

# Breckenridge Schools Athletic Department

*Be Absolutely Determined  
to Enjoy What You Do!*

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

*If you're anticipating the worst while hoping for the best, you will usually get the worst.*

***TURN IT AROUND!***

*Imagine the best, expect the best, work for the best - and you'll usually get the best.*

Ryan Sklener  
Athletic Director

## ***PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS***

The athletic program is an important part of the overall education of the student.

The purpose of the athletic program, sponsored by the Breckenridge Board of Education, is to provide all eligible students the opportunity to participate in activities which will help them grow mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

The philosophy of participation will vary at different grade levels. Practice attendance, attitude and performance are major factors in determining playing time at all levels.

### **FRESHMAN LEVEL**

The basic philosophy at the freshman level is to provide an opportunity for each player to gain game experience. Within reason, playing time is more important than winning and losing. Playing time is not, however, guaranteed to be equal.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY LEVEL**

The emphasis is still on developing a players skills and allowing students to participate. Coaches are getting athletes ready for the varsity level. Practice attendance, effort, attitude and skill level will play a major role in determining playing time. Every attempt will be made to get all athletes in the game, but this may not be possible in every contest.

### **VARSITY LEVEL**

The ultimate goal is to promote good sportsmanship, the team concept, to play by the rules of the game and to be as competitive as possible in an attempt to win each contest. In some game situations, not all team members may be able to participate.

Varsity coaches, along with the athletic director, will make the final decision as to the number of athletes that will be carried on a team.

The coaches will determine playing time based on each athletes skill level, team attitude, practice attendance and effort given during practices and games. Our goal is to be as competitive as possible.

When an athlete is chosen to be on a varsity team, it does not mean he/she will start or necessarily play in a contest.

All athletes will meet the academic standards and follow the "Athletic Handbook" as approved by the Breckenridge Board of Education.

Every attempt will be made to hire the best possible coaches for the students of Breckenridge Schools. Employees of the Breckenridge Schools will be given first consideration. Interested individuals will also be given consideration. In all cases, coaches will be hired based on experience, knowledge and a perceived commitment to the athletic program. The best available coach for the job will be selected for all positions. Head coaches (for the Varsity level) are interviewed and selected by a committee consisting of the athletic director, staff/parent, 2 board members, and another school administrator.

Coaches are hired on an annual basis with contract renewal based upon satisfactory performance.

Approved by.....The Breckenridge Board of Education on May 15, 2006.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students **MUST BE** in attendance for all scheduled classes on the day of the contest, or the previous day for a Saturday event. (*Exception*) Doctor appointments or other extenuating situations that are approved by the administrator.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Academic eligibility is checked on a weekly basis and is cumulative throughout the nine weeks.

- ☞ Must be passing all classes to be eligible.
- ☞ *The coach will be provided with a weekly eligibility list for any athlete who is warned or failed.*
- ☞ *The athlete MUST BE warned by his/her teacher during the current marking period before he/she can be failed and deemed ineligible.*
- ☞ If an athlete is failing any class, he/she will be declared ineligible for a (7) seven day period beginning the Sunday following the report.
- ☞ If you are ineligible, you are required to go to all practices, but will not be allowed to dress for games during the ineligible period.

## **STUDENT ATHLETIC CODE**

Representing Breckenridge Middle/High School in co-curricular activities is regarded as an honor and a privilege. All students who take part in interscholastic competition must understand that adherence to all parts of the School Athletic code is an essential condition for participation. Specific incidents of misbehavior or academic problems not covered in the School Athletic Code are subject to the review and disciplinary action by the coach or administration. The purpose of the school Athletic Code is not to restrict freedom. It is to encourage students to practice and develop an appreciation for the values associated with responsible behavior, healthful living, and good citizenship. Students should understand that by practicing for and participating in interscholastic activities, they are frequently in the public eye. Students should strive for the type of behavior and quality of character that will make them a credit to their team, their school, their community, and their family.

## **ATHLETIC POLICY TIME FRAME**

All participants in academic or athletic interscholastic activities in grades 7 through 12 shall be required to abide by this code. Each student must have a signed copy of the School Athletic Code on file in the Athletic Director's office before being allowed to participate in any practice, performance, or competition.

Failure to sign the Athletic Code will result in denial of the privilege of participation.

Students shall be regarded to be under the rules of the school Athletic Code beginning with their first day of participation and continuing through the conclusion of their final date of competition as a senior. Students are bound to the Athletic Code conditions throughout the summer months as well as during the school year.

## **Procedure:**

The Athletic Director shall be the administrator responsible for the Athletic Code procedures involving student athletes. The principal will be the administrator responsible for the Athletic Code procedures involving students participating in non-athletic extracurricular activities. All violations shall be reported to the appropriate administrator. What constitutes an acceptable source shall be left to the discretion of the administrator.

Reports by coaches, teachers, administrators, and officers of the court will automatically be considered valid. The administrator shall arrange to hold a conference with the reported student and the student's coach and/or advisor. The Athletic Director or Principal is the administrator responsible for holding all hearings and invoking penalties when appropriate. The administrator will give written notice of such penalties to the student's parents, coach and principal.

### **Appeal Process:**

Appeals will be limited to the question of whether a violation of the Athletic Code has occurred. Penalties imposed for violations of the code are not subject to the appeal process providing they fall within the guidelines of the code.

Appeals of the Athletic Code disciplinary decisions made by the Athletic Director and/or Principal may be directed to the Superintendent. He/she will have two (2) school days to affirm or modify the decision.

Students serving out-of-school suspensions will not be allowed to participate in any practices, games, contests, or competitions until the suspension from school has been completed.

Students who are in class but serving athletic suspensions may be required to attend all practices or competitions at the discretion of the coach or advisor.

### **Reinstatement:**

Students must contact the Athletic Director or Principal before they will be reinstated to their current sport or activity.

### **Supervision:**

Students must be supervised at all times by an adult staff member when using school equipment.

### **DISCIPLINE**

A student/athlete may be suspended from participation for an indefinite period of time for actions not consistent with those expected by the school. The athlete, parents and coach will be notified of the nature of the offense and the penalty given. A student athlete has the right to appeal the suspension. The Athletic Director and Principal have the right to uphold, cancel or modify the penalty.

Parents will be notified of any disciplinary action taken by the coach or athletic director and may have a conference to discuss it.

### **RTC Discipline Policy**

1. If any athlete is sent to RTC, they will be given a note to give to the coach to alert the coach to the RTC visit.
2. The coach will sign the note and the athlete will return it to the RTC Coordinator.
3. The athlete will be able to practice.
4. When the athlete has visited RTC three times, he/she will miss the next game.
5. A fourth visit will also result in a missed game.
6. A fifth visit will result in a missed game.
7. If the athlete visits a sixth time, they will be off the team.

### **TOBACCO, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, CRIMINAL**

#### **LAW VIOLATIONS**

Possession - Use or distribution of Tobacco / Drugs / Alcohol

#### **FIRST OFFENSE**

Minimum penalty - one third of a season suspension, determined by sport. Additionally, successful completion of an "Assessment Treatment" program and its recommendations may be required. This suspension will carry over to the next season.

#### **SECOND OFFENSE**

Suspension from all athletics for a period of one calendar year. Completion of an assessment program and its recommendations may be required.

#### **THIRD OFFENSE**

Permanent suspension from all athletics.

Violations are cumulative throughout a student/athletes career. If a coach suspects the use of any look-alike, or mind-altering substance, including steroids, a conference is convened between players, coach, parents, and athletic director.

## **MHSAA ELIGIBILITY RULES**

### **Enrollment**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled in a high school no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday after Labor Day (1<sup>st</sup> semester) or the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of February (2<sup>nd</sup> semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes.

### **Age**

A student who competes in an interscholastic athletic contest must be under (19) years of age, except that student whose (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

A (7<sup>th</sup>) grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under (14) years of age, except that a student who's (14<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. A (14) year old (7<sup>th</sup>) grade student is allowed to compete on a team of combined (7<sup>th</sup>) and (8<sup>th</sup>) grade students. In each case, all other regulations pertaining to eligibility must be met.

An (8<sup>th</sup>) grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any (8<sup>th</sup>) grade student who exceeds that age retirement may play on a (9<sup>th</sup>) grade team of that middle school, provided all other regulations pertaining to eligibility are met.

### **SEMESTER ELIGIBILITY**

A student must successfully pass 5 out of 7 semester classes to be eligible for participation in athletics the following semester and be on track to graduate. See section 8 - MHSAA Handbook.

### **SEMESTER ENROLLMENT**

A student shall not compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades (9) to (12), inclusive, of more than (8) semesters. The (7<sup>th</sup>) and (8<sup>th</sup>) semesters must be consecutive.

### **SEMESTERS OF COMPETITION**

A student, once enrolled in grade (9) shall be allowed to compete in only (4) first semesters and (4) second semesters. A student shall be limited to participation in one sports season when that sport is sponsored twice during the school year.

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

No student shall be able to participate in interscholastic activities unless a physical exam, performed by a licensed physician, is on file in the Athletic Director's office for the current school year. (Physical exams must be performed after April 15 of the previous school years.)

### **TRANSFERS**

Generally, a student must have had an accompanying change of residence by parents, guardian or other persons with whom he/she has been living during the period of the last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school he/she now attends to be eligible during (1<sup>st</sup>) semester. (Check with athletic director on all transfers.)

### **AWARDS**

A student may accept, (for participation in athletics), a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a value or cost in excess of \$25. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certifications or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed. A violation of this rule may lead to ineligibility.

### **AMATEUR PRACTICE**

No student shall be eligible who...

1. has received money or valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games sponsored by MHSAA.
2. has received money or valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests.
3. has signed a professional athletic contract.

### **LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next (3) contests and maximum of a remainder of the season in that school year. (Check the athletic director for exceptions.)

### **COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY RULES**

If you practice and play your freshman year at an NCAA Division I or II college, you must satisfy requirements of the NCAA as follows:

1. You must graduate from high school.
2. Based on your GPA in 16 core classes, you must score a specified number on the SAT or ACT.
3. Information of these scores can be obtained from the principal or athletic director.

(For more information go to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org))

**SAT or ACT** must be taken on a national testing date. You may not use residual or regional test to meet bylaw 14,3. (Check with principal, athletic director or counselor for testing dates.)

### **DUAL SPORTS**

If any athlete in grade (9-12) participates in more than one sport in a season, they must realize problems may arise. When conflicts exist between practice in one activity and a contest in another, the contest will prevail. If there are contests in both sports, athletes will decide.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Whenever transportation is provided for students representing BHS on out-of-town events, such as athletic contests, music events, class field trips, etc. such students shall be required to use the transportation furnished by the school to and from the school. This specifically includes members of athletic teams, musicians, and all members of any other group officially representing Breckenridge High School. Exemptions may be made if the coach or advisor receives a signed note that excuses students to ride home with a parent or responsible adult. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to transport other students.

### **BAD WEATHER DAYS**

If school is canceled due to inclement weather, all practices and contests will be canceled with the possible exception of TVC/MHSAA tournaments. Varsity teams only may be allowed to practice with administrative approval. Decision to be made by 1 pm on that day.

### **UNIFORM POLICY**

Student athletes are expected to return all uniforms and equipment at the conclusion of each season. If these are not returned when the coach requests them, the athlete will not be able to participate in the next sport (practices or games) until the uniform and equipment is returned. If this occurs at the end of the school year, the parents and students will be billed and/or the student will not receive his/her report card.

Please.....DO NOT FORGET...."Handbook Form" must be signed and returned to the high school office.

BRECKENRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
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**“Caring People Committed to Excellence”**

## ADMINISTRATORS

Interim Superintendent.....Mr. Dean Havelka  
Middle School/High School Principal.....Mrs. Sheila Pilmore  
Athletic Director/Dean of Students.....Mr. Ryan Sklener

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