

# **Beaufort High School**

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## **Athletic Handbook (Parent/Players)**

**2025 - 2026**

**Beaufort High School**

**EAGLES**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|       |                                              |    |
|-------|----------------------------------------------|----|
| I.    | Introductions                                | 3  |
| II.   | Athletic Competition Philosophy              | 4  |
| III.  | Governance                                   | 5  |
| IV.   | Athletic Academic Requirements               | 6  |
| V.    | Requirements for Participation               | 8  |
| VI.   | Basic Athletic Participation Policies        | 9  |
| VII.  | Athletic Awards Policy                       | 14 |
| VIII. | Athletic Code of Conduct                     | 15 |
| IX.   | Social Media Guidelines for Student-Athletes | 16 |
| X.    | Suspension/Appeal Procedures                 | 18 |
| XI.   | Parent/Athlete/Spectator Procedures          | 19 |
| XII.  | Required Form                                | 23 |



## ***Statement of Non-Discrimination***

*Beaufort County School District does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities.*

# **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

## **A. Message to Parents/Guardians**

This material is presented to you because your student has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic activities. We believe that participation in sports and other interscholastic activities offers a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which will assist students in personal growth and development.

We also think that a properly controlled, well-organized athletic program enhances a student's self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. Our goal is to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and furthers each athlete's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in the athletic program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and sacrifice. These are two reasons we stress good training habits. **Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct will result in dismissal from participation.** The concepts of self-discipline and sacrifice are tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team or activity. Students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition have no place in interscholastic activities. We are striving for excellence and will not accept mediocrity.

When your student enlists in one of our interscholastic programs, he/she will receive the following commitments from our staff:

- Adequate equipment and facilities
- Well-trained coaches
- Full schedules with qualified officials as directed by the South Carolina High School League

The Athletic Department's role is to set rules to govern the spirit of competition. These rules need a broad base of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent/guardian. We hope to accomplish this objective partially through this publication for students and parents/guardians.

## **B. Message to Student Participants**

Membership on a Beaufort High School athletic team is the fulfillment of an ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it traditions and responsibilities that must be upheld. A great competitive tradition is not built overnight; it takes hard work from many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team, you will be faced with maintaining an already successful tradition or establishing a successful tradition.

It is not easy to build a great tradition in athletics or academics. When you represent your school,

we assume that you understand our goals and traditions and will meet the responsibilities that go with them. We hope that the contributions you make will be a satisfying accomplishment for you and your family.

1. **Responsibilities to yourself:** Your most important responsibility is to strengthen your character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible benefits from your high school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in extracurricular activities, including sports, prepare you for adulthood.
2. **Responsibilities to your school:** Your school cannot build or maintain a reputation as an outstanding school unless you do your best in each activity in which you engage. By participating in interscholastic competition, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You also assume a leadership role if you are on an interscholastic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with a spotlight on you. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude in and out of school. Because of your leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

3. **Responsibilities to others:** As a team member, you bear a heavy responsibility to your family. You should never bring shame to your family. When you know in your heart that you have met all training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability, and that you have played the game “all out”, you can maintain your self-respect. Your family can be proud of you and your effort. Always remember that younger students are watching you and will copy you in many ways. **Always set good examples for them.**

## II. ATHLETIC COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY

### Statement of Philosophy

Beaufort High School interscholastic activity programs should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life.

Our programs will be conducted in accordance with the policies of our Board of Trustees and the regulations of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL). While our Board and district take great pride in winning, we do not condone “winning at any cost.”

We discourage any pressure that might adversely affect good sportsmanship. Our interscholastic activity programs will be conducted in such a way as to justify them as approved educational activities.

### B. Goals and Objectives

The main goal for a student-athlete is to help them become an effective citizen in society. Our student-athletes will learn the following:

1. **How to work with others:** In society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed before an athlete’s personal desires.
2. **How to be successful:** Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we

succeed when we continually do our best. An athlete can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. He/she must develop a desire to excel.

3. **How to develop sportsmanship:** To accept defeat like a true sportsman involves knowing you have done your best. You must learn to treat others the way we would have them treat us. An athlete must develop positive social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
4. **How to improve:** Continual improvement is essential to athletic excellence. As a participant, you must establish goals and continually strive to reach them. You must try to better yourself in the skills required for success.
5. **How to enjoy participation:** Athletes must enjoy participation, acknowledge all personal rewards to be derived from participation, and give sufficiently of themselves to enhance the program.
6. **How to develop positive personal health habits:** To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

### III. GOVERNANCE

#### A. District Board of Education

- Our Board of Trustees is the governing body for our school system.
- One of its responsibilities is to provide interscholastic athletic programs as a value to our students and community. The Board approves all personnel involved with our interscholastic athletic programs. The Board also allocates funds to support quality interscholastic programs.

#### B. The Region

- Beaufort High School is a voluntary member of the South Carolina High School League Region VI AAAA.
- Regions are established for promoting selected interscholastic activities among member schools.
- Region membership facilitates the arranging of schedules, equalizing competition, conducting meets/tournaments/playoffs, and determining championships.
- Regions provide each school the opportunity for competition without excessive travel and with schools of similar size.
- Membership requires abiding by region schedules, rules, and regulations.

#### C. South Carolina High School League (SCHSL)

- All schools are voluntary members of the South Carolina High School League and compete only with member schools or out-of-state schools that are approved by the SCHSL.
- As a member school system, Beaufort High School will abide by and enforce all rules and regulations set forth by the SCHSL.
- The primary role of the SCHSL is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the students and a balance with other educational programs.
- The SCHSL solicits input and is responsive to requests for modification from member schools, appointed committees, and coaches' associations.

## IV. ATHLETIC ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A. All student athletes must be registered in the school they plan to play their sports in and must be in good standing within their school. According to Beaufort County School Board Policy, a student – athlete must maintain a 2.0 grade point average from the previous semester, or they are not eligible to compete for their team. The Athletic Director will do a formal grade check each semester to ensure each athlete is maintaining their eligibility. All students that participate in regularly scheduled physical education classes must be passing physical education to participate in athletics. Students being medically excused from physical education class for any reason may not be allowed to participate in their team practices or games for that day, until they are medically cleared.
- B. For the fall season, year-end grades and credit from the previous school year are used to determine eligibility. Students entering their 9th grade year for the first time are allowed to participate during the first semester of high school with no restrictions on eligibility, if they were promoted in good standing from their respective middle school. Athletic eligibility will be processed at the end of each semester and will be based on the previous semester's final grade calculations. Certain "at-risk students" or students with an IEP, whose grades are close to the 2.0 GPA requirement cut-off, may be monitored using Progress Reports in order to insure they remain eligible for their respective team.
- C. Beaufort High School students, while participating, must be full-time as determined by guidelines set forth by the State Department of Education. A student who is repeating a course for which he/she has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility. NOTE: State law provides opportunities for charter and home-schooled students to participate under certain conditions. Such students must be determined eligible before a team begins practice.
- D. To participate in an athletic activity, students in grades 9–12 must achieve an overall passing average in addition to the following:
1. To be eligible in the first semester, a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least 2 units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school.
  2. To be eligible during the second semester, a student must meet one of the following conditions:
    - a. If the student meets first semester eligibility requirements, he/she must pass the equivalent of 3 full credits, or 2 credits required for graduation and have an overall passing average.
    - b. If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements, he/she must pass the equivalent of 3 full credits, or 2 credits required for graduation. And have an overall passing average.
- In a 4X4 block schedule where units are granted at the end of the first semester, the following will apply:

  - If eligible first semester, must earn 3 units or 2 units required for graduation and have an overall passing average.
  - If not eligible first semester, must earn 3 units or 2 units required for graduation and have an overall passing average.

3. Students must satisfy eligibility requirements in the semester preceding participation.
  - a. Credits earned in summer school, approved by the State Department of Education, may apply for first semester eligibility. A maximum of two units per year may be used.
  - b. Students eligible for a first semester sport will be permitted to complete that sport even if it extends into the second semester. Under current SCHSL regulations, this will apply to participants in basketball and wrestling in the high school and middle school programs.
4. Students with Disabilities:
  - a. Students diagnosed with disabilities, and being served in a non-diploma program, shall be considered eligible for participation in interscholastic activities if they are successfully meeting the requirements of their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
  - b. Students with disabilities and being served in a program leading to a state high school diploma, must meet all eligibility requirements previously stated for participation in interscholastic activities.
5. A course that is dropped after the 20<sup>th</sup> day of a semester with a failing average will be considered as a failed course when determining academic eligibility for the following semester.
6. Credit courses used for eligibility purposes must be courses that are applicable as credit toward a state high school diploma. A student may also use college credit courses, provided the student has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation.
7. Academic deficiencies may not be made up through enrollment in adult education programs.
8. A maximum of two credit recovery units may be used toward eligibility, to include the two units presently allowed in summer school. The course would have to be accepted by the State Department of Education for graduation and accredited by a certified teacher in that field. To be eligible for recovery credits, the student must have received a minimum grade of 60.

**NOTE: Credit recovery must be completed by the following dates:**

- Courses taken for first semester eligibility – (The first day of school)
  - Courses taken for second semester eligibility – (The first day of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
9. A student must not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent.
  10. Academic requirements for students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grades, including first semester ninth graders are:
    - a. Students passing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades by academic promotion (not by social promotion or placement) are considered as having met the requirements for academic eligibility for first semester.
    - b. Students in grades seven and eight must be meeting the school district promotion policy at the end of the first semester in order to be eligible second semester. (Second semester ninth grade students must meet League academic regulations.)
    - c. A seventh or eighth grade repeater shall not be eligible during a school year if academic

requirements for promotion were not met during the previous year.

**NOTE: A student failing the seventh or eighth grade is eligible during second semester if he/she has satisfactorily passed first semester work.**

11. Schools will follow the procedures outlined by the State Department of Education, in accepting or rejecting credits received by a student while the student is enrolled in private schools, home schools and/or out-of-state schools.

## **V. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

### **A. Physical Examination**

**A yearly physical examination is required.** Each head coach will distribute physical forms. The physical must be completed by a licensed physician on the required form and submitted to the drop box prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for one calendar year. The report will be kept on file in the high school athletic office. **The physical should be received after April 1<sup>st</sup>** of the upcoming school year. The physical should be placed in the drop box located outside the athletic director's office. We strongly encourage you to make an extra copy of the physical prior to turning it in. All signatures, dates, and forms must be complete before the athlete will be cleared to participate. The athlete will not be cleared to participate in any team activity until the forms are complete and the student's name has been placed on the cleared physical list. This list will be updated daily and sent out to coaches on google docs or a running document by the athletic director. If the athlete is not on the list, then they are not cleared. An athlete cannot be excused from practice because they do not have a physical. Missed practice consequences will be enforced.

### **B. Risk of Participation**

All athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must realize the risk of serious injury which may be a result of athletic participation. Beaufort County School District requires that Risk of Participation forms be signed by athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s).

### **C. Emergency Medical Authorization**

Each athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s)/guardians(s) are not available. The form will be kept by the athletic department for use as needed.

### **D. Insurance**

Beaufort County School District provides a supplemental accident insurance policy for student athletes which helps pay medical expenses. At the time of any athletic injury that requires doctor care, you should immediately contact the school athletic trainer. The athletic trainer will provide you with the proper paperwork to start the process with your claim. The school insurance is secondary to your primary insurance. It is the parent/guardian responsibility to follow up with the insurance company.

### **E. Parental Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies**

**Upon entering high school, or at the time a student tries out for an athletic team, he/she will be presented with this handbook containing the necessary forms and information for participation. Each parent/guardian must read the enclosed materials and certify that they**

**understand the athletic eligibility rules and policies. The signed document will be filed in the athletic office.**

#### **F. Athletic Eligibility**

To participate in an interscholastic activity, each athlete must have satisfied all eligibility requirements prior to participation.

#### **G. Transfer**

Any student who transfers into Beaufort High School must be registered with Beaufort High School and have all physical paperwork on file to participate in any practice or team activity. The athlete cannot participate in any scrimmages/games until cleared by the Beaufort County School District office. For the athlete to be cleared they must complete the district transfer packet. **Parents should let Beaufort High Schools registrar office know the student is a transfer.**

#### **H. Outside Athletes**

At no time should any person outside the Beaufort High School athletic department be practicing or participating in any team function at Beaufort High School, or with Beaufort High School athletes that are led by a Beaufort High School athletic coach.

#### **I. Other South Carolina High School League Eligibility Rules**

1. A student who turns **19 prior to July 1** cannot participate the following year.
2. Once a student enters the ninth grade, he/she will have four successive years in which to participate provided he/she does not exceed the age requirement. This is referred to as the "8 semester rule" in the SCHSL Constitution and By-Laws.
3. Transfer students must comply with the SCHSL transfer rule. If you are a transfer student, immediately contact the athletic director so that he/she may determine if you are in compliance with the transfer rule. The athletic director must process the necessary paperwork with the SCHSL. The SCHSL will have the final approval of whether a transfer student is eligible for athletics. Until the athletic director has approval from the SCHSL, the athlete is ineligible to participate in any athletic programs.

## **VI. BASIC ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

#### **A. Participation**

**A student may participate in only one interscholastic activity per season unless all coaches/sponsors agree, and priorities are set to resolve conflicts before the season.** When a student wishes to compete in more than one activity during a season, coaches/sponsors are encouraged to cooperate so this may happen. Sometimes, however, fulfilling the requirements of both activities may not be possible.

#### **B. Quitting/Dismissed from Team or Transferring Sports**

**Quitting/dismissal from a team after competitions (scrimmage, Jamboree, game) have begun, that student cannot begin a new sport until the entire season of that sport is completed (Including Playoffs).** The athlete who quit or was dismissed cannot participate in any team activities until the conclusion of the sport he/she quit or was dismissed from. Hardships could be granted if the two head coaches, the athletic director, and the principal agree with the athlete starting another sport due to unforeseen circumstances that caused the athlete to quit.

**It is the coach's decision** if an athlete can return to the team, pending a conversation with the parents and the athlete in question. **If an athlete does not return within three days or falls under**

**the three unexcused missed practice policy, he/she will be ineligible to play another sport or utilize off-season conditioning with another team until that season is complete.** Each coach has their own policy on how a team is selected.

### **C. Equipment/Uniforms**

**School equipment or uniforms issued to the student-athlete is the student's responsibility.** Loss of any equipment or uniform is the athlete's financial obligation. Failure to satisfy that obligation will result in denial of participation in the athletic program and will result in restriction of privileges. At no time should an athlete attempt to alter the uniform issued to them by Beaufort High School.

### **D. Travel on Away Contest**

**All Student athletes are required to ride the bus provided to the team by the Beaufort County School District on away trips. No athlete should ride with anyone other than the team. All student athletes are expected to ride back to Beaufort High School on the bus with the team. If a student athlete rides back with anyone, it can only be the parent or guardian. For the athlete to travel back with the parent/guardian they must complete the sign out sheet provided by the district. No coach can release an athlete from traveling back on the school bus unless all proper paperwork has been completed. It is the head coach's discretion if he/she allows players to not ride the bus back to Beaufort High School. Athletes can only be released with the parent/guardian to leave the athletic events they are participating in upon completion of the entire contest.**

### **E. Team Schedules**

**Coaches will communicate to their teams and parents their practice plans (Not the AD), so that parents will be informed as to when they should pick up their son/daughter following games and practices. It is expected that parents will make every effort to pick up their child in a prompt and timely manner following games and practices, as coaches are responsible for making sure student athletes leave practices and games in a safe manner.**

Students, parents, teachers and alumni can get all their team's updated schedule information at our athletic website.

### **F. Athlete Dress and Attire:**

Athletes are encouraged to dress in an appropriate manner whenever they represent Beaufort High School. This includes appropriate dress during the school day, at practice and for all games. Appropriate dress may include dressing in team warm-ups or participating in "dress up" days with shirt and tie for the boys, or skirts or dresses for the girls' teams. The head coach can determine how he/she wants his/her team to dress on game days, if it is in line with the Beaufort High School dress code.

### **G. At all Athletic Banquets/Signing Ceremonies:**

1. Male athletes should wear dress pants with a shirt and tie.
2. Female athletes should wear dress slacks, sweaters, blouses, skirts or dresses.
3. No athlete should be permitted to wear jeans or shorts. This is a night to award you for your efforts and your accomplishments and you should dress the part.
4. **We will have three signing ceremonies throughout the year.**

**Fall- November 12, 2025**

**Winter- February 4, 2026**

**Spring- April 22, 2026**

## **H. Travel Ball During Season**

Athletes should not be participating in the same sport at school and in another arena outside of school. Meaning the athlete should not be playing softball for the school during the spring and a travel ball team at the same time. Please understand the importance of recovery and protecting the student athlete. Overtraining is one of the most dangerous parts of athletics.

## **I. Missing Practice Policy**

If athletes are not at practice the team cannot win and we are not teaching the athlete important life lessons. It is important that we understand the commitment it takes to play sports and succeed in life. Missing practice for unexcused reasons will not be tolerated. Examples of excused missed practice (death in family, sick with fever, certain emergency situations) Examples of unexcused practice (stomach hurt, watch siblings, catch up on school work, no transportation, tired, or vacation (cruise) that was planned in advance) Coaches cannot count practices on the weekends or during school holidays as a missed practice, but they can cut playing time or demote a player's position. Mandatory practice can never be scheduled on a Sunday. Anything done on a Sunday must be voluntary only. It is extremely important that a coach be notified if an athlete is not going to be present at a practice or game so that the coaches can make the appropriate adjustments for the absence. Coaches in our program expect athletes to be to be present at all team related activities.

**1<sup>st</sup> Missed Practice- Suspended the first half, segment, or an equitable time frame based on the specific contest.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Missed Practice- Suspended the first ¾ of the contest as outlined in 1<sup>st</sup> missed practice.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Missed Practice- Dismissal from the team**

## **J. Practice and Game Apparel**

Players are expected to practice and play games in clothing/uniforms that are of school or neutral colors.

## **K. College Recruitment Policy**

If a student athlete is contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she must work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of the contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the athletic office or counseling office.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Most college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established recruiting and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions: Division I, Division II and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another of these according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

Athletes planning to enroll in college as a freshman who wishes to participate in Division I or Division II athletics must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was established as a separate organization by the NCAA member institutions to ensure consistent interpretation of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions.

Athletes who want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college should start the certification process in their junior year (11<sup>th</sup> grade) in high school. Athletes should do the following:

1) check with their guidance counselors to make sure that they are taking course work that meets NCAA requirements; 2) register to take the SAT or ACT as juniors; and 3) submit the Student Release Form (available in the Guidance Office) to the Clearinghouse by the beginning of the senior year.

### **ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applying for athletic scholarships has become an important area of college preparation because these scholarships are a way of earning tuition in return for an athlete's competitive abilities. Whether one is male or female or interested in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, or wrestling, there may be scholarship dollars available for him/her.

At the beginning of an athlete's high school career, he/she should ask his/her guidance counselor to help him/her to make sure that he/she takes the required number and mix of academic courses, and to determine the SAT and ACT score minimums that must be met to play college sports. Also, the athlete should ask the counselor about academic requirements, because the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse must certify all athletes and start this process by the end of junior year.

#### **L. Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities**

1. An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflict.
2. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.
3. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise. **This also includes vacations during the sports season.**
4. In the event of a conflict, the sponsors/coaches will work out a solution if possible. If a solution cannot be found, the principal or athletic director will resolve the matter based on the following criteria:
  - a. The relative importance of each event to the school.
  - b. The importance of each event to the student.
  - c. The relative contribution the student can make.
  - d. How long each event has been scheduled.
  - e. The opinion of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
  - f. Once the decision has been made and the student complies, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either 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.

## **M. Attendance**

1. **Athletes should be present in all classes during the school day unless excused by parents, faculty, or administration.** Athletes will be expected to practice unless excused by the coach. A student athlete shall not participate in athletics (game or practice) on the day he or she has been absent for more than two (2) blocks without just cause. Just cause is anything beyond the control of the student, except for illness. Doctor/dental appointments and Beaufort County School's lawful absences constitute just cause; however, confirmation notes will be required by the Athletic Director or coach.
2. An athlete who leaves school early due to an illness is considered too ill to participate in athletics.
3. Athletes must comply with the minimum attendance requirements in all classes to remain eligible.
4. If a team is traveling to a state athletic contest (playoffs/long distance travel), athletes must attend school from first block to the time of departure.

## **N. Illegal Drugs Substance Abuse Policy-Random Drug Testing**

Beaufort County Schools has an illegal drugs and substance abuse policy where there is random drug testing among student-athletes throughout the year. Parents sign an agreement form for their child to participate. In the event the student-athlete tests positive he/she will follow the procedures set in place by the district.

## **O. Out-of-School suspensions**

Students will not be allowed to participate until they have served their out-of-school suspension. There will be no adjustments made to suspension days to allow a student to participate in any activities.

### **Athletic Penalties for Out-of-School Suspension (1-4 Days)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Suspended for the entire game/match of the upcoming contest after the suspension has been served.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Suspended for the entire next two games/match of the upcoming contest after the suspension has been served.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- Dismissed from team.

### **Athletic Penalties for Out-of-School Suspension (5+ Days)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Suspended for the entire game/match of the upcoming contest after the suspension has been served
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Dismissed from team

If the suspension occurs on the day of the game/match the penalty will be enforced immediately. If it happens on the last game of the year the penalty will carry over to the athletes next sporting season.

## **P. Release from Class**

It is the responsibility of the student to see his/her teacher(s) the day before he/she is to be released to participate in an interscholastic activity. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher.

## **Q. Team Selection/Tryouts/Cuts**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the interscholastic program while at our school, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of their program. Time, space,

facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective team size for any activity.

**Choosing the members of athletic teams is the responsibility of the coaches and they have the final authority in doing so. No student is guaranteed a place on a team because of his/her grade, previous participation, or achievements in outside club sports. During the tryout period, coaches are charged with observing student-athletes in competitive drills and scrimmages and making the best determinations for the make-up of their teams. The coach will provide explanations of his/her expectations to the student-athletes trying out. It is the student's responsibility to demonstrate to the coach that he/she can meet those expectations. Students cut from a team are encouraged to try out for another team, if they wish, if there is space on that team and final cuts have not been made. Students who are cut from a team will receive an explanation from the coach as to the reason for the cut. After tryouts begin, no athlete may voluntarily leave one team to try out for another without the consent of both head coaches and the athletic director. The athletic director will never override the two head coaches' decision.**

Student-athletes at Beaufort High School are encouraged to participate in as many sports seasons as possible. Our hope is that all our athletes play two or three sports.

When the season begins, student-athletes have a minimum of three days to try out for a sport (3 miss practice policy). Athletes participating in play-off games when a new season begins will be given up to seven days after completion of the previous sport to try out for the next season.

#### **R. Reporting of Injuries**

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics must be reported immediately to the trainer/coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report and an insurance claim form completed. A physician treats a student; the athlete must obtain written permission from the doctor to return to the activity.

#### **S. Sports Season Priority**

The season the athlete is in takes priority over all other sports. Meaning if it is the winter then basketball takes priority over baseball. Once the season ends the next upcoming season takes priority over all other sports. Meaning once baseball ends in the spring football takes priority. This is how our athletic department will handle out-of-sports season training.

## VII. ATHLETIC AWARDS POLICY

- A. Athletic awards are controlled by the head coach of each individual sport. The head coach is responsible for choosing the awards they want to give athletes. The head coach of each sport is responsible for providing a banquet for the teams they are coaching at the conclusion of the sports season. All awards purchased by the head coach must be bought out of the individual sports account of that sport.
- B. An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship, and the observance of athletic policies. If an athlete completes the season in good standing, he or she will receive a letter or participation certificate. The head coach of each sport sets the letter requirements for that sport. The letters are awarded at their sport banquet. Awards shall be held if the student-athlete is not in good standing (debt owed). Each head coach is responsible for any special awards given to athletes.
- C. The athletic department will provide the athlete with the following awards
- a. Letter "B"- Letter requirements are determined by the head coach of the sport the athlete is participating in
  - b. Sports Specific Pins
  - c. Bars of Service
  - d. Captain Pins
  - e. All Region Patches
- D. Picture Day
- The Athletic Department will set up a picture day for each sport at the beginning of the season. This will be done on one day in the fall and winter. Spring will break down into two days. The photographer will arrive on campus and each team will be given a time slot to take individual and team photos. If the head coach chooses to set up pictures for the team they are coaching another time different from the date chosen by the Athletic Director, it is the responsibility of that coach to communicate and set up everything involved with the pictures. The athletic department will provide every team with an opportunity to have pictures taken. In these team and individual photos our athletes should look like a team. Everything is uniform. Nothing brings individual attention to anyone. Athletes should not be portraying any hand signs or gestures.
- E. Banners (Senior Banners)
- The athletic department will not provide the individual sports team with Senior Banners. If your sport wants to have a Senior banner of any form, the sport must pay for the banners out of the sport's individual account or parents can purchase directly. Coaches will be given the ability to purchase banners. If a banner is not purchased it is due to the head coaches refusal.

## VIII. ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

A firm and fair code of conduct is necessary to uphold the standards of our athletic department and school. The Board, school administrators, and coaching staff believe strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining sound interscholastic programs. All students will abide by our code of conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation in interscholastic programs affords. Any conduct, which results in dishonor to the athlete, team, school, or community, will not be tolerated.

### A. Code of Conduct

Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, disruptive behavior, theft, vandalism, disrespect, or violations of law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with a program and will not be tolerated. When such violations occur, the appropriate coach, athletic director, and principal will meet and determine the discipline according to the infraction. The discipline may range from suspension to forfeiture of athletic participation.

#### **B. Hazing/Bullying:**

The athletic department will not tolerate hazing/bullying by students, staff and third parties as part of any school sponsored activity. Students must avoid any action that could be viewed as planning, directing, encouraging, assisting or engaging in any hazing/bullying activity. Students should also not engage in acts that have a foreseeable potential for causing physical harm to any person for the purpose of initiation, admission into, or affiliation with any athletic team that is connected to Beaufort High School.

State law defines hazing as “the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with the intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other authorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting or humiliating nature.”

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, will be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to hazing/bullying is encouraged to immediately notify the athletic director or the principal. All complaints will be investigated promptly and confidentially.

A student found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline from the school, athletic department and law enforcement.

#### **C. Arrests, Probation, Investigations:**

An athlete who is arrested, under investigation, on probation, etc., will be suspended from competition until approved by the principal (excluding minor violations such as traffic).

#### **D. Medical Situations:**

Athletes that are believed to be medically unfit to participate fully in the sport may be removed from an athletic team until a licensed medical physician clears them.

#### **E. Ejection From Contest**

Any athlete ejected from a game/contest will be suspended per the South Carolina High School League guidelines, as well as possible additional penalties by Beaufort High School administration. Suspensions are based off the severity of the ejection.

#### **F. Individual Coach's Rules**

Coaches will establish rules and regulations for their sports with the approval of the athletic director. These rules must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and parents and explained fully before the start of the season in the parent meeting. Penalties for violation of team rules will be in writing and administered by the coach. Copies of all team rules must be on file in the athletic office.

### **IX. Social Media Guidelines for Athletes**

With the popularity of social media today, student athletes need to be very careful of what they post. Inappropriate postings may lead to discipline by coaches, athletic directors, or school administrators.

1. **Avoid sharing private information.** Be careful of how much and what kind of identifying information you post on social networking sites. It is unwise to make available information such as date of birth, social security number, address, phone numbers, class schedules, bank account information or details about your daily routine. All of these can facilitate identity theft or stalking. Remember that once posted, the information becomes the property of the website.
2. **Consider your career.** Be aware that potential current and future employers and college admission offices can access information you post on social networking sites. Realize that any information you post will provide an image of you to prospective employers or schools. The posting is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image you can be proud of years from now.
3. **Watch out for “phishing.”** Be careful in responding to unsolicited emails asking for passwords or PIN numbers, also known as “phishing.” Reputable businesses do not ask for this information online.
4. **Understand your rights.** Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited and not without consequence. Social networking sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
5. **Protect your photos.** Photos put on a social network site become the property of the site. You may delete the photo from your profile, but it still stays on their server. Internet search engines like Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. Think long and hard about what type of photo you want to represent you.

One of the biggest lessons athletes should learn is that anything you post online enters the public record. High school students should carefully consider their profiles and ask themselves how they would look to be portrayed by a future college admissions office or potential employer. Please be reminded that social media activity is monitored.

Each student-athlete must remember that participating in and competing for Beaufort High School is a privilege, not a right. Each represents his or her school and the district and they are expected to portray themselves, their teams, and their school, in a positive manner. Any online postings must be consistent with federal and state laws, as well as team, school, school division, and District rules and regulations. Specifically prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Sexually explicit, profane, lewd, indecent, illegal or defamatory language/actions.
- Derogatory language regarding school personnel or other students.
- Comments designed to harass or bully students or school personnel
- Nude, sexually oriented or indecent photos, images or altered pictures.
- Gang images.

## **Nine Social Media Do's and Don'ts for Student-Athletes:**

Four Things to Keep in Mind:

1. **It's a tool, not a toy.** Social media isn't just something for your own entertainment, Petroff says. If used effectively, social media can be an asset to help a student-athlete's individual brand, their community, their team and the school they represent.
2. **Nothing is truly private... ever.** Petroff says there are two types of social media users: Those who realize they are functioning in public and those who don't. While many kids think they can

delete a tweet or delete their Facebook profile, if need be, many don't realize that content posted on the internet can last forever. Content can be captured in screenshots or saved by other users. And that message someone thinks only his or her friends will see? Student-athletes should keep in mind that social media postings could end up being viewed by thousands of people.

3. **If you retweet it (or share it), you own it.** Yes, this even applies to people who put that cliché saying, "RTs do not equal endorsements," on their Twitter profile. That phrase is basically worthless. As Petroff says, "Freedom of speech does not equal freedom from consequences." This is something with which younger student-athletes struggle. They retweet a trash-talking tweet from a friend and all-of-a-sudden they can be caught in the middle of an ugly conversation over the internet.

Petroff shared the example of Ryan Spadola, now a wide receiver for the Miami Dolphins. In 2011, Spadola was a top wide receiver at the FCS level of college football for Lehigh University. Before an NCAA quarterfinal game, he retweeted "**an inappropriate and repugnant racial reference.**"

Even though the tweet wasn't Spadola's, he was still suspended for retweeting the message.

4. **Personal branding: Every tweet reflects who you are.** How are student-athletes choosing to represent themselves? Are they sending the right message about themselves to the public? Petroff reminded the Oregon high schoolers that coaches, college admissions officers and employers all use social media to learn more about candidates. What does your social media portfolio say about you?

When it comes to social media, there are plenty of examples of what not to do. But Petroff says it's important to provide positive examples of how student-athletes should be using social media.

What Should You Post?

1. **Say thank you.** This is always a good option. Teach student-athletes to take time to thank those who support them. Fans, teammates and family for example.
2. **Support others.** Student-athletes can provide a positive example for other students by sending positive messages about their peers in other sports or activities at school.
3. **Share news and humor.** Social media is meant to be fun. Join in conversations and share things you find interesting or entertaining.
4. **Engage in discussion with those you admire.** Petroff discussed how prior to social media, it was difficult to interact or even hear from famous people that student-athletes admire. But now, they can follow them on Twitter and learn what they're talking about and even interact with them.
5. **Post anything consistent with your personal brand.** Again, how do you want to present yourself in public?

## **X. SUSPENSION/APPEAL PROCEDURES**

The following procedures will be followed in the administration of the rules of interscholastic programs:

#### **A. General**

1. Each coach will develop rules for his/her team and secure approval by the athletic director. Students will be notified in writing by the coach of general rules and the team's specific rules at the parent/player meeting.
2. The team's coach must administer reasonable disciplinary action for violation rules that are warranted by the violation.
3. Violation of team rules may result in immediate disciplinary actions, including suspension or removal from the team. In these cases, the coach must follow the procedures outlined in B and C below.
4. Violation of a coach's specific rules may result in suspension from a team. However, before denying participation in the activity, the coach must communicate with parents and discuss the situation with the student.

#### **B. Temporary denial/permanent denial of participation**

1. Temporary denial is defined as any suspension less than a permanent denial of participation.
2. When a coach denies participation of a student in an activity group, the student must be informed of the intended action. The coach must discuss the situation with the athlete before the penalty is levied.

#### **C. Permanent denial of participation**

1. If an athlete is permanently denied participation in an activity, the coach must notify the student and parent/guardian in writing after discussing the issue with the athletic director.

#### **D. Conferences**

1. A parent may schedule a conference with a coach by contacting the coach or athletic director by phone or e-mail.
2. Step #1- Contact the head coach of the sport and set up a meeting at the school to discuss the issue
3. Step #2- If no resolution was met, contact the athletic director to set up a meeting to discuss the issue
4. Parents should not attempt to talk to coaches before, during, or after a game. Always give yourself and the coach 24 hours before you contact them.

## **XI. PARENT/ATHLETE/SPECTATOR PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Parent/Coach Relationship**

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach
  - i. Philosophy and expectations of the coach
  - ii. Locations and times of all practices and contest
  - iii. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
  - iv. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
  - v. Team requirements and rules (Including attendance, excused and unexcused absences)
  - vi. Participants' code of conduct (Contract)
  - vii. Coaches' contact information
2. Communication coaches expect from parents:
  - i. Concerns expressed directly to the head coach followed by athletic director if necessary
  - ii. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

- iii. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- 3. Concerns the parent may have that need to be discussed with the coach
  - i. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
  - ii. Ways to help your child improve their skillset
  - iii. Concerns about your child's behavior
- 4. Items coaches may not discuss:
  - i. Playing time
  - ii. Team strategy
  - iii. Play calling
  - iv. Other student athletes
- 5. 24-Hour Rule
  - i. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution of the concern.
    - 1. Always wait 24 hours before contacting anyone (Do not communicate after a game or when upset at a practice or situation) **(WAIT 24 HOURS)**
    - 2. Once 24 hours is up email or call to set up an appointment with the coach ***(Email is provided to employees for the instructional and administrative needs of the district. Email correspondence to/from a district email account may be considered public information and subject to release under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act or pursuant to subpoena).***

## **B. Sportsmanship**

Beaufort High School values the participation of parents and the community in the activities of the school and encourages adults to serve as role models for students. The school welcomes visitors to the campus for any public sporting event.

While visitors are welcome on campus, the most important concern of the high school is to provide a safe and orderly atmosphere. The following requirements apply:

- 1. Spectators at events open to the public are expected to conduct themselves so as to model good sportsmanship and citizenship. This applies to student spectators as well as adult spectators.
- 2. Spectators shall not **harass, degrade, or heckle players, participants, or referees.**
- 3. Spectators shall not throw anything on the playing surface or come onto the floor, field, mat, and/or track before, during, or after a contest without being beckoned by the head coach or administration.
- 4. Spectators shall not approach the coach of either team before, during, or after the game.
- 5. If you need to talk to a coach, there is a 24-hour period before you can talk to a coach about the game. Please email or call the coach after 24 hours and set up a meeting.
- 6. Student spectators who violate this policy are also in violation of the Code of Conduct and will be disciplined accordingly.

Any visitor to a school event who violates this policy will be asked to leave (no refund or readmission) and may lose the privilege of coming to campus and/or attending school events in the future.

### **Students and spectators should...**

1. Realize you represent the school as does a member of a team; therefore, you have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through behavior and the practice of good sportsmanship.
2. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
3. Remember that the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the players, through the medium of the contest.
4. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
5. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials.
6. Fulfill the pledge you sign before each sport season.

### **C. Ejection Policy:**

Anyone ejected from a contest or observed...

1. fighting (throwing a punch)
2. biting
3. taunting, baiting, or spitting toward an opponent
4. using profanity
5. using obscene gestures
6. disrespectfully addressing or contacting an official

...shall be suspended by the South Carolina High School League and will be subject to discipline by Beaufort High School as well.

**-NOTE: Suspension due to ejection means that the student-athlete is not allowed to dress out or participate in a game, but they are allowed and expected to practice. Dismissal means that the student-athlete is no longer part of the team. The athlete's uniform and equipment will be taken up, and his or her name will be removed from the team roster.**

### **Athletes are expected to:**

1. exemplify high morals, good character, and fellowship.
2. respect the integrity of others.
3. abide by the rules of the game in spirit and intent.
4. demonstrate a continuing interest in personal improvement.
5. display good sportsmanship.
6. respect the rights and possessions of teammates, coaches, administrators, and officials.

**\*\* If a student-athlete at Beaufort High School is recommended for expulsion s/he will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the entire school calendar year.**

## **D. GAME INFORMATION**

### **Tickets**

Tickets are sold for football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and track and field events. The ticket prices for Varsity Football games are set each season as a region. Tickets to all other Beaufort High School sporting events are set by the High School League and/or the County are purchased per person with children under 5 getting free admission. The price for state level tournaments is set by the South Carolina High School League. Fans may also purchase Athletic season passes online from Hometown Tickets on our website at [www.beauforthigheagles.com](http://www.beauforthigheagles.com), through the Booster Club or the Athletic Director. These passes are good for the entire fall or spring semester and are good for all home contests except for any tournaments during the season and South Carolina High School League state tournaments and playoffs.

### **Game Facilities**

Beaufort HOME varsity football games are played at the Eagles Nest Stadium. Home soccer and lacrosse, as well as track meets are also held at Eagles Nest Stadium. The gymnasium is used for basketball games, volleyball matches and wrestling matches. There is NO reserved seating. Baseball, softball, and girls and boys tennis compete on campus.

### **Concessions**

Concessions are operated by the BHS Booster Club by various teams during the seasons under the supervision of the BHS Booster Club. Concessions are open for most varsity contests and most JV games. Containers, coolers, and outside food are prohibited at Beaufort High School. The use of tobacco and/or alcohol products is prohibited on our campus.

### **Booster Club:**

We hope you will take the time to get involved in the many fundraising activities that the Booster Club holds throughout the year, as well as possibly becoming an officer and active part of our Booster Club as we continuously raise funds for our teams and athletes. If you would like to become a part of our Booster Club, please contact our Booster Club president.

## XII. REQUIRED FORMS

### **ATHLETIC RESPONSIBILITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year

A. Prior to participating in any practice or tryout for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

1. Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and a copy of the exam must be on file in the office of the athletic director. One physical examination per year is sufficient for all sports during that school year.
2. Sign and return to the coach all paperwork from the BCSD athletic packet.
3. Complete and return to the coach the athletic responsibility acknowledgement form.
4. Be registered and cleared as an eligible athlete with Beaufort High School as a student.

B. As a Beaufort High School student-athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics, I pledge that:

1. I will abide by the Beaufort High School student code of conduct, the rules of our athletic handbook, the coach's team rules, and the rules of the SCHSL.
2. I will conduct myself in an exemplary manner and model good character.
3. I will be responsible for all athletic equipment issued to me, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and I will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
4. I will not use, or be in possession of, tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal or inappropriate substance. If I use any of these substances, am in possession of such substances, or am suspended from school for use or possession of these substances, I will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in district, school, and athletic policies.
5. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised and cautioned, by administrative and coaching personnel of Beaufort High School that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including, but not limited to sprains, fractures, ligament/cartilage damage, brain damage, paralysis, or even death. Such injuries could result in temporary or permanent, partial or complete impairment. Having been warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
6. I, along with my parent/guardian, certify that I have read and understand all policies in the athletic handbook. I also understand that in order to be eligible for participation, I must comply with all requirements listed.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

