

BENTONVILLE SCHOOLS
ATHLETIC CODE BOOK

2021-2022

BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

The following encompasses all sports offered by Bentonville Schools.

Vision Statement: *Excellence with Every Step!* We envision an athletic system that offers programs for its student-athletes that is considered premier in Arkansas. Our expectations for the athletic department are that it will match the high standards the District has for its academic programs. Our vision is that athletics will be considered an asset to the academic mission of the schools and will enhance the school life experience. We envision a program that offers quality facilities that provide our student-athletes and coaches a place to excel mentally and physically. Most importantly, we envision an athletic department that all of its participants: student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents can be proud of and one that promotes lifelong personal and community wellness as well as positive and productive citizens.

Mission: The mission of the athletic department is to provide its participants with the opportunity to develop life lessons and skills that enhance the educational experience and produce positive, productive citizens.

Beliefs:

- We believe that athletics are an integral part of the total education program and a unique part of the junior high and senior high experience.
- We believe athletics teach student-athletes many invaluable, intangible traits necessary to be productive in society such as: self-discipline, personal commitment, loyalty, sportsmanship, teamwork, work ethic and the value of preparation.
- We believe athletics have a positive effect upon the student-athletes self-image, mental and social well-being, and ethical awareness.
- We believe athletics are a wholesome equalizer because individuals are judged for what they are and for what they do, not on the basis of the social or economic group to which they belong.

Objectives:

- To bring about the realization in our student-athletes that competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities.
- To allow every individual the maximum opportunity to participate in an activity while recognizing that sports, like life, is a competitive situation in which some will excel, some will succeed, some will fail, but all will benefit merely by being participants.
- To provide our student-athletes with the best possible administration, coaching, and instruction available.
- To provide our student-athletes with quality facilities and equipment that is safe.
- To provide our student-athletes with safe, quality transportation to and from all competitions and events.
- To provide our student-athletes with proper funding to meet all of their needs in the athletic arenas.

BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed by many. It is important that an athlete's behavior be above reproach. Appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of the athlete as well as the sport itself. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made the choice to uphold certain standards expected of all athletes in this community. **Be proud to be an athlete, for it is a privilege, not a right!**

Bentonville Schools Athletes should comply with the policies stated in the Athletic Code Book:

- Meet all Bentonville School District/ADE and AAA requirements.
- Bentonville Schools Athletes must meet eligibility requirements set forth by the Arkansas Activities Association in order to compete in AAA sanctioned activities. These requirements are posted on the AAA Website <http://ahsaa.org/>. Please refer to the AAA Handbook regarding these eligibility rules. The **Arkansas Activities Association** (AAA) is the primary sanctioning body for high school sports in state of **Arkansas**. AAA is a member of the National Federation of State High School **Associations** (NFHS).
- Maintain good discipline in the classroom, on and off campus, and at school-sponsored events to remain in athletics.
- Comply with all policies stated in the Bentonville School Athletic Code Book

The Bentonville School Athletic Department will use a discipline process that implements different levels of consequences determined by the incident and circumstances.

Level 1 Infractions

Result in conference between the coach and athlete. Coaches may determine consequences for Level 1 Infractions. This could include but not limited to extra-conditioning and loss of playing time.

Examples of Level 1 Infractions

- Violation of individual team rules set by the coach
- Unexcused absents from school or practice
- Forgetting practice gear/game gear
- Violation of dress code
- Disrespectful to coaches or teammates
- Minor infraction of social media acceptable use practice
- Disruptive during school, practice, games, or other activities
- Minor academic eligibility concerns
- Detention or In-School Suspension (loss of playing time if practices or games are missed due to detention or in-school dates)

Level 2 Infractions

Result in conference with parent, athlete, and coach. Head Coach and Athletic Administration will determine consequences of Level 2 Infractions. Level 2 meetings may include Athletic Director depending on the infraction. Consequences may include 5 school day suspension from interscholastic/extracurricular activities along with extra-conditioning.

Examples of Level 2 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Level 1 Infractions
- Academic issues that could affect eligibility
- Use or possession of tobacco, vaping products, accessories, and/or paraphernalia
- More serious violations of social media acceptable use practice
- Bullying/harassment/slander of teammates or coaching staff
- Arrested for any reason (School officials must have proof of arrest)
- Out of school suspension

Level 3 Infractions

Result in conference between parent, athlete, coach, and athletic director. Consequences of Level 3 Infractions include temporary removal from the team. Before an athlete can be reinstated they must complete: 1) 24 hours of community service 2) Apology letter to team and coaches 3) Conference with approved counselor 4) Athletic Administration and Head Coach will determine game suspension and extra-conditioning. A minimum of 5 school day suspension from interscholastic/extracurricular activities for level 3 infractions.

Examples of Level 3 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Level 1 or Level 2 Infractions
- Violation of drug and alcohol policy (Athletes that self-report will receive a reduction of community service. This could be reduced to 12 hours.)
- Stealing
- Serious misconduct of the social media acceptable use practice
- Serious violation of bullying/harassment/slander of teammates or coaching staff
- Convicted of serious misdemeanor

Level 4 Infraction

Results in conference between parent, athlete, coach, and district athletic director. Athletes may be removed from the Bentonville Schools Athletic Program for 365 Days.

Examples of Level 4 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Levels 1-3 Infractions
- Use and/or distribution of drugs or alcohol at AAA sanctioned events including practice, travel, and games
- Stealing from teammates
- Convicted of a felony

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCEPTABLE USE PRACTICE

An AUP (acceptable use practice) must be maintained when using social media to post pictures, blogs, e-mails, text messages, or videos. Athletes should not post negative comments about peers, teammates, the school district, or their teachers/coaches. Members of the athletic program should not be associated with posts involving tobacco, vaping, drugs, alcohol, or sexual content. Posts involving cyberbullying, slander, or harassing behavior is not permitted. All social media post are subject to a 365 day statute of limitation. Social media violations that are determined to more than 365 days old may not be considered a level 3 or 4 infraction.

Anyone reporting an inappropriate picture or social media post must file the report with Bentonville Schools Administration within 5 days after the discovery of the violation. If it is determined that the reporting party has been in possession of the material for more than 5 days, the administration may not take action on the violation.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another institution; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).

ARRESTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME

Any student athlete that is arrested for any reason will result in a minimum of a Level 2 Infraction to a maximum Level 4 Infraction. The Level of consequences will depend on the nature of the arrest or a conviction.

Student athletes required to wear an ankle monitor due to an arrest or conviction will not be allowed to participate in interscholastic/extracurricular activities while wearing the device.

DRESS POLICY

The way an athlete acts and looks is of great importance, thus proper dress, appearance, grooming and personal cleanliness are expected. Athletes should be leaders and role models for fellow students. Proper dress and appearance will be established by the coach and is an ongoing process. Game day dress code will be neat in appearance on game days whether at school or traveling with the team.

ATTENDING SCHOOL AND PRACTICE

To maintain status as a team member, students are required to regularly attend and participate in practice sessions. Failure to attend practices may result in temporary benching or being dropped from the team. Any student who fails to attend school (excused or unexcused) on the day of a school-sponsored activity shall not be eligible to participate or compete in any extracurricular activities scheduled after school hours. This also includes practice sessions. On a case-by-case basis, the athletic director or his/her designee may approve an exception to allow participation based upon special circumstances. A student who participates in any practice session in violation of this policy shall be suspended from participation in the next scheduled practice. Any student who participates or competes in a game, competition, or other school-sponsored activity in violation of this procedure shall be suspended from participation in the next scheduled game, competition, or activity (other than practice).

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT

Students that are assigned to an alternative school placement will not be eligible for interscholastic/extracurricular activities. Gateway will be the exception to this policy.

PHYSICALS

All student-athletes are required to have a valid physical on file with the office of the athletic trainer prior to participation in any tryout, practice, or game. Physicals are valid for 12-15 months

The Athletic Department has an agreement with Northwest Health Systems (NHS) Sports Medicine (SMART Sports) to provide free physicals to Bentonville Schools Athletes. Physicals will be provided by M.D.'s/D.O.'s. Coaches/Athletes will be notified well in advance of the dates that physicals will be offered.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide access to these health services, not require their use. Parents/Guardians of students or the students themselves are ultimately responsible for making decisions on the receipt of healthcare services. The parent/guardian or athlete may choose any provider of medical services they prefer.

Article III. Rule 16. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student shall be required to present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice. NOTE: A yearly physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 12-15 months. Rationale - The coaches and school

administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student athletes fall directly under school care.

All Physicals should be uploaded to the Athletes DragonFly Account and approved by the Head Coach and Athletic Trainer.

RANDOM DRUG SCREENING AND ALCOHOL, DRUG, AND TOBACCO POLICY

It is the overwhelming opinion of health educators and coaches that athletic performance is best when athletes follow intelligent training rules with restriction on tobacco, vaping alcohol, and any type of mood-modifying substance producing harmful effects on the human organism. Use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or vaping in any form by junior or senior high athletes will not be tolerated. Our athletic program strives to uphold school spirit and loyalty and to represent our school and athletic program to the highest traditions.

Student Athletes that are in violation of the Bentonville Schools Athletic Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy will be subject to a minimum Level 2 Infraction. Repeat violations of the policy will be moved to Level 4 Infraction. Any student participating in an AAA sanctioned practice and/or competitive event that is observed by any person acting under the authority of Bentonville Schools using, under the influence or distributing alcohol or other illegal substance will be considered a Level 4 Infraction. This standard will be enforced for the safety of students year round.

Student's participation in athletics shall be drug free. Participants in all athletic programs will be subject to random drug screenings:

- Participants will be chosen on a random basis. In a random selection, **the same student-athlete may appear more than once during the year.**
- Bentonville Schools Athletic Department will use a list of current student-athlete rosters. The random selection of student-athletes will be performed by using a randomizer (DOT approved) software. Student-athletes that are selected through the randomizer software will be screened.
- Participants may also be tested in the case where reasonable suspicion of use of an illegal substance exist
- Any positive test will immediately be re-tested.
- A Medical Review Officer (MRO) will notify the Athletic Director of any positive test that could be altered due to legally prescribed medication for the student-athlete. Written documentation from the student-athlete's physician verifying any/all prescription drugs currently being taken by the student-athlete must be provided to the Athletic Director within 48 hours of a positive drug screen notification.

DROPPING A PLAYER

In cases of violation of eligibility, athletic policies, or insubordination, the coaches will advise the athlete/parent and should the situation continue, the student will face possible dismissal from the team. If a student athlete is suspended from games in one sport, they will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the suspension is served. The coach will confer with the athletic director about any dismissal.

BENTONVILLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE TEAM

- Common goals and group loyalties.
- Set aside self interest in order to attain team values.
- Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for team goals.

The coach and athletic director are primarily responsible for implementing these goals and standards. No student is obligated to take part in athletics. **Athletics is a privilege, not a right.** Since it is a privilege, the coach should have authority to revoke the privilege when rules are broken, using the appropriate procedure. Each athlete will realize that the school wishes the athlete to reach his/her very best achievement level, both in life and in interscholastic athletics. **THE TEAM COMES FIRST!!!**

COMPLAINTS

The following order should be followed in reporting a complaint by conferring with:

- The coach that has direct supervision of the athlete at the time.
- The head coach of the sport in which the athlete participated.
- The Athletic Director and / or the Principal of the school involved.
- District Athletic Director
- The Superintendent of the Bentonville School District or designee

NOTE: Parents should always call to schedule a meeting with the coach. Never approach a coach before, during, or after a practice or game. All complaints will be addressed during scheduled meetings with the coach.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

- Equipment should be turned in within one week following the end of the season.
- An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. The cost of destroyed/lost equipment will be replacement cost.
- An athlete must treat school equipment as though it were his/her personal property. It should never be abused.
- If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment, he/she will face possible dismissal from the team.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Students participating in a sport in which the coach has a Physical Education Certification may receive PE credit. To earn this credit the student must complete the course in full and the course must meet Arkansas Department of Education requirements. Any student that is removed from the course will forfeit his/her right to a credit for the course. (Removal may be at the coaches, player, or parent discretion.)

ATHLETIC INJURIES

- Any injury, large or small, should be reported immediately to the coach in charge and the athletic trainer.
- Any injuries requiring a doctor's care should be noted and a doctor's release required before the athlete is allowed to play or practice. Any athlete not having a doctor's release would not be allowed to play or practice unless the parent or guardian contacts the coach in charge or athletic director and signs release form.
- Any student-athlete injured during a tryout, practice or competition for a Bentonville Schools athletic team that needed professional medical care must see the office of the athletic director and complete an Incident Report within 10 days of the incident.
- Injuries not requiring a doctor's care should be left up to the Athletic Trainer or head coach, in the absence of the Trainer, to assess the athlete's ability to play or practice.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

- The District provides supplemental insurance – **for AAA sanctioned activities only** - that is secondary to the parent's insurance. This should be considered as **secondary and supplementary accident coverage only**. This provides accident coverage while actively engaged and participating in the play or practice of Interscholastic Athletics and/or School Activities. However, this coverage does **NOT** cover normal classroom activities, intramural activities, physical education classes, or accidental injuries that occur at home or during the summer and is restricted to Interscholastic Athletics and/or Activities only.
- Bentonville School District assumes no responsibility as a result of injuries that occur during an athletic or AAA event, however, this insurance is provided at school expense. This is **SECONDARY INSURANCE** to whatever health insurance the parent or guardian has for their children, and all claims should be filed with the primary health insurance company and with Student Insurance, a Division of HSR. You will need to indicate on the Student Insurance, a Division of HSR, claim form the name and address of your regular insurance carrier.
- Treatment of covered injuries must begin within 60 days of the accident date. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her family to file the appropriate forms and paperwork with Health Special Risk Inc. Student Claim Forms are available on the Bentonville Athletic Website <https://www.bentonvillesportsnetwork.com/> under the Resource tab.

PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES IN DIFFERENT SPORTS

- The athletic department's philosophy is that each sport complements the other, both physically and competitively.
- Students will be encouraged by the coaching staff to participate in all sports. Sports in session offered by Bentonville Schools will have priority over all other sports programs.
- An athlete who wishes to participate in two sports at the same time shall request permission from both coaches of the respective sports.
- Both coaches will meet first to determine if this dual participation is possible. If an agreement cannot be reached between the two coaches the athletic director will make the final decision.
- Once a decision has been made the athlete will be notified. The decision made will be final.

NOTE: Dual participation will be determined by giving priority to the sport which season began first.

DROPPING AND TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

An athlete who is participating in a sport is not allowed to quit that sport while in season and take up another sport. Athletes that are dismissed from a team may not begin another sport until the sport in which they were dismissed from has been completed.

UNDERCLASSMEN PLAYING ON VARSITY TEAMS

It is possible for freshman to play on junior varsity or varsity. However, it will be the coaches of those particular teams to determine if it is in the best interest of the team and athlete. This includes all athletic activities offered in the Bentonville Schools.

SUMMER WORKOUTS

All athletes are expected to maintain their physical conditioning throughout the summer. Coaches should inform athletes of any special workout programs to be followed. Weight rooms and gyms will be open as scheduled through the summer. A workout schedule will be provided by the coach of each sport.

COLLEGE RECRUITING

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach. Inform your coach of such contact as soon as possible. NCAA forms are available on the Bentonville Athletic Website. The NCAA forms should be completed no later than the start of the junior year. Bentonville Schools will host seminars on the realities of recruiting each year. Those interested in college athletics should attend.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Not all courses offered by Bentonville Schools are NCAA eligible. It is imperative that any athlete who believes he or she may qualify for a NCAA scholarship needs to do the following as early in their high school career as possible. Failure to use the provided website may result in NCAA ineligibility toward NCAA scholarships. All NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org. If a student athlete has aspirations of competing athletically as a freshman at an NCAA School, they must meet the NCAA Initial-Eligibility minimum

standards. This includes the minimum core course GPA and SAT/ACT test score requirements. **It is ultimately the responsibility of the Student Athlete and Parents to ensure they are tracking and meeting the NCAA requirements.**

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from athletic events is provided by the school in most cases. In order for the feeling of team “spirit” and “loyalty” the Bentonville Athletic Department encourages athletes to ride the bus home with teammates. However, parents/legal guardians may sign athletes out to ride home with them after the event.

Athletes will not be allowed to leave an event with anyone other his/her parent or guardian.

Overnight Trips

All teams participating in over-night trips will be subject to bag checks by the Bentonville Schools staff. These checks will be conducted prior to departure and may take place at any time on the trip. Bentonville Schools staff may also conduct random room checks throughout the duration of the event. This procedure is being implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of our athletes.

Males should conduct these checks for male athletes and females will conduct checks for female athletes.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

A. Requirements for High School Letter:

- Sixteen (16) quarters played in football
- Twenty (20) quarters played in basketball
- Track and XC participates in 50% of the varsity meets
- Participate in 50% of baseball games
- Attend 75% of mandatory morning practices and participate in 50% high school swim meets
- Be a member of the traveling tennis squad and compete in 50% singles or doubles matches
- Must play in at least five (5) varsity golf matches or been out for golf for three (3) years
- Participate in 50% of softball games
- Participate in 50% of volleyball games
- Participate in 50% of soccer games
- Participate in 50% of cross-country meets
- Participate in 50% of the E-Sports events
- Wrestling place in a varsity tournament
- Bowling participate in conference tournament
- Competition Spirit Squads varsity member for 2 years or place in top 2 in state competition
- Discretion of coaches involved
- Player's attitude and effort
- A senior who participates for three (3) years in that specific sport

ATHLETIC CAMPS

There are a number of excellent camps held each summer.. Students are encouraged to participate because of the availability of quality coaches directing the camps. However, these camps are not a required part of the Bentonville athletic program. Information about athletic camps may be obtained from any coach.

ATHLETIC PASSES

Each athlete listed on an official roster for a Bentonville athletic team will be given the opportunity to purchase an all-sports pass for \$20. This pass will allow athletes to be admitted into all Bentonville athletic contests. This pass is a privilege of being a member of the Bentonville Athletic Department and should not be abused. Any athlete caught giving his/her pass to someone else will have this privilege revoked for the entire school year. If the pass is lost or stolen it is the athlete's responsibility to report this to the athletic department. There will be no reimbursement for lost or revoked passes.

DragonFly

Bentonville Schools has implemented DragonFly Max as our electronic medical records system and required forms system. Each athlete must set up a Profile Account at dragonflymax.com or on the DragonFly MAX App. All required documents for Bentonville Schools and the Arkansas Activities Association will be on the platform.

- Bentonville Athletic Code Book
- Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent
- Permission to Travel Form
- Permission to Participate in Athletics / Concussion / Heat Illness, Insurance & Athletic Code Book
- Medical Consent
- Other assigned documents specific to the school year or program

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS
CONCUSSION/HEAT ILLNESS, CARIDIAAC ARREST, INSURANCE,
ATHLETIC CODE BOOK

Athlete _____ Grade _____

I/We give our permission for _____ to participate in organized school athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions these injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or even death.

I/We acknowledge the Arkansas Activities Association and Bentonville Schools Facts and Policies regarding concussion, heat illness, and sudden cardiac arrest have been reviewed. I/we understand the risks associated with participation in school athletic activity.

PERMISSION TO TRAVEL FORM

I/We give permission for _____ to travel on school provided transportation to out-of-town games, performances, or other school oriented activities. I/We understand that all team members must travel to and from out-of-town activities on school provided transportation unless clearance has been made by teacher, coach, principal, or doctor due to extenuating circumstances. I/We acknowledge that the arrival home from these events is sometimes at a late hour and _____ will have a reliable means of transportation awaiting upon return.

By Signing Below

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand these warnings, policies and procedures. I/we also acknowledge that I/we have received a copy or received instructions how to access the Athletic Code Book online and understand the Bentonville School District Athletic Philosophy, Insurance, Athletic Code and participation warnings.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

PERMISSION FOR TREATMENT

Permission is hereby granted to the attending physician to proceed with medical treatment for _____. In the event of serious illness, the need for major surgery, or significant accidental injury, I understand that an attempt will be made by the attending physician to contact me in the most expeditious way possible. If said physician is not able to communicate with me, the treatment necessary for the best interest of the above named student may be given.

In the event that an emergency arises during a practice session, an effort will be made to contact the parents or guardians as soon as possible. Permission is also granted to the athletic trainer to provide the needed emergency treatment to the athlete prior to his/her admission to the medical facilities.

Parent or Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Other Phone** _____

Child's date of Birth _____

List of medications currently taking _____

List of any medical conditions we need to have knowledge of _____

Allergic to any medications? List _____

Person to contact in emergency other than parent: _____

Phone number _____ **Other Phone** _____

Name of Family Physician _____

Phone Number of Family Physician _____

Insurance information: _____
Company _____ **Group #** _____

Student-athlete's social security number: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use of Illegal Drugs

The Bentonville School's Board of Education, in an effort to protect the health and safety of its student athletes from the possession or use of dangerous, illegal, or performance-enhancing drugs, thereby setting a positive example for all other students of the Bentonville School District, adopts the following **"Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use of Illegal Drugs"**.

1. STATE OF PURPOSE AND INTENT:

– It is the desire of the Board of Education, administration, and staff that every student in the Bentonville School District refrain from using or possessing illegal drugs. Notwithstanding this desire, the administration and board of education realize that their power to restrict the possession or use of illegal drugs is limited. Therefore, the sanctions of this Procedure relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student determined to be in violation of this Procedure to participate in athletic activities. This Procedure is intended to supplement and complement all other policies, rules and regulations of the Bentonville School District regarding possession or use of illegal drugs.

– Participation in school sponsored activities such as interscholastic athletics at the Bentonville School District is a privilege. Students who participate in these activities are respected by the student body and are expected to hold themselves as good examples of conduct, sportsmanship, and training. Accordingly, student athletes carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, which includes avoiding the use or possession of illegal drugs.

– The purpose of this Procedure is to prevent illegal drug use, to prevent injury, illness and harm as a result of illegal drug use, and to strive within the Bentonville School District for an athletic environment free of illegal drug possession and use. This Procedure is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. The sanctions of this Procedure relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student found to be in violation of this Procedure to participate in extra-curricular athletic activities. There will be no academic sanction for violation of this Procedure.

2. DEFINITIONS:

– "Student athlete" means a 7th – 12th grade member of any Bentonville School District sponsored interscholastic sports team, including athletes, cheerleaders, spirit-group, and pom-pom squad members.

"In-season" means anytime during the day, night, weekends, or holidays, including all time in and away from school. A student-athlete will be considered in-season 30-days prior to the first day of AAA sanctioned competition through the completion of the last AAA sanctioned competition in the AAA defined sports season.

"Out-of-season" - A student-athlete participating in a pre-season or off-season workouts under the direction/supervision of the Bentonville Athletic Department will be subject to random drug screening as stated in the Student-Athlete Procedure on Possession of /and or Use of Illegal Drugs.

– "Illegal drugs" means any substance which an individual may not sell, possess, use, distribute or purchase under either Federal or Arkansas law. "Illegal drugs" include, but not limited to all prescription

drugs obtained without authorization, all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used for an abusive or performance-enhancing purpose, and paraphernalia to use such drugs.

– “Performance-enhancing” drugs includes anabolic steroids and any other natural or synthetic substance used to increase muscle mass, strength, endurance, speed or other athletic ability. The term “performance-enhancing” drug does not include dietary or nutritional supplements such as vitamins, minerals and proteins which can be lawfully purchased in over-the-counter transactions.

– “Drug use test” means a scientifically substantiated method to test for the presence of illegal or performance-enhancing drugs or the metabolites thereof in a person’s urine.

– “Random Selection Basis” means a mechanism for selecting student athletes for drug use testing that:

- results in an equal probability that any student athlete from a group of student athletes subject to the selection mechanism will be selected, and
- does not give the School District discretion to waive the selection of any student athlete selected under the mechanism.

– “Positive” when referring to a drug use test administered under this procedure means a toxicological test result which is considered to demonstrate the presence of an illegal or performance-enhancing drug or the metabolites thereof using the standards customarily established by the testing laboratory administering the drug use test.

– “Reasonable suspicion” means a suspicion based on specific personal observations concerning the appearance, speech or behavior of a student athlete, and reasonable inferences drawn from those observations in the light of experience. Information provided by a reliable source, if based on personal knowledge, shall constitute reasonable suspicion. In the context of performance-enhancing drugs, reasonable suspicion specifically includes unusual increases in size, strength, weight or other athletic abilities.

– “Possession” means to have illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs on one’s personal effects, such as coat, purse, book bag, clothing, etc.; to handle or touch illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs; to have illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs in one’s locker or in one’s vehicle; to be in a vehicle either as a driver or passenger with the knowledge that illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs are contained in the vehicle; to have illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs under one’s control.

– “Observation” means observation of student athlete using and/or possessing, or being under the influence of illegal drugs and/or performance enhancing drugs by Law Enforcement Officers, Bentonville School’s Administration, Bentonville School’s Coaching Staff and Bentonville School’s Faculty.

3. PARTICIPATION AND PROCEDURES:

– Illegal drug possession or use is incompatible with participation in athletics on behalf of the Bentonville School District. For the safety, health and well-being of the student athletes of the Bentonville Schools, the Bentonville School District has adopted this Procedure for use by all participating student athletes at the 7th – 12th grade level. Any student athlete found to be in possession of, or having used illegal drugs, either by observation or drug use test, will be considered to have violated this Procedure.

– Each student athlete shall be provided with a copy of the **“Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use Illegal Drugs”**. The **“Student Athlete Contract and Consent for Drug Use Testing”** – shall be read, signed, and dated by the student athlete, parent or custodial guardian, and coach/sponsor before such student athlete shall be eligible to practice or participate in any athletics. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any athletics unless the student has returned the properly signed **“Student Athlete Contract and Consent for Drug Use Testing.”**

– The Athletic director, an athletic trainer, and coach shall be responsible for determining whether a violation of the “Student Athlete Procedure on possession of, and/or use of Illegal Drugs” has occurred, when an observation of possession or use of illegal drug by a student athlete has been reported. If a violation of the Procedure is determined to have occurred, the Athletic Director will contact the Athletic Trainer, the student athlete, the head coach, and the parent or custodial guardian of the student athlete and schedule a conference. At the conference, the violation of the Procedure will be described and the restrictions explained.

– The consent for drug use testing shall be to provide a urine sample: a) as chosen by the random selection basis, and b) at any time requested based on reasonable suspicion to be tested for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs.

– Drug use testing for student athletes will be chosen on a random selection basis from a list of all athletes participating in any pre-season, and/or off-season training, and in-season athletes. The random selection of student athlete’s names will be performed by using a randomizer (DOT approved) software to provide a urine sample for drug use testing for illegal or performance- enhancing drugs. This random testing may be administered at least twice per year and test a minimum of 20 athletes per testing. A district approved laboratory technician may administrator drug use test at Bentonville High School, Bentonville West High School, Fulbright Jr. High, Lincoln Jr. High School, Grimsley Jr. High School, and Washington Jr. High School.

– In addition to the drug use tests required, any student athlete may be required to submit to a drug use test for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs or the metabolites thereof at any time upon reasonable suspicion by the athletic director, athletic trainer, or coach of the student athlete.

– Any drug use test required by the Bentonville School District under the terms of the procedure will be administered by a approved laboratory using scientifically validated toxicological methods. The professional laboratory shall be required to have detailed written specifications to assure chain of custody of the specimens, proper laboratory control and scientific testing.

– All aspects of the drug use testing program, including the taking of specimens, will be conducted so as to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of student athletes to the maximum degree possible. The test specimen shall be obtained in a manner designed to minimize intrusiveness of the procedure. In particular, the specimen must be collected in a restroom or other private facility behind a closed stall. The athletic director shall designate a coach of the same sex as the student athlete to accompany the student athlete to a restroom or other private facility behind a closed stall. The monitor shall not observe the student athlete while the specimen is being produced, but the monitor shall be present outside the stall to listen for the normal sounds of urination in order to guard against tampered specimens and to insure an accurate chain of custody. The monitor shall verify the normal warmth and appearance of the specimen. If at any time during the testing procedure the monitor has reason to believe or suspect that a student athlete is tempering with the specimen, the monitor may stop the procedure and inform the athletic director who will then determine if a new sample should be obtained.

– If the initial drug use test is positive, the initial test result will be subject to confirmation by a second and different test of the same specimen sent off to a reference lab.

- If the drug use test of any student athlete has a positive result, the laboratory will contact the Athletic Director with the results. The Athletic Director will contact the Athletic Trainer, the student athlete, the head coach, and the parent or custodial guardian of the student athlete and schedule a conference. At the conference, the Athletic Director will solicit any explanation of the positive result and ask for doctor prescriptions of any drugs that the student athlete was taking that might have affected the outcome of the drug use test. If the student athlete and his/her parent or custodial guardian desires another test of the remaining portion of the specimen, the Athletic Director will arrange for another test at the same laboratory or at another laboratory agreeable to the Athletic Director. Any such re-test shall be at the expense of the student athlete and his/her parent or custodial guardian.– If the student athlete asserts that the positive test results are caused by other than consumption of an illegal or performance-enhancing drug by the student athlete, then the student athlete will be given an opportunity to present evidence of such to the Athletic Director. The Bentonville School District will rely on the opinion of the laboratory which performed the test in determining whether the positive test result was produced by other than consumption of an illegal or a performance-enhancing drug.

– A student athlete who has been determined by the Athletic Director to be in violation of this Procedure shall have the right to appeal the decision to the superintendent or his/her designee(s). Such appeal must be lodged within five (5) business days of notice of the initial report of the offense as stated in paragraph 3.10 of this Policy, during which time the athlete will remain ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular athletic activities. The superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall then determine whether the original finding was justified. There is no further appeal right from the superintendent’s decision and his/her decision shall be conclusive in all respects. Any necessary interpretation or application of this Procedure shall be in the sole and exclusive judgment and discretion of the superintendent which shall be final and non-appealable.

4. VIOLATION

– Any student athlete who is determined by *observation and/or possession of; or a positive drug use test*, to have violated this Procedure shall be subject to the loss of their privilege to participate in athletics.

–If a participating student athlete refuses to submit to a drug use test authorized under this Procedure, this will considered a positive test.

Please read this Procedure in its entirety before signing the Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent

BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent

Statement of Purpose and Intent

Participation in school sponsored extra-curricular athletics in the Bentonville School District is a privilege. Such Privilege is governed by the attached **Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use of Illegal Drugs**. Students who participate in these activities are respected by the student body and are expected to hold themselves as good examples of conduct, sportsmanship and training. Accordingly, student athletes carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct which includes avoiding the use of possession of illegal drugs.

Participation in Extra-Curricular Athletics

Illegal drug possession or use of any kind is incompatible with participation in extra-curricular athletics on behalf of the Bentonville School District. For the safety, health and well-being of the student athletes, the Bentonville School District has adopted the attached **Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use of Illegal Drugs** and this **Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent** for use by all participating student athletes at the 7th - 12th grade level. Each Student athlete shall be provided with a copy of the **Student Athlete Procedure on use of Illegal Drugs** and **Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent** which shall be read, signed and dated by the student athlete, parent or custodial guardian, and coach/sponsor before such student athlete shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extra-curricular athletics.

Consent for Drug Use Testing

The consent shall be to provide a urine sample: a) as chosen by the random selection basis, and b) at any time requested based on reasonable suspicion to be tested for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any extra-curricular athletics unless the student has returned the properly signed **Student Athlete Contract & Drug Use Testing Consent**.

By signing below, I verify that I have read and understood the “Student Athlete Procedure on possession of and/or use of Illegal Drugs” and give consent for random drug testing.

Student Athlete Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____