

Belleville Mennonite School Athletic Handbook

“For physical training is of some value, but
Godliness has value for all things, holding
promise for both the present life and the life to
come.” I Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

Athletic Mission Statement

The Belleville Mennonite School athletic program is an extension of the church, family and school. It is desired that the athletic program will bring honor and glory to God in the realm of interscholastic competition, as spectators, coaches and players. We trust that the discipline developed in doing this will carry over into other areas of life.

Interscholastic Athletic Sport Programs

Sport/PIAA Classification

Levels

Fall

Soccer-Boys (A)

Varsity, Jr. High

Soccer-Girls

7th-12th

Winter

Basketball-Boys (A)

Varsity, Jr. High

Basketball-Girls (A)

Varsity, Jr. High

Spring

Head coaches of the respective teams may choose to organize elementary teams, practices and games.

Team Participation

Varsity

At the varsity level, the primary goal is fielding a team with the best opportunity to win, always playing through the highest standards of sportsmanship. This may mean unequal playing time.

Team success shall not be based solely on winning. Other measures of success are team unity that develops over the course of a season as well as significant individual and team improvement by season's end.

All varsity level teams will experience a strong flavor of teaching and development of talent for the purpose of serving team success. Instruction will be given in areas of skill and strategy as well as the many life values of positive citizenship.

Team Membership: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. (7th & 8th Graders when competing within the ACAA, non-PIAA schools.)

Junior Varsity

At the junior varsity level, winning is an important goal to strive for as a basis of learning the team strategy and sacrifices required for meeting that end, in preparation for varsity play. This may mean unequal playing time; however, athletes should get playing time in most games. Participants should be taught specific “plays, formations, and tactics that replicate what is being done at the varsity level to ensure program strength and continuity.

Junior High

At the junior high level winning is not as important as skill development, proper technique and learning the rules of the particular sport. It is vital for participants to have fun and enjoy their experience to encourage their future participation in our junior varsity and varsity programs. Playing time will be emphasized to expose the participants to game situations which will further develop their skills and knowledge of the sport. Participants should be taught specific “plays, formations, and tactics that replicate what is being done at the varsity level to ensure program strength and continuity.

I. Athletic Eligibility (Code No. 4310A)

A. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, a student must meet all of the following academic requirements:

- The student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum.
- The student must be passing Bible class as well as each of the following core courses with a grade of at least 70%: one full credit Mathematics course, one full credit English course, one full credit Science course, and one full credit Social Studies course. Students who have substituted another course for a core course with the approval of the guidance counselor must be passing the substituted course as well as the other core courses.
- The student must be passing a minimum of five aggregate credit hours of coursework.

B. Determining Eligibility

The following procedure will be followed for determining eligibility:

- For the purpose of determining athletic eligibility for the following week, the guidance counselor will determine student grades on Thursday morning and post the names of all students who are failing a high school course to the database of currently failing students.
- The principal will review the database of currently failing students and individual student schedules to determine athletic eligibility. (During the first three weeks of a quarter, the principal will consider that grades may be skewed based on a limited number of assignments given.) The principal will notify the athletic director of ineligible students by noon on Friday. The athletic director will notify coaches of any ineligible players on their team.
- The administration will notify ineligible students by the end of school on Friday.

C. Ineligibility Guidelines

Students who are declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition will be ineligible for one week, from Sunday through Saturday inclusive. Students declared ineligible are not permitted to travel with the team to away games or participate in any games or team scrimmages.

Students will be permitted to practice with the team during the first week of ineligibility. However, if a student's grades do not improve to the point which they become eligible at the end of the first week, they will no longer be permitted to practice with their team.

D. Long-term Ineligibility

Students who have not met the eligibility requirements listed in section a at the end of a quarter will be declared ineligible. After fifteen school days in the quarter of ineligibility, a student may be declared eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- The student meets all of the eligibility requirements listed in section of this policy.
- The student has raised their grade in any course in which they received a failing grade to a level that, when averaged with the failing grade of the previous quarter, would produce an average equal to a passing grade for the course.

If a student fails to meet these requirements after fifteen school days, their status will be reviewed on a weekly basis until they meet the eligibility requirements and are reinstated.

E. *Extenuating Circumstance*

Administration-Athletic Director, Superintendent, Principal, Guidance Counselor-reserve the right to discuss extreme circumstances a student may experience and forgo or alter ineligibility.

II. Athletic Philosophy and Policy (Code 4310)

A. Athletic Philosophy

I Timothy 4:8 (NIV) “For physical training is of some value, but Godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

It is the intention of the BMS athletic program to give each student the opportunity to derive the value that comes from physical training. That intention includes a desire that participants would learn to work in a team setting, would develop an attitude consistent with good sportsmanship, and would be able to develop their physical abilities to their highest potential.

Students who meet eligibility requirements may participate in the interscholastic athletic program. Belleville Mennonite girls and boys compete in soccer and basketball. These sports can be offered on the junior varsity, varsity, and junior high levels.

Each athlete is expected to uphold the rules and regulations established by their coach. We believe that a direct outgrowth of the athletic program is its witness to the community. This witness grows out of the way the game is played, and the attitudes of both participants and fans. It is the responsibility of each participant and spectator to make sure that this witness reflects the Christian stance of our school.

Each coach is expected to foster the spiritual growth of students during the season. There should be intentional steps made by coaches to incorporate faith into practices and games. Our goal is for students to use athletics as a tool to develop physical and spiritual discipline.

B. Governance

The athletic program of BMS is governed by the rules of the Board of Trustees of BMS and the laws of the PIAA and the ACAA. The athletic director is responsible to see that the athletic program is carried out according to the governing bodies and is consistent with the philosophy of BMS.

C. Eligibility

Athletic eligibility will be based on the rules of PIAA, ACAA and the Belleville Mennonite School. The rules that require the highest standard will be followed.

D. Dress

Any student participating in a BMS sponsored practice must wear a T-shirt. Sleeveless shirts are not permitted. The only exceptions are for team practice jerseys & shirts and/or uniforms where a coach has received permission from the athletic director. Minimum conduct and dress for games will be the same as outlined in the Student Handbook unless directed by the coach to be a higher standard.

E. Game and Practice Scheduling

The number of games permitted to be played each season not including play-off games is as follows: Varsity, Junior High soccer – 18; Varsity and Junior High basketball – 22.

Coaches should keep in mind the importance of family gatherings and should not schedule practices on Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, or New Year’s Day. There will be no Saturday practices over Christmas vacation unless there is a Monday game.

F. Attendance

The student must be in school by 10:30 AM in order to practice or play in a contest that day. The only exception shall be a prearranged excused absence.

G. Bus Conduct

Boys and girls are not permitted to sit in the same seat going to an away game and not in the last four seats returning from an away game. Cell phones may be used by permission from the coach for contacting parents.

I. Pre-participation Physical Examinations

All BMS athletes, prior to being able to participate in practices or games, must have a physical examination from a physician (PA, MD or DO) licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. This physical examination will be valid for one full calendar year (June 1st-May 31st).

III. Parent Responsibilities

A. Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship in its simplest terms means following the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." It means being positive and showing respect.

Sportsmanship is:

- learning and respecting the rules of the game
- applauding all players and coaches when they are introduced
- using positive cheers for your team
- realizing that an athletic event is a team effort directed by the coaches

Sportsmanship refrains from:

- cheering negatively against an opponent
- excessive actions to distract a member of the opposing team
- making fun of an opponent or spectator
- making negative comments about players, coaches, officials or schools

Taken from: "Sportsmanship: A Vision for Mennonite Education"

B. Transportation

Parents/Guardians are responsible for having your student (s) dropped off and picked up on time at scheduled games and practice times. It is the responsibility of parents picking up a student at a location other than BMS, (Dairyland, leaving from restaurant, etc.), to approach the coach to let them know they are taking their student.

C. Concession

A parent is required to work one home game in the concession stand per child or find a substitution (other players parent/guardian). Each Family is required to donate \$10 to the concession stand to purchase beverages and other needs for the concession stand.

D. Salad Sales

Salads are sold in August for fall sports & January for winter sports. Each family is required to sell the designated amount based on the number of athletes. Athletes are required to be there on salad making day. Families may choose the "buy out" option and forgo selling salads.

E. Apple Pies

Apple Pies are sold in November. All athletes involved in middle school and high school sports are required, per family, to sell apple pies. Athletes are required to be there on apple pie making days. Families may choose the “buy out” option and forgo selling apple pies.

F. Consequences for Fundraising Deficit

Athletes and Parents will meet required athletic fundraising levels of each fundraiser (salads, apple pies). If the requirement is not met, the family will pay the remaining amount to reach the required level. Athletes will be kept out of team functions (practice, games) until payment is received. All fundraisers will continue to have the option of a buyout amount per fundraiser. Example: Requirement to sell 15 salads - family sold 10 salads -- family is required to pay for remaining 5 salads.

G. Wednesday Night Practices

Wednesday night practices will be permitted to be scheduled at the coaches' discretion. Athletes who need to leave practice early or not attend practice due to attending youth groups will not be penalized. Athletes are encouraged to not miss important youth group events. The AD will ensure that coaches alternate Wednesday practice times to maintain a healthy and fair balance for teams.