests equal to forty percent (40%) of that team's regular season contests. This penalty is to be served in contests immediately following the infraction including post-season play. The forty percent (40%) denial of participation for violation of this rule may be reduced to twenty percent (20%) if the student and parent/guardians participate in an intervention program prescribed by the school. However, if the prescribed intervention program is not successfully completed, the remaining twenty percent (20%) denial of participation will be reinstated.
2. Second Offense-Denial of all athletic participation for one (1) year from date of the infraction.
3. Third Offense-Denial of all athletic participation for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.
4. Repeat violations will be served consecutively; If another infraction occurs while a student-athlete is serving a suspension, the second suspension will begin immediately following the completion of the first.
5. A student-athlete must make an attempt to leave a location that is not supervised by a parent/guardian and/or has illegal or unlawful use/possession/presence of tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs. (House party) By choosing not to make an attempt to leave, it will result in a code of conduct violation and will be enforced per our Athletic Discipline Policy.
6. Verification of Violations:  
Violations of these rules must be verified by a member of the coaching staff, teaching staff, or administrative staff.
7. Period of Enforcement:  
These rules and penalties apply all year round.
8. The above penalties will accumulate throughout grade 7-8 and 9-12, respectively. (For example, if the second offense occurs in a different school year, the athlete will be at step 2 of the above penalties).

9. If fewer than twenty percent (20%) or forty percent (40%) of the regular season contests remain, the remaining percentage will be carried into the athlete's next sports season and served to conclusion.
  10. During any denial of participation, practice will be at the discretion of the head coach.
- C. Because cancellations are typically associated with athletic seasons, a student's denial of participation may be recalculated to bring the consequences in line with the shortened schedule. This recalculation will only take place if canceled contests will not be made up and the reduced schedule does impact on the number of games a student athlete would have to sit out.
- D. Additional Rules: Each head coach will issue further rules regarding diet, sleep, curfew hours, etc., as well as penalties for these rules.

## **DUAL SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

The Board of Education encourages the parent and student-athlete to meet with school staff, including coaches and the athletic director, to discuss dual sports participation before a student chooses to participate in more than one (1) sport per season. **A completed application for dual sport participation will be required.** The application is available through the Athletic Director's office.

## **SQUAD SELECTIONS**

It is the philosophy of Bryan High School that athletic participation be open to as many students as possible. However, due to limitations of space, equipment and number of coaches, it is sometimes necessary to limit the number of athletes on a particular squad. When such squad selections are necessary, the following principles will apply:

- A. Criteria for selections will be established by the head coach, with the exception that whether or not a student participated in an off-season program will have no bearing on squad selections.
- B. This criteria will be explained to all squad candidates at the beginning of the season.
- C. The coach will notify the athletes, in advance, of the date of the squad selections and of the approximate number to be kept on the squad.
- D. Explanation of the selection procedure:

1. Coach will meet with all candidates **individually**.
2. Candidates will be told of their selection or non-selection and why.
3. There will be no list posted.

Athletes and parents should note that squad selection is by its very nature subjective in judgment. As long as the coach follows the principles listed above, the athletic administration will not intervene in this process.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE INSURANCE**

The coach will assist the Athletic Director in obtaining from all squad members enrollment in the school insurance program **or proof** of other adequate insurance coverage as denoted by a parental waiver form. One or the other must be on file before the student can participate. School personnel will assist those students enrolled in the school insurance program in filling out and submitting forms should an injury occur.

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

All athletes and cheerleaders grades 7-12 must pass a physical examination yearly. The physical examination form must be signed by the parent or guardian. It is the responsibility of the coaching staff to **see that no athlete or cheerleader participates until the proper proof of physical examination is on file.**

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS**

All students must have these on file in the school office. Each coach will be given copies of the forms of his/her athletes. **These forms must be with the team at all times.**

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION**

Injuries that appear to be serious will be handled by the coach or trainer who will stay with the athlete until the parent/guardian arrive. If there is danger due to loss of blood, unconsciousness, severe pain, or other dangerous symptoms, the rescue squad will be called. In all cases, the parent will be contacted as soon as possible.

Immediately following an injury, the coach or trainer will make a written report to the athletic administration concerning the circumstances of the injury.

## CARE OF UNIFORM

Bryan athletes will be issued uniforms that are the property of the athletic department. These uniforms also denote the wearer to be a Bryan athlete who is representing all the athletes at Bryan. Uniforms are to be worn only to athletic contests in which the wearer is a participant. Jackets issued by the athletic department may be worn during the season at the discretion of the athletic department.

Students who fail to turn in any uniform or equipment at the end of the season will be denied participation in all other sports until the obligation is met. Students are urged to keep uniforms at home where they are safe and keep them under lock when they must be brought to school.

## AWARDS

All varsity awards shall be made to the players as recommended by the head coach, subject to the approval of the athletic administrator.

- A. The first year award will be gold block letter "B".
- B. The second year award will be a gold pin.
- C. The third year award will be a gold pin.
- D. The fourth year award will be a trophy denoting the sport.
- E. Stars will be awarded to all captains at the head coach's discretion.
- F. Manager, statistician, and cheerleader awards will be the same as player awards, but will be specific to their position.
- G. In order to be eligible for any of the above mentioned awards in any sport, the participant must participate at the varsity level and have played in one of the following:
  - 1. Football-one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the total quarters during the regular season/40 plays for special teams.  
  
Freshmen will receive numerals.
  - 2. Basketball-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total quarters during the regular season.

3. Wrestling-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the varsity matches during the regular season.
  4. Cross Country-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the total meets during the regular season.
  5. Track-score ten (10) points during the regular season, or score points in a league or state sponsored tournament.
  6. Baseball-must compete in approximately thirty percent (30%) of the total innings.
  7. Tennis-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total matches during the regular season.
  8. Golf-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total matches during the regular season.
  9. Volleyball-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total matches during the regular season.
  10. Soccer-seventy-five percent (75%) of the total halves played during the season.
  11. Softball-same as baseball.
  12. Swimming-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the regular season meets.
  13. Bowling-one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total matches during the regular season.
  14. Under extraordinary circumstances, a letter may be awarded to a player who has insufficient playing time equal to the standards established at the head coach's discretion (illness, injury, etc.)
  15. A student's first participation in any sport at BHS will receive numerals along with other designated award(s).
- H. Four (4) year career in a sport participant award.
- I. The reserve award will be a pin "J.V."
- J. A varsity member of every league championship team or second level and above state elimination tournaments shall receive individual recognition in that sport. Individual champions in league or second level and above state elimination tournaments will also receive individual recognition.

- K. Any athlete receiving first team all-league recognition shall receive a plaque suitably engraved.
- L. The athlete with the highest GPA in each grade for each sport will receive a plaque. Minimum GPA for this award will be 3.00. All athletes with at least a 3.5 will receive a scholar-athlete certificate.

## **BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF FAME**

**PHILOSOPHY:** The purpose of putting pictures of athletic teams and individuals on display are: 1) to give historical recognition to particularly outstanding teams and individuals, 2) to encourage future athletic teams to strive to accomplish similarly outstanding athletic achievements, and 3) to publicize Bryan High School's program to the community.

### **TEAM SPORTS:**

Team sports will be honored according to the criteria below.

- A. The team qualifies for finals in the OHSAA State tournament.  
  
11x14 picture on Wall of Fame
- B. The team is a state champion in an OHSAA tournament.  
  
16x20 picture on "Wall" and state champion banner placed in gym.
- C. The team is a state runner-up in an OHSAA tournament.  
  
11x14 picture on "Wall" and state runner-up banner placed in gym.
- D. AP or UPI All-Ohio recognition 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> team or in sports where AP or UPI do not recognize All- Ohio athletes, recognition will be given to those athletes who earn 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Team as selected by the organization that is accepted as authoritative by that sport's coaches association.  
  
Picture on Wall of Fame.
- E. Coach is recognized as State Coach of the Year or is selected to State Hall of Fame by AP, UPI, or by the organization that is accepted as authoritative by that sport's coaches association.  
  
Picture on Wall of Fame.



## **INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES:**

Individual athletes will be recognized by the criteria outlined below.

- A. Individual State Champion – picture and banner
- B. Individual Runner-up – picture
- C. Placing in State tournament (Scoring Points) – picture
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team at state tournament (Golf and Cross Country)
  - 2. Scoring in Golf and Cross Country is different. They receive an 8x10 picture for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

## **UPDATING AWARDS:**

A former Bryan High School athlete who acquires college All-American Status or Professional recognition will have their picture's nameplate updated to recognize their further achievements. If the athlete does not currently have their picture on display we will attempt to get a picture of them to have on display.

Note: It is the responsibility of the respective head coaches to supply the Athletic Director with the names of individuals or teams that meet the above criteria so that picture arrangements may be made.

The criteria outlined above will be grandfathered to those student/athletes who are attending Bryan High School as of the 1992-93 school year.

## **BRYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC AWARDS**

Athletes participating in Middle School programs will be awarded a "Certificate of Participation."

## **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

Awards presentations will be held at the conclusion of each sports' season, sponsored by the athletic department. Presentations will be left to the discretion of the head coach.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All participating school personnel (coaches, players, cheerleaders, statisticians, managers, etc.) must be transported by school authorized transportation both to and from games or contests. The only exception is when parents or legal guardians speak to the coach personally and give written permission releasing them to their custody. The coach may deny this request due to team considerations. (Note: Students, regardless of age, will not be permitted to drive athletes to and from game or contests even with parental permission.)

The Athletic Department will not rent vehicles from automobile dealers as a means of providing transportation. Coaches who need to transport athletes in their own vehicles may do so only if the Athletic Director has been notified and no other means of transportation is available. Mileage reimbursement will be paid according to the rate in effect.

The Athletic Department will reimburse coaches mileage (both ways) for tournament draws and rules interpretation meetings. (The above applies only if there is no school vehicle available and the Athletic Director approves the trip. There is no reimbursement for practices unless approved in advance by the Athletic Director.)

All requests for team buses and vans will be made through the Athletic Director, who will arrange for buses through the Director of Support Services Office.

Students will be permitted to drive to and from school practice sites unless otherwise instructed by the coach in that sport.

## **SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS AND PROGRAMS**

In order to avoid conflict with other sports activities and events, all sports camps coordinated by a Head Coach will be scheduled in cooperation with the Athletic Director. Summer camps and programs can cause some student/athletes to be pressured to be involved in as many as three (3) different sports activities at once. With the coaches cooperation with the Athletic Director we will be able to prevent any conflicts between programs. Any coach planning a summer camp or summer program should submit a schedule of this to the Athletic Director prior to end of the school year.

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