

# BROOKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2017-18

## **Brookland Bearcats Athletic Handbook**

The purpose of the following handbook is to outline the expectation for student-athletes and spectators as related to the athletic programs in the Brookland School District.

This material is presented to you because you have indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. We believe participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunity and experiences which will assist you in a personal adjustment. We are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. A student who chooses to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. The concept of self-denial and self-discipline is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of individuals within the objective of a team. It is our goal that every student/athlete will develop the skills necessary to become an independent problem solving adult.

### **Understanding of Handbook by Students and Parents**

It is expected that the parents and student/athletes understand the rules and regulations covered in this handbook. If a rule or regulation is broken and dismissal from a team is necessary, parent/guardian will be notified why the dismissal took place. It should be understood that the coach has the final authority regarding dismissal from a team and all discipline matters.

Any student/athlete or spectators that are removed from an athletic event by an official, police or administrator is subject to suspension from all athletic events for the remainder of that season or year. Any fan that disrupts and athletic event is subject to suspension or banishment from all athletic events at Brookland. This includes yelling at coaches, players or coaches' family members, officials, etc.

### **ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Athletics at Brookland School District is a privilege, not a right. Each student/athlete is expected to follow guidelines and standards equal to and, at times, beyond that of a normal school student. Each athlete will be 100% accountable for his/her actions. Athletes are students first, and will be expected to show a solid effort in the classroom.

- 1. In the classroom:** In the academic area, the athlete is expected to become a good student. A good student does not mean all "A's". A good student means trying to do the best with what you have. All athletes are expected to be leaders of school and set an example of how to act during the educational day.

2. **On the field/floor:** The desire to win is the most important factor in achieving success in athletics. Bearcat athletes are expected to play with a burning desire in order to win with honor, dedication, pride and loyalty to the rules of the game.
3. **Absences:** A student/athlete should consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or an event without good reason will be dealt with severely. An athlete missing for any reason is expected to make up the practice session.
4. **Practice and Games:** The student/athlete is expected to attend regardless of holidays, job commitment, birthdays, social activities or weekends.
5. **School Attendance:** Student/athletes are expected to be in school for at least three hours in order to participate in the athletic event that day. Certain circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
6. **Eligibility Guidelines and SIP School:** The athletic department encourages the academic excellence of all athletes. The eligibility requirements are those set forth by the Arkansas Activities Association, and the State Department of Education. Students that are not eligible can practice with the team as long as they have permission from the Head Coach. The student/athlete can practice but they are not permitted to play in a game or travel with the team.
7. **Care and Responsibility for Equipment:** Equipment should be turned in within one week following the end of the season. An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. The cost of destroyed/lost equipment will be replacement costs. An student/athlete must treat school equipment as though it were his/her personal property. It should never be abused. If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment he/she could be dismissed from the team.
8. **Proper Conduct:** Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times. This includes any public posting of inappropriate and/or illicit pictures, video/audio or comments on your cell phone, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. Athletes should be role models, both in and out of the classroom. All social media contact should be positive in nature toward our athletic programs, players, coaches and school. Cell phones and text messaging should not be used during school.
9. **Player injury:** It is the student/athlete's responsibility to communicate to the coaching staff any injury that may need attention. If possible, the player is encouraged to see the school athletic trainer before going to see a Doctor. If the student/athlete goes to Doctor or Hospital, they are expected to communicate that to the coaching staff and pick up and Insurance form from the Athletic Director as soon as possible. After the Insurance form is given to the player it is out of the schools hands. The insurance plan is a secondary supplemental plan. All instructions are on the insurance form.

## **ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE PLAN**

1. Normal daily problems that may occur will be handles by the coaching staff of that particular sport. These problems could include tardiness, attitude issues, locker and equipment issues, missed meetings and missed practices. Missed contests could be sent to the next level for possible sanctions. The coaching staff will be very firm but very fair.
2. Any discipline problem deemed “of serious nature” will be handles through the head coach and/or principal. Any major violations where the law and school awareness becomes an issue can also be handled through the principal and/or superintendent. Felony arrest will result in suspension for the remainder of the year.
3. Any offenses, deemed moderate to severe, will be handles case by case. No two problems are ever exactly the same. Cases will be discussed only with the guardians of that particular athlete. We **WILL NOT** discuss issues dealing with athletes other than yours.
4. There is no **RULE OF THUMB** to any infractions, as there could be thousands of different circumstances that could arise. Any coach unsure of how to handle a particular problem will refer to the athletic director for guidance. The Athletic Director and Principals have the option to assign athletic discipline to any athlete.
5. Out of school suspension will result in a minimum punishment of extra conditioning and a maximum punishment of suspension or dismissal from the team.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Team Trips:** All student/athletes must travel to events in transportation provided by the Brookland School District. Special arrangements can be made for travel if approved through the building administrator. Sign-Out sheets will be provided by the coach, sponsor or teacher for students to go with their parents after the event. Parents can only sign out their child with the coach. It is the coaches decision whether to allow their players to ride home with parents.

## **Multi-Sport Athletes**

The athletic department will always encourage athletes to compete in multiple sports. THIS MAKES THE OVERALL PROGRAM STRONGER. Coaches will not discourage any athlete from competing in multiple sports. In season sports will always take precedence. Athletes are NOT required to practice with a sport that is not in season if it interferes with an in season sport that they are participating in. Any student/athlete competing in two or more sports must let all

head coaches know as soon as possible. Coaches will work together in scheduling contests to ensure minimal conflict. Selection of the team will be at the discretion of the coach. The head coach in each sport has the absolute total discretion as to who plays, how long they play and under what circumstances they play or do not play. It is highly recommended that parents be flexible when letting their children play multiple sports, yet be realistic about spreading their time too thin. Academic performance should be a students' first priority.

### **QUITTING/DISMISSAL POLICY**

Commitment is the backbone of a highly successful athletic program. As the coaching staff and administration at Brookland, we encourage athletes to "finish what they started". Perseverance leads to long term success in life. Quitting is habit, so we strongly encourage an athlete to never start that practice. Upon deciding to quit, any athlete will be given a 24 hour "cooling off" period. By that time, the athlete must communicate to their head coach whether or not they wish to remain part of the team. If the player wants to return, and the coach is willing to allow them to return, they will have to make up any missed workouts.

**IF A STUDENT/ATHLETE QUILTS A SPORT, HE OR SHE MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT SEASON SPORT PROGRAM UNTIL THE IN-SEASON SPORT IS OVER. IF THE ATHLETE PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED IN A SPECIFIC SPORT, HE OR SHE WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO BACK TO AN OFF-SEASON SPORT PROGRAM. THERE WILL BE CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL WILL ALLOW THE STUDENT/ATHLETE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT SPORT IMMEDIATELY.**

### **How to Report a Complaint**

The first option is for the student/athlete and coach to communicate if there is any problem. We encourage good communication between the student/athlete and coaches. Student/athletes should communicate with their coaches if there is a problem. If it is not resolved then this will be the process that parents should follow.

Parents should use the following procedures when dealing with issues, problems, grievances and other situations:

1. Contact the coach who had direct supervision of the athlete at the time. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then:
2. Contact the Head Coach of the sport which the athlete was participating in. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then:
3. Contact the Athletic Director of the Brookland Public School District. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then:
4. Contact the Superintendent of the Brookland School District.

**\*\*\*NO CONTACT WITH ANY COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY BEFORE OR AFTER ANY ATHLETIC EVENT. ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE MADE DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY. APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING THE SCHOOL OFFICE\*\*\***

Issues that are **NOT** appropriate to discuss with coaches

- Team strategy
- Types of offenses, defenses, sets, etc
- Other student athletes

Each head coach of each sport will schedule a parent meeting before the season begins to set all of the expectations of that sport. That meeting will be used to state clear expectations of the players and parents. Each head coach will have rules specific for their program.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS AND/OR PARENTS**

- Remember that you are the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition—not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault other or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for **ALL** players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during and after the game on or near the site of the event.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censoring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- DO NOT post distasteful or negative comments or pictures on any social media network (Facebook, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Topix, etc.) about our school, our coaches, or any athletes. Disciplinary actions may be taken by the coaches and/or school.

**BROOKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ATHLETIC CONSENT FORM**

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STUDENTS NAME (PRINTED)

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Sports Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my consent for my child to compete in interscholastic sports and related practice sessions, and to go with the coach on trips. I acknowledge that even with the best of coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment, and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility. I understand that the District or its employees will not be liable if an accident occurs. I also give my consent, if any injury does occur for the coach/trainer to secure treatment as the best medical facility available.

I understand that if a parent takes an athlete to a doctor or hospital to receive treatment for an athletic injury, the coach must be notified within three days or the school athletic insurance will not be filed. When taking an athlete for treatment the expenses must be billed to the parents, not the school. I understand that the Brookland Public School will not be responsible for payment of any medical bills that the family's personal insurance or the District's athletic insurance does not pay.

I agree to be responsible for the return in good condition of any athletic equipment issued to the above named student.

**I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE READ THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE BOOK.**

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

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Signature of Athlete

NOTE: This Handbook must be read and all forms signed and returned to the coach before an athlete may take part in a sport.