

Beecher Athletic Handbook



FORWARD

The intent of this handbook is to provide administrators, coaches, athletes and parents the policies and procedures of the Beecher High School Interscholastic Athletic Program.

The Interscholastic Athletic Program is an integral part of the total educational program and should be conducted so that it is worthy of such regard. The athletic program includes all school sponsored games or sports in which students are given the opportunity to formally compete with those on similar level teams from other schools

MISSION STATEMENT

To motivate our athletes to be dedicated to whatever endeavor they may be pursuing. Teaching them values of sportsmanship, fair play and positive leadership, thus enhancing their self esteem while enhancing their education.

The Athletic Department and Coaching Staff have the following beliefs:

WE BELIEVE:

- that our athletic programs and practices should provide athletes with positive and challenging experiences
- that our coaching decisions should be based on validated research and practices (Health, safety, equipment training)
- that parental/community involvement and support are essential to the success of our program
- that the behavior of athletes and coaches should reflect mutual respect for each other
- that our programs and practices should reflect respect for the individuality of the athletes
- that the behavior of athletes should reflect respect for themselves, others, facilities and equipment
- that athletes must be committed to training rules
- that our programs and practices should instill a sense of pride in our athletes, coaches and community

ATHLETIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. Code of Conduct for Athletes

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Beecher High School in athletic competition. The eyes of the student body and the community are focused on the team and its members. It is imperative that every athlete make a genuine effort to abide by the policies listed below:

1. All students participating in any established sport will be considered a Beecher athlete covered by the rules and regulations stated in this athletic code.
2. Each athlete is expected to conduct him/herself in a manner that will create a positive reflection upon teammates, the Beecher Schools and community.
3. All athletes are expected to uphold the traditions of good sportsmanship and fair play. At all times they are to abide by and respect the decisions of the officials.
4. The use of profanity or vulgar gestures will never be acceptable and is subject to school penalties.
5. All athletes will follow training and practice rules established by the school. Other routine team rules regarding missing practices, arriving late for practice, not carrying out assignments, etc., may be established and enforced by respective coaches.
6. The dress and grooming of athletes will always be in accordance with team policy.
7. All athletes will be expected to exhibit a positive school and team attitude.
8. All athletes will return parental permission for participation in the interscholastic athletic program before competing.

II. Eligibility Requirements

The handbook of MHSAA sets forth the rules governing eligibility and limits of participation with respect to high school athletes. The general rules regarding the State's standards athletes must meet will be posted for all to read. In addition, coaches will discuss the eligibility regulations with their teams.

Beecher High School athletic eligibility is based upon the principles of the MHSAA as well as the following rules and procedures adopted by the Athletic Council.

1. Coaches will provide the Athletic Director with a team roster listing information required by State rules. From this, the Athletic Department will conduct grading period checks throughout the school year. Athletes and cheerleaders will meet the following requirements for eligibility:
 - A. No student of Beecher High School shall compete in any athletic contest during the current semester who did not receive credit in five or more classes in the previous semester with a GPA of 2.0
 - B. A student must also be receiving credit in at least five (5) classes during the current semester in order to participate with a GPA of 2.0
 - C. To be receiving credit, a student must be earning a D- or better (An incomplete will be interpreted as not receiving credit).
 - D. A student taking only five classes must be receiving credit in all five classes to be considered eligible.
 - E. Athletes and cheerleaders who do not receive credit in a two-hour or three-hour block class are eligible if that is the only class in which they are not receiving credit. The student, however, must comply with the state regulation (i.e., must be receiving credit in four classes).

- F. Eligibility checks on a student's grade will be based on all course work from the first day of the semester up to and including the current week in which the eligibility check is conducted. A student taking only four or five classes must be receiving credit in all classes to be considered eligible.
- G. An incomplete grade "I" will be regarded as not receiving credit if the student does not complete the necessary make-up work. To become eligible, make-up work must be completed prior to the end of the school day the athlete is to compete. It is the athlete's responsibility to return to the Athletic Director an "incomplete" form signed by the teacher, stating that the student has completed all incomplete work and is passing. Only an incomplete grade may be made up. A failing grade (E or F) cannot be made up to affect one's eligibility status.

- 2. An athlete may be allowed to practice while ineligible, at the discretion of the coach, but will not be allowed to dress for contests.

III. Behavioral Expectations for Athletes

1. School Discipline

Discipline of athletes shall be in accordance with general school policies for all students. Student athletes who have been suspended from school shall receive the following discipline from the athletic staff:

- A. The student shall not be allowed to participate in any athletic event during the term of suspension.
- B. The student shall not be allowed to practice during the term of disciplinary action.

The length of time for disciplinary action shall be measured from the time of being sent from school until 8:00a.m. on the day the student is to return to the classroom. If any additional disciplinary action occurs it will be determined by the coach involved and Athletic Director.

Normally, athletes referred to the office on matters of discipline during the school day are ineligible for athletic competition (which includes practices) until the matter has been disposed of by the administration.

- C. Students who are involved in In-School Suspension are eligible to participate in practices and competitions. Athletes who are involved In-School Suspension will not be allowed to leave early to participate in an athletic event. However, certain infractions may be subject to review by administration

2. School Attendance

Athletes shall abide by the general school policies on attendance for all students, moreover, students involved in athletics must realize that their status on the teams may be hurt by absences from school. The following items are guidelines to be utilized by the coaching staff when confronted with athletes missing school

- A. The only acceptable excuse for missing practice or a scheduled contest is illness on that day or a previously arranged absence with the head coach. The first unexcused offense may result in forfeiture of rights to dress for the next contest. This decision is left up to the coach involved. Subsequent violations may result in suspension or expulsion from the team.

- B. A student must be in school one-half day (3 hours) in order to be eligible to practice or compete in a game unless previous arrangements have been made with the coach or administration.
- C. Students who are in school and must miss practice for an important reason must secure permission from their coach or Athletic Director prior to missing practice except in case of an emergency.
- D. An athlete absent from school the day before a game, and who receives an excused absence, may participate in a scheduled athletic contest.
- E. Athletes who are truant from school may not be allowed to participate in the next athletic contest but must attend all practices. Athletes are expected to attend school the day following a contest.
- F. The Athletic Council may initiate disciplinary action against students who violate these guidelines.

3. Hazing/Initiation of Student Athletes is Illegal

- A. If you are involved in hazing or initiations and are caught, you will face expulsion from school; removal from the team and the school district will work with the Mt. Morris Township Police Department to see that you are punished under any and all statutes that apply to the alleged crimes that you might have committed.
- B. Involved means: active in the act, standing by while the act occurs, participating in the act by holding the victim down or otherwise restraining him/her or exhorting the perpetrators of the act. The above mentioned possibilities are not meant to be totally inclusive of any or all acts that could be construed as hazing.

4. Training Rules

- 1. It is important that fall athletes understand that training rules are in force from the first day of fall practice until the last day of school or the last day of contest play and accumulate throughout their high school career. Training rules for winter or spring sport athletes will begin the first day of school to the last day of school or the last activity of the athlete's spring sport, whichever comes last.
- 2. An athlete shall refrain from the following:
 - A. Drinking of/or possession of alcoholic beverages.
 - B. Smoking and/or use of tobacco, including possession.
 - C. Illegal use or possession of drugs and/or controlled substance.
 - D. Hosting a party with alcohol and/or illegal drugs.
 - E. Possession of any weapon on school grounds or on a school sanctioned event or trip.

In-season (defined as: the first MHSAA scheduled practice date to the end of the last contest) violation of the above will result in:

1ST OFFENSE-immediate suspension for a minimum of 1/3 of the dates scheduled for the entire season. The athlete must attend all practices, games (not in uniform) and all other team activities. If the athlete becomes a distraction to the team the coach may disallow these privileges. If less than 1/3 of the season is remaining, the remainder of the penalty will be served in the next sport season of participation. Athletes must finish the full season in which they are serving their suspension.

2ND OFFENSE-immediate suspension of the athlete for one calendar year. The athlete is not allowed to practice with any team or be a part of the program.

3RD OFFENSE-immediate suspension of the athlete from **ALL** athletic teams for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Out of season (defined as: end of last contest to the start of MHSAA first scheduled practice date) violation of the above will result in:

When choosing to participate in the next athletic event, the student will be allowed to participate, but will be barred from interscholastic competition the number of days as indicated below:

A. 1ST OFFENSE:

1. Athletic events having 0-10 days of scheduled interscholastic competition: 1 event
 2. Athletic events having 11-15 days of scheduled interscholastic competition: 2 events
 3. Athletic events having 16 or more days of scheduled interscholastic competition: 3 events
- **NOTE: A scrimmage with another school may not count as a scheduled interscholastic competition.
**NOTE: A student suspended from interscholastic competitions must continue to demonstrate the qualities of sportsmanship outlined in this handbook.

B. 2ND OFFENSE:

The student will be suspended from athletics for one calendar year.

C. 3RD OFFENSE:

The student will be suspended from participation in organized athletics at Beecher High School for the remainder of the student's high school career in Beecher

4. Very serious conduct or training rule infractions may, at the discretion of the Director of Athletics, result in a hearing with the Athletic Council. In such cases, athletes will be suspended immediately pending the outcome of the hearing. A few examples of conduct requiring Athletic Council action would be (among others):
 - Gross misconduct under game conditions
 - Sale or distribution of illegal drugs
 - Involvement in illegal felonious activity.***The athletic council will be made up of 1 administrator, 2 teacher, 1 parent and 1 coach.

In addition, the student/athlete will be subject to Beecher Board of Education policies pertaining to the above. This also applies to students 18 years or older.

Concern Procedure Line of Communication

If an athlete, parent, coach, administrator or fan has a concern or question regarding an athletic situation, the Athletic Office urges the individual to attempt to resolve the issue by following the steps listed below:

1. Talk with the coach
2. Talk with the head coach
3. Talk with the Director of Athletics
4. Talk with the Principal
5. Meet with the Athletic Council
6. Talk with the Superintendent or his/her designee

Appeals Procedure

All athletic code violations reviewed by the Athletic Director or the Athletic Council will result in a recommendation to the high school Principal. The Principal may accept or modify the recommendation.

Parents or guardians may request a conference with the Principal. The Principal shall affirm or modify the terms of his action within two school days from the date of the notification.

IV. Physical Examinations and Insurance

1. No athlete shall participate in any phase of the athletic program, including tryouts, who does not have on file in the Athletic Director's office an "Athletic Information Card: indicating fitness, signed by a

- physician and parents or guardian.
2. All athletes are encouraged to be covered by insurance before they participate in any phase of the athletic program, including practices. Parents are responsible for any coverage of insurance, including ambulance costs, if needed, in interscholastic athletics.
 3. All athletes shall have on file with their respective coach an "Emergency Medical Information" card.
 4. Physicals for the current school year are valid starting April 15th . Physical exams are available at the Beecher Teen Health Center from 8-4 Monday thru Thursday.

V. Team Membership and Limits of Participation

1. Once an athlete has started practicing in a sport, he/she may not change to another current sport without permission from the coaches of both sports. An athlete who is cut from one sport may try out for another.
2. If an athlete is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons, he/she will not be allowed to try out for another sport during the same season. He/she will not be permitted to be involved with out-of-season practice or conditioning for a succeeding sport until completion of the current sport's season. If an athlete quits a team, he or she will not be allowed to tryout for another sport during the same season or be permitted to be involved with "out of season" practice or conditioning for a succeeding sport until completion of the current sport' season, unless the "Releasing Coach" agrees to waive the restrictions. If an athlete quits a team, after cuts are made, he or she will be subject to the same restrictions listed above, unless the "Releasing Coach" and Athletic Director agree to waive the restrictions.
3. An athlete being treated by a doctor for an injury will not be allowed to practice until the athlete obtains his/hers doctor's approval in writing to resume practice. This approval, in writing, must be given to the Athletic Trainer/Athletic Office.
4. Athletes may take part in more than one sport at a time (i.e. Softball/Track, Baseball/Track) providing he/she has permission from both coaches. In case of a conflict in scheduling, the athlete must designate the sport he/she opts to take part in prior to the start of the season.
5. Students shall not participate in any outside competition in a sport during the season in which he is representing his/her school in that sport.
6. Students will not be permitted to participate in any so called all-star or charity games.
7. Student athletes are frequently involved in multiple school activities. The athlete should notify the coach and the director of the other activity as soon as a conflict in the calendar occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. The student athlete is not in jeopardy during the resolution of the conflict. When two practices or contests occur the student athlete has the choice of which event he/she will attend, but, when a conflict between practice/rehearsal and a contest occur, the student athlete will attend the contest. The coach will notify the Athletic Director if assistance is needed to resolve the conflict.

VI. Equipment and Facility Usage

1. Facilities will be available to students only if there is a supervising coach in attendance. If an athlete, in the judgement of a coach or an administrator, abuses the gym, locker rooms, lockers, etc., or is found stealing from another player or the school, he/she shall be suspended immediately from athletics until restitution is made and proper disciplinary action imposed.
2. Players are responsible for all equipment issued to them. It will be issued at the start of each season. Future participation in any sports will not be permitted until equipment issued for a sport just completed has been turned in. Players who lose equipment or damage it through carelessness and abuse, will pay the replacement cost of the equipment before participating in another sport.
3. If school is called off during the school day or before the start of the school day there will be no freshman or junior varsity practices. Varsity teams may practice after noon on that day providing safe conditions exist. These practices can not be made mandatory.
5. All athletes are to park in the main lot or freshman lot at all times. Athletes parking behind the building or in designated "no parking" areas will towed at the owners expense.

6. Uniforms can be worn only on game days and only by team members.

VII. Practices

1. Practice for teams will be scheduled by the coach.
2. Length of the practices will be determined by the coach. All athletes will be expected to attend the entire practice period unless excused by the coach.
3. Athletes will not use the gymnasium as a thoroughfare in going to the locker rooms. They are expected to use the locker room entrances.

VIII. Transportation

1. Teams will use school transportation to away contests unless other arrangements are authorized by the Athletic Director or administration.
2. All players are required to travel to an away contest and return with the team. This requirement may be waived for extenuating circumstances by the parents of the student by submitting, in writing, a request to the Athletic Director prior to the event.
3. An athlete's conduct on a trip can have an effect upon his/her status as a member of the team. The coach, athletic director, or administrator may suspend from team membership, an athlete that demonstrates unacceptable behavior on a team trip.

IX. Athletic Awards

The following guidelines have been established for the granting of awards for interscholastic competition.

1. Basic Requirements

- A. All eligibility requirements of the MHSAA and the school must be met for an athlete to be considered eligible for consideration for an athletic award.
- B. The athlete, to be considered for an athletic award, must have displayed good sportsmanship in competition and have been in regular attendance at contests and practices.
- C. An athlete must complete the full season unless injury or a crucial family matter arises.
- D. Each coach will provide, in writing, criteria for earning awards in his/her program.
- E. Athletes are eligible to receive a maximum of one one Varsity "B" in the four years of athletic competition. In addition, an insert for each sport an athlete letters in will be given. Participation certificates will be given for all sport levels.
- F. Varsity coaches may, if they so wish, present special awards such as "Most Valuable", "Most Improved", "Coaches Award", etc., to their team members. The method of selection will be left to the discretion of each head coach. Any special awards granted must comply with the MHSAA regulations.

FIRST YEAR AWARD

A first time athlete can earn the following for team membership:

Freshman
Certificate

Junior Varsity
Certificate
Sports pin

Varsity
Varsity Certificate
Numerals

Letter "B" Or pin only if Letter
Has already been earned

SECOND YEAR AWARD

Second year athlete in the same sport can earn:

Junior Varsity
Certificate

Varsity
Varsity Certificate
Sports pin

THIRD YEAR AWARD

Junior Varsity
Certificate

Third year athlete in the same sport can earn:

Varsity
Varsity Certificate
Sports Pin

FOURTH YEAR AWARD

Fourth year athlete in same sport can earn:

Varsity
Varsity Certificate
Sports pin

The athletic department also provides the following awards:

-Captain's award -

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MEDICAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

Birth Date _____

Where parents can be reached if not at home:

Mother: Address _____ Phone _____

Father: Address _____ Phone _____

Name of two relatives or neighbors who can be called in case of emergency:

1. Name _____ Phone _____

2. Name _____ Phone _____

In the event of a serious accident or illness I request that a representative of the school system contact me. If I cannot be reached, I request that contact be made with the physician listed below and his instructions be followed in the treatment of my child. If the emergency is such that immediate medical care is necessary, I authorize the school system to transport my child to a hospital for emergency care. The hospital, their agents or a licensed physician may administer such emergency treatment as they see necessary under the circumstances.

_____ Date _____

Signature of parent or guardian

Medication taken regularly _____

Are you allergic to any medicines YES NO If yes what _____

Allergies or other conditions _____

Physician's Name _____ Phone _____

Insurance Co. _____ Group # _____

Contract # _____ Service Code _____

I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment of my child. In the event of injury or illness requiring emergency treatment, I wish the school authorities to take no action or to :

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Beecher Community Schools Athletic Code Of Conduct

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

By signing the acknowledgment form, the athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian agree to abide by the rules and procedures set forth in the Owosso Public Schools' Athletic Code throughout the athlete's career at Beecher Community Schools. Prior to team try outs, a student participant and his/her parent or guardian must sign and return to the team's coach this acknowledgment form.

I wish to try out for and/or participate in school-sponsored interscholastic athletics. I have read the Beecher Community Schools' Athletic Code and agree to follow the standards of conduct procedures contained therein as a condition of my participation in interscholastic athletics at the Beecher Community Schools. I understand that the Athletic Code applies on a year-round basis. I further understand that if I violate the Athletic Code's standards of conduct that I will be subject to penalty as provided in the Athletic Code, including exclusion from the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Date

Student Participant Signature

I agree to permit my son/daughter to try out for and/or participate in school-sponsored interscholastic athletics. I understand that the Athletic Code applies on a year-round basis. I have read the Beecher Community Schools' Athletic Code and agree to support the standards of conduct and procedures contained therein as a condition of my son/daughter's participation in interscholastic athletics at Beecher Community Schools. I understand that if my son/daughter violates the Athletic Code's standards of conduct that he/she will be subject to penalty as provided in the Athletic Code, including exclusion from the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

**FILL OUT, SIGN AND RETURN MEDICAL EMERGENCY CARD AND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM TO YOUR COACH.**

