

Bonita Springs High School



Athlete and Parent Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Bonita Spring High School Athletics. This handbook has been prepared to make information readily available to you and to help you make your athletic and activity experiences positive and more successful here at Bonita Springs High School.

Bonita Springs High School Athletics believes every student can achieve success in and out of the classroom. We strongly encourage participation in athletics and activities. Our teams are highly competitive, and we value sportsmanship and respect.

It is the policy of the Lee County Board of Education to endeavor to accommodate the interests and abilities of student athletes with the goal of maximizing interscholastic athletic opportunities for the greatest number of participants within reasonable financing and program limits. No student shall be subject to unlawful discrimination based on sex in any of the extra-curricular programs of activities of this district.

Your decision to participate on an athletic team at Bonita Springs High School indicates you are willing to make a commitment to uphold the title of student athlete where you will learn the lessons you can keep for life. You are students first. You are leaders in the school. You are leaders on the field. You are leaders in your community. You are BULL SHARKS!!!

Proud Bull Shark,

Leah Mason, PhD
Athletic and Activities Director

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Recognition of Sport for Girls

The following sports are recognized as interscholastic sports for girls:

Fall

Bowling
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Swimming
Volleyball

Winter

Basketball
Competitive Cheerleading
Soccer
Weightlifting
Wrestling

Spring

Beach Volleyball
Softball
Tennis
Track and Field

Recognition of Sports for Boys

The following sports are recognized as interscholastic sports for boys:

Fall

Bowling
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Swimming
Volleyball

Winter

Basketball
Competitive Cheerleading
Soccer
Wrestling

Spring

Baseball
Tennis
Track and Field
Weightlifting

VISION

The vision of Bonita Springs High School is to educate, engage, enrich, and inspire ALL students to be future ready.

MISSION

Bonita Springs High School strives to embody a culture of excellence through high quality instruction, social and academic development of students, and collaboration with families and our community.

HOW ARE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ORGANIZED

NATIONAL FEDERATION

The governing body for high school athletics



FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATIONS (FHSAA)

The state governing body, of student activities



LEE COUNTY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (LCAC)

Local governing body of principals and athletic directors who oversee high school athletics

LCAC MEMBER SCHOOLS:

- Bonita Springs High School
- Cape Coral High School
- Cypress Lake High School
- Dunbar High School
- East Lee County High School
- Estero High School
- Fort Myers High School
- Gateway High School
- Ida S. Baker High School
- Island Coast High School
- Lehigh Senior High School
- Mariner High School
- North Fort Myers High School
- Riverdale High School
- South Fort Myers High School



Athletic Eligibility Rules

This is a summary of FHSAA athletic eligibility guidelines. Students must understand that these guidelines are general statements only. Complete eligibility regulations are contained in Article 9 of the FHSAA Bylaws in the FHSAA Handbook, which is available for download at FHSAA.org. **SEE YOUR PRINCIPAL, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR COACH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED FURTHER EXPLANATION OF DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS OR CONTACT eligibility@fhsaa.org.**

To Represent Your High School in an Athletic Contest, You:

1. Must be regularly enrolled and in regular attendance at your school. There are exceptions. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.2)
2. Must maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.4)
3. Must not have graduated from any high school or its equivalent. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.7)
4. Are eligible to participate at the school in which you first enroll, or at which you first take part in an official FHSAA athletic practice, at the beginning of the school year. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.2)
5. May transfer to another high school and retain eligibility provided you meet the FHSAA transfer regulations. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.3)
6. Must not have enrolled in the ninth grade for the first time more than eight semesters ago. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.5)
7. Must not turn 19 before July 1st, otherwise the student becomes ineligible to participate. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.6)
8. Must complete a pre-participation physical evaluation form (EL2) and be certified as being physically fit for participation, have consent to participate by completing the consent and release from liability certificate (EL3) prior to participating in interscholastic athletics. All forms must be on file prior to participating with the school. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.7 and 9.8)
9. Must be an amateur. This means you must not accept money, gift or donation for participating in a sport. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.9)

10. Must display good sportsmanship and follow the rules of competition before, during and after every contest in which you participate. If not, you may be suspended from participation for a period of time. (FHSAA Bylaw 7)

11. Must refrain from hazing/bullying while a member of an athletic team or while participating in any athletic activities sponsored by or affiliated with a member school.

12. Must not provide false information to your school or the FHSAA to gain eligibility. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.1.2.2)

13. Falsifying documentation, accepting an impermissible benefit or talking to a coach about playing at his/her school before you begin attending that school is a violation and could result in: (FHSAA Policy 36)

- a. you being ineligible for a year;
- b. the coach may be fined and suspended;
- c. the school may face penalties including fines and not making the playoffs.

Athletic Paperwork

All student athletes must complete the athletic paperwork through www.athleticclearance.com. Students or their parents will need to create an account and upload all the necessary paperwork: EL2 (physical), notarized EL3 (consent to participate), proof of insurance, a copy of the athlete's birth certificate, and 3 video certificates.

FHSAA requires all athletes to complete 3 courses: Concussion for Students, Heat Illness, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. These courses are free and can be found at www.nfhslearn.com.

A student athlete must be cleared through the Athletic Department before he or she can participate in any practice or contest.

Athletics Code of Conduct

Expectations of Athletes: Athletes share a commitment to themselves, their teammates and to the school. Student athletes and parents are required to sign the student athlete and parent contract prior to athletics participation and turn the signed agreement into the Athletic Director. The contract is included in this handbook and is also available on our website.

Student athletes are expected to exhibit the following:

1. Respect - for oneself, teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, fans, team managers, bus drivers, and athletic staff.
2. Responsibility – By attending practices and games, being on time every day, and being prepared to improve in skill level and knowledge of the sport. Athletes are expected to adhere to the school rules and expectations set forth in the student code of conduct.
3. Sportsmanship – Every action, body language, attitude and spoken word reflects oneself and a reflection of the school. Student athletes should be committed to positive sportsmanship and behavior at all times.

Try-out Policy

Participating on a sports team provides the student athletes an experience in skill development, sportsmanship, and teamwork. We strive to provide athletic opportunities for all eligible students. Some of our teams may have a cap that requires limiting the number of players so that all team members have a meaningful experience.

Playing Time

At the Junior Varsity level, coaches should attempt to get every player some playing time. The focus at this level should remain strongly on development. The exact amount of playing time may vary at the discretion of the coach.

At the Varsity level, players should be aware that they will earn playing time at the coach's discretion through maximum effort, attitude, teamwork, and ability.

Team Pictures and Awards

Team pictures are taken during the early part of each season. Information will be sent home with the student athlete regarding team pictures.

Varsity Letters: Varsity athletes who remain as members of the team in good standing throughout the full season are eligible to earn a varsity letter.

Other Awards: Other awards are determined by the Coach, Administration, or Athletic Director.

Banquets: Fall, Winter, and Spring banquets are held each year to honor our athletes, coaches, and other participants.

Transportation

Students in team sports (Band/Dance, Cheerleading, Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball) must ride in the assigned team vehicles to and from events. Individual sports may self-transport as long as the transportation request form is filled out, approved by administration, and on file in the Athletic Office. Any other request for transportation must be completed through the Athletic Office prior to the event. Requests made on the night of the event will be at the discretion of the coach, Administration, or Athletic Director.

Attendance

Players may only miss games or practices for excused absences. Reason for absences include illness, injury, or situations for which advance permission has been granted **by the coach**. Coaches may request a note from the parents or physician in the case of illness or injury. Unexcused absences can result in dismissal from the team. **Athletes must be in school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of a game or practice in order to participate.** Exceptions to this policy will be handled on an individual basis by the Athletic Director.

Communication and Alerts

Athletes and their parents must be responsible for checking email messages, parent messages, social media and/or the school website. This is the most efficient means of communication, especially regarding last minute changes. If you do not have an updated email listed in Athletic Clearance, please ensure this is updated.

Purchases, Donations, and Fundraisers

All athletic purchases must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director or Administration. Donations can be made to the athletic department and to a specific sport or activity by indicating this on a memo line. All fundraising events must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Department and Administration.

Parent and Coach Communication

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to student athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your children. This begins with clear communication from the coach and the program.

Communication You Should Expect from the Coach

1. Philosophy and expectation of the coach
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests
3. Team requirements; for example, practices, uniforms, and team events

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all athletes involved. Things such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach:

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

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, these are the procedures you should follow:

1. Call or email to set up an appointment to speak with the coach
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please contact the Athletic Director

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest, before, during, or after any practices. These can be emotional times for both the parents and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

The Next Step – What can a parent do if the meeting with a coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call or email the Athletic Director to schedule an appointment to discuss the situation.

Student Athlete and Parent Contract

The following rules and regulations govern all student athletes:

1. All student athletes and their parents agree with the policies and guidelines.
2. All athletes are representatives of Bonita Springs High School and are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.
3. Athletic functions, games, practices, special events, etc. are school related functions and all school rules apply to these events.
4. Practice times are very important for the development of skills and teamwork. No player should miss a scheduled practice, except for illness or injury, or without the prior approval of the coach.
5. Playing time is a decision solely for the coach or coaches to make. Playing time is based on a player's ability, attitude, and the game situation. Parents with questions about the amount of playing time for their child must schedule an appointment with the coach. Parents will not confront coaches before or after a game or practices.
6. Athletes are expected to pursue academic excellence. All athletes must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA with no failing grades in core subjects on grade reports. Any player whose grades do not meet the above criteria will be suspended from the team until the grade or grades have been improved.
7. All uniforms are the property of the school and must be treated in an appropriate manner.
8. Playing for a Bonita Springs High School team is a privilege and not a guaranteed right for our students. Any player whose actions are deemed by the coach, Athletic Director, or Administration as detrimental to the team or as portraying a poor school image will be removed from the team. A player may be suspended briefly or permanently depending upon the athlete's actions and history. When a suspension is pending, the Athletic Director will notify the parents.
9. Parents are responsible for picking up their child immediately after athletic events and practices. Families not following this rule will be asked to confer with the Athletic Director to work towards a solution.

I have read and understand the rules and consequences set forth in the Student Athlete and Parent Contract.

Athlete Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____