

# **Beaufort High School**

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## **Athletic Handbook For Parents and Student-Athletes 2019-2020**



**Eagle Pride!**

Revised on 12/17/19

## **INTRODUCTION**

This handbook is intended to inform athletes and parents of state and local regulations governing interscholastic athletics. It is hoped that by being aware of rules, regulations, and expectations, unfortunate situations due to lack of knowledge can be avoided. Please understand that this handbook is not all-inclusive. There are many rules and regulations that are not included and, of course, each coach has the right to make reasonable rules that are more stringent than those outlined in this document. Beaufort High School Athletics will abide by and be guided by the Beaufort County Schools District Athletic Guidelines.

If a student-athlete fails to comply with these guidelines, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Department as an indication that s/he does not have sufficient desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. Therefore, the student-athlete will be denied the privilege of participation until s/he can demonstrate this desire. The precise period of suspension will depend on the violation(s) and the attitude of the athlete. Generally, a minimum of one week will be necessary to prove the desire to participate and to comply with all standards, which have been established for the benefit of the athlete and the athletic program as determined by a consensus of the athlete's coach or coaches, and the administration.

## **WELCOME TO THE EAGLE ATHLETIC PROGRAM!**

You are about to join a program that has a long history of achievement and excellence. Many athletes who have preceded you have provided Beaufort High School with a reputation that is highly regarded in high school athletics. We hope your involvement in this program will provide you with many rewarding and worthwhile experiences and that perhaps you too can contribute to further enhance the reputation of Beaufort High School and its athletic program.

The Interscholastic Athletic Program of the Beaufort County School District is an integral part of the total school program, and as such is designed to help our students become better school, community, state, and national citizens.

While the academic area is the primary focus of our school system, we believe participation in an athletic program affords opportunities, training, and experiences not ordinarily available in the regular curriculum. Education should not only provide for the many but should also furnish a demanding test for the limited numbers who are gifted physically and who are committed to excel.

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to prepare our student-athletes to compete in a safe and challenging environment emphasizing leadership skills, high character, and good sportsmanship to become productive future members of a global society.

### **Athletic Goals**

Our goal of the Beaufort High Athletic Department is to provide opportunities for student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, acceptable personal and social behavior, and character. Members of teams and organizations must always serve as examples of high moral character and must demonstrate appropriate academic commitment, which is expected of all students. **School Participation in athletics at Beaufort High School is "a privilege, not a right."** In addition to the rules established by the South Carolina High School League, each coach may have rules and expectations for the members of the team, which shall be distributed to all players and parents at the beginning of the season. The Beaufort County Schools District Code of Conduct applies to all student-athletes on and off the field of play. All students who participate in athletics are subject to disciplinary consequences imposed by coaches and the administration. The athletic program at Beaufort High School is designed to produce well-rounded citizens who can take their place in a community and in a democratic society. The program is intended to develop leadership skills, a sense of responsibility and accountability, and sportsmanlike attitudes in the student population.

One of the main goals of the athletic department is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, teammates, officials, coaches, administrators, and spectators. Winning is exciting but winning at any cost is not the goal.

Emotional balance promotes consistency in the lives of athletes that affects everything they do. Everyone wins, especially the athletes, who move comfortably from one responsibility and relationship to another, benefitting themselves as well as their parents, teachers, and coaches.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide our participants with the best possible administration, supervision, and instruction available.
- To provide our participants with quality facilities and equipment that is safe for both students and spectators.
- To provide our participants with safe, quality transportation to and from all competitions and activities.
- To provide our participants with proper funding to meet all their needs in the extracurricular arena.

## **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy and expectations of the coach
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Procedures should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- Team requirements and rules (including attendance, excused and unexcused absences)
- Participants' code of conduct (Contract)
- Coaches' contact information.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the Head Coach followed by Athletic Director if necessary
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Items coaches may not discuss:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

## **24 Hour Rule**

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. With this being said we have a 24-hour period after a game before a parent can contact a coach. After 24 hours please email or call to set up an appointment.

Procedures you should follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach:

- Email or call to set up an appointment with the Head Coach

**Note: Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

*E-mail is provided to employees for the instructional and administrative needs of the district. E-mail correspondence to/from a district e-mail account may be considered public information and subject to release under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act or pursuant to subpoena.*

## **School Attendance**

It is the responsibility of all athletes to attend school on a regular basis. They should set an example for all other students. Athletes cannot participate (dress out) in practice or a game unless they are in attendance at school.

- 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. An athlete who leaves school early due to an illness is considered too ill to participate in athletics.**
- Athletes must comply with the minimum attendance requirements in all classes to remain eligible.

## **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 s/he will follow the procedures set in place.

## **Letter Requirements and Awards**

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 banquets. Awards shall be held if the student-athlete is not in good standing (debt owed).

## **Team Selection**

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 seasons, as studies show athletes who demonstrate such participation become better all-around athletes. Studies have shown **92% of college student-athletes played two or more sports in high school.**

When the season begins, student-athletes have a minimum of three days to try out for a sport. 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.

### **Quitting a team-**

Once an athlete begins the in-season-training period of a sport, s/he should not quit while that sport is in season. If an athlete quits a sport s/he will be barred from participation until that season is over (includes playoffs). In the event an athlete quits a sport, a grace period will be allowed. It is the coach's decision if an athlete can return to the team. If an athlete does not return within three days, s/he will be ineligible to play another sport until that season is complete. Each coach has his own policy on how a team is selected. Coaches will explain their policy to candidates before the season's practice begins.

### **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:

- 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.
- Spectators shall not **harass, degrade, or heckle players, participants, or referees.**
- 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.
- Spectators shall not approach the coach of either team before, during, or after the game.
- If you need to talk to a coach, there is a 24-hour period before you cannot talk to a coach about the game. Please email or call the coach after 24 hours and set up a meeting.
- 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 on campus and/or attending school events in the future.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Respect the judgment and integrity of officials.
- Fulfill the pledge you sign before each sport season.

**Ejection Policy:**

Anyone ejected from a contest or observed...

- fighting (throwing a punch)
- biting
- taunting, baiting, or spitting toward an opponent
- using profanity
- using obscene gestures
- disrespectfully addressing or contacting an official

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

- **NOTE: Suspension means that the student-athlete is not allowed to dress out, participate, or 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.**

**Eagle Athletes are expected to:**

- exemplify high morals, good character, and fellowship.
- respect the integrity of others.
- abide by the rules of the game in spirit and intent.
- demonstrate a continuing interest in personal improvement.
- display good sportsmanship.
- 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.**

# The Definite Dozen of Eagle Athletics:

## TO STAY INVOLVED:

**BE COMMITTED TO YOUR ACADEMICS** – Know your goals...plan...get a diploma. Be on time. Sit up front. Take good notes. Do all extra work possible. Plan and talk to teachers when you are having a problem. Get extra help when needed.

**BE COMMITTED TO CLASS** – Treat teachers, trainers, support staff, and all you meet with respect. Treat other people the way you want to be treated. Moody people are rude. Remember to smile, to say please, thank you, yes sir, yes ma'am and give people the benefit of the doubt.

**BE COMMITTED TO DOING THE RIGHT THING** – We have plenty of team and school rules...know them. Realize if you just try to do the right thing, you will be OK. Try to do the next thing right and you are as close to perfect as any person can be.

**BE COMMITTED TO THE PROGRAM** – We realize that our players are in a fish bowl at Beaufort High School. Every word and action will be watched. We must be committed to building traditions in our program starting today and respect those that have gone before us and paid the price.

## TO PLAY HERE:

**BE COMMITTED TO HARD WORK** – Our program is built on the concept that hard work pays off. We believe that we work harder than anyone else...and because of that we always deserve to win. There is a reason we are going to become the best...we work at it.

**BE COMMITTED TO BECOMING A SMARTER PLAYER** – Our players must be ready to learn. We believe we work smarter than anyone else...We must develop players who understand the game. Our players must be good listeners and learn by watching. We must make good decisions; we must play with poise. We prepare mentally for practice and games.

**BE COMMITTED TO OUR TEAM ATTITUDE CONCEPT** – We must have players who believe in our team concept. Our program is built on the concept that the team/program is bigger than any one player...We need unselfish players.

**COMMIT YOURSELF TO A WINNING ATTITUDE** – Our players must be committed to winning but understand we don't measure our success by winning alone. Each time we play we elevate ourselves toward reaching our potential. The test for our team is to play against the game and not just our opponent. We never quit. We are always looking for a way to win.

## TO WIN HERE:

**BELIEVE IN OUR SYSTEM** – Commit yourself to our philosophy, to our system of play. Be a sponge and soak up the concepts of how we play. Learn your role...then accept your role and perform it the best you can.

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF** – Play with confidence...think positive...realize you are a great player in a great program. Don't get down when you play poorly... realize you were chosen to be here...be a leader. Lead by example.

**BELIEVE IN YOUR TEAMMATES** – Communicate with each other...help each other. Remember the strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack. Encourage each other and support each other. Don't ever forget the importance of the shell around the team. Be a friend. We understand we are all different – be tolerant of teammates and others.

**BELIEVE IN YOUR COACHES** – Understand that your coaches are trying to help make you better people and players. Ask questions...Don't whine and complain. Learn to take tough coaching. You must believe that coaches are doing what they think is right for the team and for you.

PARENTS AND STUDENT-ATHLETE SIGNATURES PAGE

Acknowledgement Statement

By signing this statement, I acknowledge that I have read the BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK and agree to abide by the policies contained herein. I further understand Beaufort High School reserves the right to modify, amend, or eliminate policies and procedures at any time. I further understand that policies in this handbook may be updated from time to time with or without prior notice. I acknowledge and agree that this Beaufort High School Athletic Handbook replaces all prior handbooks.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A copy of this statement is signed and retained in the student-athletes athletic file.

## Student-Athlete Sportsmanship Pledge

As a student-athlete whose school is a member of the South Carolina High School League, I know that I am held to a higher standard as I participate in athletics.

Therefore,

- I will resolve to conduct myself with dignity as an athlete and compete understanding the spirit of the fair play, while at the same time playing hard.
- I will exercise self-control and refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking and unnecessary physical contact.
- I will respect my opponents and try to be a true team player.
- I will show respect to authority and accept their decisions.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything and will only be short lived, but the character I develop and the way I handle adversity will be a lifelong lesson.

I know the expectations of my school, my region and the South Carolina High School League and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school, community and state as a student athlete.

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Student-Athlete Signature

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Date