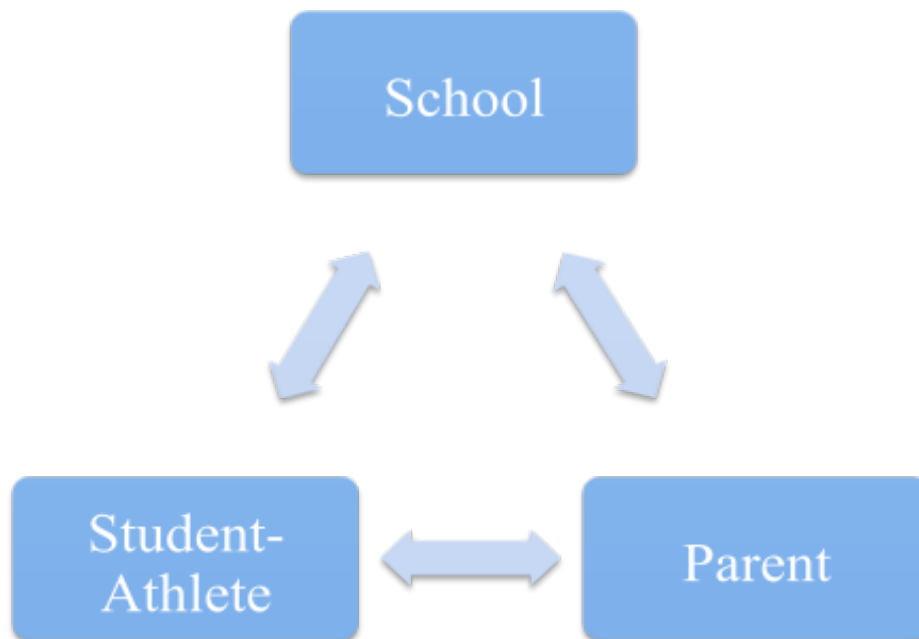


# Bedminster Twp. School Athletic Handbook



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## *Mission Statement*

Interscholastic athletics play an important role in the total educational development of the student body. Participation in the interscholastic program allows the student to combine academic and athletic skills in a setting that enables him/her to achieve his or her maximum potential. Competition in sports teaches a young person how to function as an individual within a team in such a manner that both the individual and team benefit. With proper supervision, the athlete learns how to maintain a positive attitude while experiencing the emotions associated with both winning and losing and gaining the understanding of those individuals who comprise the roles of a team.

It is a privilege and an honor for a student to be part of an athletic team and a representative of the school and community. With this in mind, eligibility standards, self-discipline, hard work and pride will be stressed.

## Bedminster Twp. School Sports

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>Begin</b>	<b>End</b>
Field Hockey	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Early/Mid September	Late October
Soccer (coed)	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Early/Mid September	Late October
Boys & Girls Basketball	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Mid November	Mid February
Lacrosse	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Mid March	End of May
Baseball	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Mid March	End of May
Softball	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Mid March	End of May

## *Eligibility Requirements*

In order to be eligible for participation in the Bedminster Twp. School's interscholastic program, a student must be in compliance with the following:

- A grade point average of 2.75 (C+) or higher in ALL core classes, including special area subjects.
- Have a valid physical and accompanying paperwork on file in the health office.
- A signed copy of the *Athlete's Pledge* and *Parent Participation* forms on file with the coach.
- A signed copy of the [Statement of Assurance](#) form on file with the Athletic Coordinator.
- Pay the annual district participation fee.
- Maintain appropriate behavior.

A student who fails to adhere to any of the above standards will be deemed ineligible and subject to the Athletic Department's reinstatement standards.

## *Reinstatement Procedure*

Once a student-athlete is deemed to be ineligible, the reinstatement procedures outlined below take effect.

- ◇ It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to meet with the classroom teacher or teachers to draft the [eligibility plan](#). The goal can be academic, assessment or behavior related.
- ◇ Once the goal is drafted, a copy of the form is given to the parent, coach and the classroom teacher maintains a copy. The plan is shared with the principal and athletic coordinator as well.
- ◇ During the ineligibility period the student-athlete may not attend team functions.
- ◇ Upon completion of the goal, the student-athlete is reinstated to all team activities.

## *Attendance Policy*

All student-athletes are expected to attend every game and practice unless excused by the coach. It is the responsibility of the player or parent to notify the coach of any absences. Repeated unexcused absences may result in a loss of playing time or removal from the team.

Attendance at school is an expectation of our student-athletes. A student is not allowed to participate in after school activities if he/she is not in attendance on that day. Student-athletes must attend at least one-half of the total class periods to be eligible for participation that day. Additionally, any student-athlete who has an unexcused participation grade for physical education class is ineligible to participate in the team activity for that day.

## Participation Fee

With the budget limitations and increasing costs associated with maintaining interscholastic programs, the need to impose a participation fee has become a reality. The fee for participating in an interscholastic sport is \$75, along with a \$25 bus fee.

A student-athlete is only obligated to pay the participation fee for the first sport in which they participate. Any additional participation does not require further payment; **however, the bus fee is recurring for each sport participating in.**

Paying the participation fee does not guarantee playing time. This remains at the discretion of the coach. If a parent has a concern relating to this issue, please follow the steps under the *Parental Concern* section.

## *Playing Time*

There are many benefits to be gained by participation in athletics at the middle school level. Those involved learn the values associated with discipline, performing under stress, coping, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, effort, accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, organizational skills, and striving towards excellence.

Although there are many measures of success in the minds of each participant, perhaps the most emotional is “playing time” during contests. If a student has questions as to his/her “playing time”, he/she is encouraged to discuss them with the coach.

There are many factors that govern an individual's playing time, but perhaps the most important are practice attendance, quality of effort, attitude, and commitment.

### *Procedure for Parental Concerns*

Parents who have specific concerns regarding coaches, team procedures and other information pertaining to a specific sport should adhere to the following chain of command when attempting to resolve the problem:

1. Arrange for a mutual time to meet with the coach to discuss the problem. Do not confront the coach before, during or immediately after a game/practice; this is an emotional time for both the coach and the parent. It is rare that a positive resolution can be reached in this situation. If the problem is not resolved, then proceed to step 2.
2. Contact the Athletic Director to discuss the problem. If the problem is not resolved at this point, proceed to step 3.
3. Contact the school Principal to discuss the problem.

### *Guidelines for Team Selection*

In accordance with our desire to see high levels of participation in the athletic program, coaches are encouraged to enlist the maximum number of students while maintaining the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors can place limitations on squad size.



Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of the team. Coaches will provide the following information to all candidates for the team if tryouts are necessary:

1. Duration of tryout period
2. Criteria used to select the team
3. Number of players to be selected
4. Practice and game commitment for athletes who make the team

### Conflicts with Non-Athletic ExtraCurricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will undoubtedly face time management issues. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts. This includes being cautious about engaging in an excessive number of activities in which conflicts may occur. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises, the sponsors/coaches will work out a solution so that the student does not feel overwhelmed. Once the decision has been made, and the student has followed that decision, he or she will not be penalized by either the faculty sponsor or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

## Sports Eligibility Goal Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

**Homework Goal:**

**Assessment Goal:**

**Classroom Behavior Goal:**

The above goal or goals must be met by \_\_\_\_\_ in order to rejoin the team. The time frame for meeting the goal can be extended up to 2 weeks in length.

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\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

*Statement of Assurance*

**I/We have read and understand the Bedminster Twp. School athletic policies and guidelines as stated/outlined the Athletic Handbook.**

**Student-athlete (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student-athlete (Sign)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian (Sign)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Please sign and return to the coach of the first sport you are participating in this year.**