

Bethel-Tate Local School District

Athletic Handbook

2021 - 2022



BTHS WebSite: <http://www.betheltate.org/1/Home>

BTMS Website: <http://www.betheltate.org/2/Home>

Athletic Department Website: <http://www.betheltate.org/Athletics>

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Drug / Alcohol / Tobacco & Illegal Substance Policy

Bethel-Tate High School

3420 State Route 125, Bethel, OH 45106

(Phone) 513-734-2271; (Fax) 513-734-1355

Principal: George Sturgeon

Assistant Principal: Thomas Haas

Athletic Director: Evan Shepherd

Assistant Athletic Director: Penny Church

School Counselors: Caitlin Spiller
Ashley Brown

Bethel-Tate Middle School

649 W. Plane Street, Bethel, OH 45106

(Phone) 513-734-2271; (Fax) 513-734-0888

Principal: Dr. Christen Davis

Assistant Principal: Mary Beth Tucker

School Counselor: Rea Reynolds

Assistant Athletic Director: Shari Carnahan

Facilities Manager: Delsa Fisher

Site Supervisor: Laura Flynn

Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement & Dedication

This handbook was designed to set forth proven practices and procedures as a guide for the administration of the athletic program of the Bethel-Tate Local School District.

It is the policy of the Bethel-Tate Local School District not to discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, language, sex or physical condition, under the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964; Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: and the Education of All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

The coach is a very important adult in the life of a teenager. This person who places the well-being of the athlete above winning, is the appropriate model for all who wish to be a coach.

Athletic Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics is a unique medium in which young people have the opportunity in a variety of sports to develop talents and skills, which may not be developed in any other medium of the school environment. Through athletics, many students are able to complete a well-rounded education during their years at school.

It is the intention of the Bethel-Tate Athletic Department to have all students understand the complementary role athletics plays in their school, as well as providing an avenue for increased fitness and health. It is also the intent of the school to have all students understand that successful participation in athletics can only exist if there is successful participation in the classroom. Without a primary and strong commitment to academics in a school, any athletic success is superficial and tainted.

Extra-curricular activities, such as interscholastic athletics, are a source of representation for the Bethel community. The Bethel-Tate Athletic Department understands its responsibility to represent the community in the most positive and distinguished manner possible.

The Bethel-Tate Athletic Department believes that athletes must keep the following priorities:

#1-Family

#2-Citizenship & Community

#3-Academics

#4-Athletics

Expectations

Our Principals, Athletic Director, Coaches, and Support Staff expect each athlete to give 100% at all times, including in the classroom, at practice, in the weight room, at conditioning, or during athletic contests.

"Championship Athletics" requires great commitment, effort, responsibility and concentration from all participants. The following rules and guidelines shall apply to all student-athletes involved in our athletics program...WITHOUT EXCEPTION!

It is assumed by the administration that all coaching staff, student-athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) have read, acknowledged, and accepted the guidelines as stated in this handbook.

Prior to participating in Bethel-Tate athletics, each student-athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete ALL required Athletic Final Forms (online) prior to reporting to any team activity (i.e. weight lifting, open gym, etc).

Academics

Each player is expected to excel in the classroom during the entire school year. Failure to do so may result in a student-athlete's eligibility to participate in interscholastic contests. Please refer to our school handbook on athletic eligibility or below for OHSAA and Bethel Tate scholarship requirements to participate.

Academic Eligibility - High School

To be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bethel-Tate High School and Middle School, all student athletes are required to meet a three-fold standard. The standard includes the following:

1. All high school student athletes must meet the O.H.S.A.A. academic requirement which states that the athlete is required to have passed the equivalent of five credits toward graduation the preceding grading period in order to participate the following grading period. The academic year at Bethel-Tate High School consists of a quarter format. This requires a student athlete to pass, each quarter, 5 courses with a credit value of one-half unit each.
2. Middle school student athletes must receive passing grades in a minimum of five (5) courses in which they are enrolled the preceding grading period in order to play sports in the first quarter of the 9th grade.

Any change in O.H.S.A.A. eligibility status for a student athlete becomes effective on the start of the fifth school day after the end of the grading period.

Failing one class:

- Minimum of 1.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Based on preceding grading period.

Failing two classes:

- Automatically ineligible.
- Based on preceding grading period.

Special circumstances pertaining to eligibility:

- Summer school grades cannot be applied toward athletic eligibility.
- Physical Education are $\frac{1}{4}$ classes and does not count toward GPA requirements for athletic eligibility.
- Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirement results in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.
- The grading period immediately preceding the period of participation will be used to determine eligibility.
- There is a participation fee per sport. This fee must be paid before the first game day related to that specific sport.

Academic Eligibility - Middle School

1. All 7-8 grade students must be currently enrolled.
2. At the conclusion of the immediate preceding quarter, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes AND achieved a quarterly minimum GPA of 1.50 to be eligible and participate in interscholastic sports.
3. Summer school grades cannot be applied to athletic eligibility.
4. All students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible to participate during the first quarter.

Athletic Coaches - General Responsibilities

A coach must possess the flexibility required to work successfully with a diverse group of students. A coach must understand the complex needs of maturing adolescents and assist student-athletes to develop physically, academically, socially and emotionally. A coach must provide positive motivation and communication in assisting student-athletes to make good decisions. Additionally, a coach must be a positive role model at all times, recognizing their behavior has a profound influence on student-athletes. A coach must master the fundamentals of the game and continue to learn using professional development and mentor relationships. This learning goes beyond athletic techniques and strategies to include the teaching of ethics and sportsmanship. Ideally, a coach communicates effectively with student-athletes, their parents, and the public. A

successful coach promotes the connection between sports, academics, character development, and lifelong learning.

Athletic Coaches - Procedures

The coach should expect high standards of behavior from student-athletes at all times. The coach must be alert to circumstances that could affect the safety and welfare of the members of their squad during practices and games. The following administrative directives are provided to assist the coach in the handling of members of their squad.

- Responsible to the Athletic Director/Assistant Athletic Director
- Develops a well-organized program.
- Game attire: Business casual
- Selects and organizes a staff, with the help of the AD/Assistant AD, at all levels to achieve the goals of the program and the school district.
- Accompanies and supervises the team on buses to and from all athletic events, unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the AD. It is a requirement to remain on campus or where practice is held until all student-athletes are picked up by parents/guardians.
- Have all the necessary paperwork filled out and filed with the Athletic Director
- Ensure a medical kit is on site at every team event that involves physical activity.
- Require athletes to attend all practices and to be punctual. Attendance is to be taken daily. A schedule for tryouts and practices is to be provided to the athletes in order for the student and parent to make the necessary adjustments.
- Tardiness or absences will not be allowed without prior approval of the coach. The coach must keep in mind that the parents expect the student-athlete to be in attendance at all practices and contests. Students are expected to inform the coach, before the season begins, regarding any planned periods of absence.
- Encourage athletes to practice good health habits and follow all school rules.
- Prohibit the use of profane language.
- Discourage "horseplay" that might lead to personal injury or property damage.
- Promote to athletes, and display Good Sportsmanship in victory and defeat.
- Encourage athletes to get proper rest and to eat a well-balanced diet.
- Encourage the athletes to develop sound study habits consistent with good academic performance.
- Enforce a 24 hour rule when it comes to speaking with parents who have concerns.
- Proper paperwork must be filed and approved before any fundraiser can take place.
- Coaches are required to use a method of communication with athletes and their parents/guardians. All communication must include the athletic director and assistant athletic director.
- All funds raised must be deposited into the school account.

- Fundraisers that require student-athletes to sell products will be permitted by the district after the team has been determined. Proper paperwork must be filed and approved before any fundraiser can take place.
- Fundraisers where athletes are not asked to sell, restaurant nights for example, can be held before teams are picked. Proper paperwork must be approved and on file prior to the fundraiser.
- Pre-Season responsibilities:
 - * require physical exams of all participants before tryouts are conducted.
 - * require all athletes to show evidence of having insurance coverage or a signed waiver before starting practice.
 - * supervise the issuance of equipment.
 - * complete and forward eligibility forms to the Athletic Director as directed by him.
 - * check all travel itineraries with the Athletic Director.
 - * see that all necessary forms are completed and sent to the proper person.
 - * arrange with the Athletic Director for all facility requests for the season and holidays (i.e., fields, gyms, rooms).
 - * review the season's schedule with the Athletic Director.
 - * conducts informational meeting(s) with athletes' parents/guardians.
- In-Season responsibilities:
 - * assume the responsibility for the maintenance and storage of equipment.
 - * submit publicity material to the local newspapers and work cooperatively with the media.
 - * submit program information to the Athletic Director.
 - * file student accident reports to the Athletic Director.
 - * submit squad roster information to the Athletic Director.
 - * scout other schools' teams as necessary.
 - * submit weekly reports to the Athletic Office with regard to the development of the specific sport program.
 - * maintain intra-staff communication at all levels.
 - * Submit all statistics and event scores to the athletic director within 24 hours of the event.
- Off-Season responsibilities:
 - * prepare presentations for awards banquet, Booster Club, and sport assemblies.
 - * complete a detailed inventory of supplies and equipment for the entire program (7th through 12th grades).
 - * determine needs for the next season.
 - * prepare requests for the purchase of new equipment.
 - * complete all required forms to be filed with the Athletic Director (records, evaluations, awards, etc.).
 - * attend clinics for professional development, when possible.
 - * assist individual athletes in college choices as needed.

- * provide assistance to college coaches during the recruitment process.
- * assess, evaluate, and confer with returning athletes for developmental planning.
- * organize and implement the off-season conditioning program with the coaching staff and the Athletic Director.
- * prepare college information sheets on next year's seniors.
- * monitor grades/eligibility throughout the school year while promoting academics.
- Each board approved coach will be given an SBAAC season pass, it is to be used by the coach, passes will not be handed out to anyone who is not board approved.
- Custodial Concerns should be directed to the Athletic Director immediately. This includes services that are needed beyond the regular hours.
- The coach is responsible for the condition and supervision of the locker room and playing areas used by the team. The coach should check both before and after a team uses the area. Any damage must be reported to the Athletic Director immediately.

Athletic Director - General Responsibilities

The athletic director is responsible for the supervision, development, coordination, evaluation and improvement of a district-wide (grades 7-12) program of athletics. He/she is directly responsible to the Superintendent of Schools and works under the direction of the High School and Middle School Principals and is responsible for the overall athletic program. He/she functions as a consultant and advisor to the Superintendent, Principals, teachers, and support staff in all matters pertaining to athletics. He/she shall coordinate his/her activities in the middle and high schools with the Principals of each school in order to facilitate the effective utilization of his/her services and to minimize scheduling conflicts. He/she supervises all activities relative to athletic programs.

- Provides general supervision in the areas of intramural, athletic and recreational programs, and represents the school in matters related to these fields.
- Develops an athletic program, which includes participation by as many students as possible, taking into consideration the aspects of health, value of the program to the individual student and overall relation to the total academic program.
- Cooperates, advises, and assists head coaches in evaluation of coaching staff. Reviews evaluations, adds his/her comments, and forwards to the building principal for review.
- Assists the building principal in his/her selection, retention, and promotion of staff members in the athletic department for initial and renewal of contracts.
- Coordinates the use of athletic facilities with other departments in the school and the athletic coaches.
- Plans and recommends maintenance and development of facilities.

- Recommends to the principal the purchase of equipment and materials that assist in the development of the department.
- Prepares the athletic budget with the advice and assistance of the Principal and Superintendent.
- Supervises all interscholastic activity, builds schedules, hires officials, secures all the necessary personnel to ensure efficient management of contests.
- Arranges transportation for athletic events.
- Serves as treasurer of the athletic funds and supervises all money collected and spent, maintains necessary records of all monies received and dispersed, and makes financial reports to administration.
- Organizes and operates the Athletic Department in accordance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules and regulations, the Bethel-Tate Local Schools Board of Education and administrative regulations.
- Represents the school district in the community in all matters pertaining to athletics.
- Provides leadership, direction, cooperation, and encouragement to all community and school booster organizations
- Coordinates the purchase of all athletic supplies with the respective head coaches. Makes the final decision on purchases of all athletic equipment by coaches.
- Coordinates and directs the duties of the assistant athletics directors, athletic trainer, facility managers, site supervisors, the faculty and ticket managers, game help personnel, and the sports information and publicity personnel.
- The athletic director shall supervise all athletic banquets so as to treat all sports equally at the banquet level.
- Organize, assist, and participate in fundraising as needed.
- Provides professional development opportunities for the coaching staff.
- Assume additional duties as assigned by the administration of the schools.

Student Athlete Procedures and Expectations

Attendance

A student-athlete is expected to be at practice EVERY DAY. If a missed practice occurs for any reason, a note must accompany that athlete's return to practice the following day. It is understood that any unexcused absence is unacceptable and may result in loss of a starting position and/or playing time. If a player misses practice for any educational reason, he or she is required to make contact with the Athletic Director as well as the Head Coach prior to their departure from school. Attendance is required the day after an athletic event. Failure to come to school the next day will result in loss of playing time in the next game. Students must be present ½ day on the day of, or the day before weekend events in order to participate.

Behavior & Attitude

You are expected to **ACT, LIVE and PLAY like CHAMPIONS** at all times. Each student-athlete is representing not only yourself, but also your coaches, parents, family, teachers, school, teammates, and the Bethel-Tate Community. Student-Athletes are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen, regardless of the audience. That includes on the practice field, game field, at school, home, in the classroom, and in the community. The Bethel-Tate Middle and High School Athletic program is one of class and high integrity. Foul Language will NOT be tolerated. Student-athletes should remain positive in nature to members of an opposing team, fans, or officials regardless of an outcome to a contest. Failure to meet these requirements will result in loss of playing time and possible removal from the team. Each student-athlete is expected to be involved at all times during practice. If a player is not directly involved in the drill, he or she is expected to be involved mentally and as a support role. At no time will players be permitted to sit during practice. Cellphones are not permitted and are absolutely unacceptable under all circumstances.

ALL rostered players are expected to be in attendance at ALL games. Players who do not play a major role in the game should still be involved in a support role for teammates and the coaching staff.

Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with high school and middle school athletics to:

1. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, intellectual, moral, and social well-being of the athlete.
2. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play in all aspects of personal behavior.
3. Stress the value of striving for personal excellence.
4. Show respect and courtesy to opposing teams and officials.
5. Understand and accept the rules governing the contest and the standards of eligibility required.
6. Encourage initiative, good judgment, leadership and accountability by team members.
7. Promote the athletic program as a vital part of the total educational offerings of the school.
8. Ensure that the athletic program contributes to the achievement of approved educational goals.

Communication

Proper communication is essential. Each athletic coach and administrator must be an effective communicator to many people, including players, assistant coaches, school personnel, parents, and other community members. Proper communication within a sports team allows a bond of family care and concern to develop. Communication also helps prevent misunderstanding and gives meaning and importance both to the topic and to the parents and/or players involved. Each coach must have an approved communication tool, to effectively communicate with the parents of the student athletes. Approval will come from the Principal of each building or the Athletic Director.

Tryouts/Cuts

Tryouts will occur on the first day of official practice as mandated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Any student wishing to participate in each sport is expected to be present for the entirety of tryouts unless circumstances are approved by the coach and athletic director. Athletes will not be allowed to join any team after the completion of tryouts unless approved by the athletic director and principal. All tryouts must be the appropriate length of time to give each athlete the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities, skill, and potential.

Bethel Tate Local School District is determined to provide every student an opportunity to participate in athletics. However, there are some limitations in some sports that will result in tryouts and eventually cuts. Once tryouts are completed, coaches will make necessary cuts to meet these limitations. The criteria for cuts may be weighed and determined by the following:

- Athletic Ability
- Specific Skill level
- Academic Eligibility
- Age Eligibility
- Disciplinary Action
- Attendance

Dress

Each Bethel-Tate Middle and High School athlete is expected to dress in a dignified manner at all times. Daily practices require a practice jersey/appropriate uniform, practice pants/shorts, socks, cleats/gym appropriate shoes, and any appropriate headgear or any other mandated item necessary for competition. It is expected that each athlete will have his or her gear at practice each day. Bandannas, hats, and/or sunglasses are not permitted during practice, T-shirts with vulgar innuendoes, explicit alcohol/drug/tobacco advertising and/or questionable wording will not be permitted at any time. Jewelry (necklace, bracelets, rings or earrings) should never be worn, regardless of the game or practice situation. Each player will be issued a sport specific

uniform which must be worn. The player is responsible to keep the uniform cleaned and tidy at all times.

Alcohol /Tobacco/ Drug / Illegal Substance Policy

Beginning with the date that a student signs up to participate in extracurricular/interscholastic athletic activities, this policy is in effect. This policy is in effect for the duration of the season of the sport or activity the student is participating in. A violation constitutes the use, consumption, sale, or possession of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaporizers, any illegal or controlled substance prohibited by state or federal laws, and any look-alike products of any of the above-mentioned items.

ATOD Policy (Use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, or counterfeit drugs while participating in school activities).

- All student-athletes (7th through 12th grades) agree to this policy prior to their involvement with each athletic season. This school board-approved athletic policy impacts choices the athlete makes year-round.
- Students shall not at any time possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, or be under the influence of any counterfeit drugs of abuse, alcohol, tobacco or any device that contains a control substance or appears to have a controlled substance. Counterfeit drugs of abuse include any substances that are directly or indirectly represented to be a drug of abuse. Participants shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs of abuse. Use of prescription medication or religious celebration do not fall under this code.

Disciplinary Procedures- Violation of ATOD Policy

- First Offense- Voluntary Admission
 - o Voluntary admission occurs when a student and/or parent admits to ATOD violations prior to any reported incident of abuse. Voluntary admission will result in suspension of playing time not to exceed 20% of the season or 5 games. The school could also require other remedies.
- First Offense - Involuntary Violation
 - o Discovery of a violation will result in an immediate 10 school day denial of participation from all scheduled events in each activity in which the student participates. Students may participate in all scheduled practices but may not

dress in uniform for any scheduled contest, performance, etc. The student will also have further remedies set forth by the Superintendent to be considered whole. Failure to comply with all above requirements shall result in dismissal from all activities for 60 school days. This includes receiving awards, until such obligations are met.

- Second Offense and Additional Offenses

- o A second violation will result in restriction from extracurricular or co-curricular activity for a period of one calendar year (beginning on the date of suspension). A second offense happens within one calendar year of the first offense.

- Selling of Controlled Substances

- o Any student selling illegal controlled substances shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities for the remainder of his/her school career. Further school consequences can be found in the student code of conduct.

- Duration of Code

- o This contract shall be in effect on the first day of the student's participation in extra-curricular or co-curricular programs, and will remain in effect until the last day of school or co-curricular or extracurricular event of the current school year, whichever is last. Penalties for violations of this code may be enforced for up to twelve (12) months following a violation.

- Due Process

- o A student who is found to be in violation of the Student Activities Code of Conduct will have the opportunity of a hearing with the coach or advisor, Athletic Director and the building principal (or designated administrator) when appropriate. The student will receive a description of the offense and the assigned consequences in writing. The student and his or her parent/guardian may appeal the penalty by notifying the principal in writing within five (5) days of the hearing. The principal will form an appeal committee of at least three (3) members who may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary action. Any further appeals must be made to the superintendent in writing within five (5) days of the committee's decision. Appeals to the Bethel-Tate Board of Education may be made after an appeal to the Superintendent.

Nicotine Policy

Beginning with the date that a student signs up to participate in extracurricular/interscholastic athletic activities, this policy is in effect. This policy is in effect for the duration of the season of the sport or activity the student is participating in. A violation constitutes the use, consumption, sale, or possession of nicotine products prohibited by state or federal laws, and any look-alike products of any of the above-mentioned items.

- First Offense
 - o Discovery of a violation will result in an immediate 5 school day denial of participation from all scheduled events in each activity in which the student participates. Students may participate in all scheduled practices but may not dress in uniform for any scheduled contest, performance, etc. The student will also have further remedies set forth by the Superintendent to be considered whole. Failure to comply with all above requirements shall result in dismissal from all activities for 60 school days. This includes receiving awards, until such obligations are met.
- Second Offense and Additional Offenses
 - o A second violation will result in restriction from extracurricular or co-curricular activity for the rest of the season.(beginning on the date of suspension).

All Bethel-Tate student-athletes (7th through 12th grades) agree to this policy prior to their involvement with each athletic season. This school board-approved athletic policy impacts choices the athlete makes year-round. Any additional Bethel Tate Local Board of Education adoption of policy which impacts the general student population will also apply to student-athletes.

Changing Sports in Mid-Season

A student-athlete, who is a member of an interscholastic team cannot quit after the first team competition and join another team that is in season. Furthermore, a student-athlete who quits a sport after the first team competition will not be allowed to participate with another interscholastic team until the completion of the current season. If a player is dismissed from an interscholastic team for disciplinary reasons during the

season the student athlete must follow the same rule as a student who voluntarily quit. In all cases the student or parent cannot ask for a refund in play-to-participation fee.

Denial of Participation (Due Process)

If a student-athlete is being denied participation from practices or contests as a result of a school or team violation, the coach must inform the Athletic Director of the action within 24 hours. The student-athlete has the right to appeal such action. The appeal may be with or without the parents. The appeal will be made directly to the Athletic Director. The appeal must be made within five (5) days of the denial of participation. On matters related to school discipline, the board-approved procedures will be followed.

Equipment Care & Return

Each player is issued uniforms and gear for each sport. It is the player's responsibility to care for it throughout the course of the season. Regular wear and tear is acceptable. Any misuse or loss of any equipment is the athlete's responsibility for replacement or repair. At the conclusion of each season, all players will be expected to return ALL assigned uniforms and equipment. These items may not be altered or abused in any way. Failure to return equipment within two weeks of the final game will result in immediate student fee assessment. The failure to pay this fee assessment may result in the withholding of extra-curricular privileges and/or graduation privileges.

Facilities Responsibilities

All athletic and school facilities should be kept as clean as possible. All players must demonstrate common sense, maturity and self-discipline in the restrooms, locker rooms, team rooms, weight room, training room, equipment room, practice field, gym, and office areas. All equipment must be securely stored in a neat and orderly fashion in the appropriate area designated by the coaching staff. Shoes must be thoroughly cleaned of dirt/mud before entering the locker room or team room areas. All tape and other waste must be deposited in garbage cans. PLEASE DO NOT LITTER OUR PRACTICE FIELDS, GAME FIELDS, WEIGHT ROOM, and/or OTHER TEAM FACILITIES

Injury Communication

All injuries need to be brought to the attention of the coach and trainer. If you are

injured, you will be expected to seek the appropriate medical treatment recommended by the athletic trainer. All athletes requiring medical attention will be required to receive a **trainer's or doctor's** "release to participate" prior to returning to practice or competition.

Locker Room /Field/Gym

Locker rooms MUST be locked when not in use. In order for the student to use the locker room, students must have a lock and must give a key or combo to the coach in case the school needs to enter that locker. The district will not reimburse students for missing or stolen items.

Safety

Safety is our #1 priority for our athletes. Coaches are responsible for the athletes and the environment in which they play and practice. Coaches must be alert to safety hazards. At all times, coaches represent the school and **must act with the health and safety of the athletes foremost in mind**. Please inform the Coach or the Administration if you believe you are unsafe in any manner.

Hazing

Hazing (to persecute, harass, or humiliate another student or employee), or any other act of initiation of new team members is strictly prohibited in the Bethel Tate Board of Education Student Code of Conduct. Violation of this policy by an athlete or coach will result in severe penalties such as suspension or expulsion from school, dismissal from athletics, and possible criminal charges. Hazing incidents must be reported to a coach, Athletic Director, or an Administrator immediately.

Tardiness

You are expected to be at each practice ON TIME (dressed and ready). Arrival times will be communicated by your respective Head Coach. If you arrive late to either a meeting or to practice, you must have a note from the attendance office or doctor's office. Arriving late without an official excuse will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences and tardiness may include the loss of playing time, extra conditioning, or being dismissed from the team. Tardiness and absences will be covered in each sport's team rules.

Theft

Theft by a player on our campus or any visiting campus will be referred directly to the Principal's office and reported to law enforcement. Any player caught taking others'

possessions, or in possession of another teammate's gear and/or property, will also be subject to immediate suspension from the team and possible team dismissal. All players should keep all possessions locked in the assigned locker room, if possible. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Travel

All student-athletes are required to **ride the bus to and from all games** with the team. All athletes are required to wear the required team dress (team rules) before and after all home and away games. All coaches and athletes should be respectful to the bus drivers and to each other while traveling. Upon return, the team's seniors/captains and coaches will inspect the bus as EVERYONE is responsible to keep the bus clean and free of trash. If a special situation arises which requires leaving the game with a parent/guardian, please contact our Athletic Director or Head Coach prior to making any other arrangements.

Vacation Policy

Student-athletes need to personally contact the coach prior to any vacation which will cause the athlete to miss a practice or athletic event. If the student-athlete misses a contest, then the athlete must participate in one practice for every two practices/athletic events missed before being allowed to enter a contest.

Parent and Student Expectations and Responsibilities

Pay-To-Participate Fees

High School

1. Each athlete has a fee of \$250 per sport season.
2. 3-season sport athletes pay only \$165 for the Spring season.
3. Pay-To-Participate fees are due prior to the first official contest.
4. Following the first competition, refunds will not be provided for any reason, including leaving a team, removal from a team, or injury. Injured team members are still considered a member of a team.

Middle School

1. Each athlete has a fee of \$230 per sport season.
2. 3-season sport athletes pay only \$165 for the Spring season.

3. Pay-To-Participate fees are due by the first official contest.
4. Following the first competition, refunds will not be provided for any reason, including leaving a team, removal from a team, or injury. Injured team members are still considered a member of a team.

Final Forms (REQUIRED) for Students and Parents

The Bethel-Tate Local School District has partnered with *FinalForms*, an online forms and data management service, which allows student-athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) to complete and sign required athletic participation forms. The most exciting news is that *FinalForms* saves data from season-to-season and year-to-year, meaning that you will never need to enter the same information twice! *FinalForms* also pre-populates information for students, wherever possible, saving you time.

Click on the Parent Playbook (link below) to get started in *FinalForms*. If you require any support during the process, scroll to the page bottom and click "Use Support".

We are asking that ALL parents of athletes use *FinalForms*. Please register now and electronically complete ALL forms!

<https://betheltate-oh.finalforms.com>

Playing Time

The intent of participation in athletics is to give the athlete the best experience possible, that they will remember forever. However, sometimes things don't go as planned for the student athlete and a meeting may be requested by the athlete and parent with the coach. It is important for both parties to sit down and listen to each perspective. It is advised that the meeting is set up at least 24 hours after the competition. There are certain topics that are appropriate/inappropriate to approach the coach about.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coach

- Student athlete's Welfare
- Skill improvement
- Behavioral concerns

Inappropriate areas to discuss with coach

- Playing time
- Play Calling
- Team strategy
- Other student athletes playing time/role

We are providing students a chance to participate on a team, and playing time is earned. Being a member of a team is a privilege not a right. Varsity teams are expected to compete and win within the regular season, league season, and tournament play, and the coaches will determine which players compete at which level of play. Teams below the varsity level are meant for player development; Coaches should make every attempt to play all players in these contests, when possible. The coaching staff will have the final say concerning playing time. Coaches should NOT discuss playing time on the sidelines or locker room before/after a game. A playing time conversation often causes an emotional reaction for a player and/or parent. If a meeting is necessary please follow appropriate steps.

1. Student-Athlete meets with the coach to discuss his/her playing time. The coach will only speak about said players' time, no other player.
2. Player and parent should request an appointment with the Coach to discuss playing time issues if step 1 does not resolve the issue. The coach will only speak about said players' time, no other player.
3. If the situation requires further attention, the player and parent can request a meeting with the Head Coach and the Athletic Director.

Parent Ejections

Parents are expected to respect the game. Parents that are ejected from a game by an official or school personnel for any reason must leave the area immediately and leave school grounds. Unsportsmanlike behavior and disparaging remarks towards player/coach/official/fans will not be accepted. The administration of each building reserves the right to suspend any parent's privilege to attend athletic events because of poor behavior.

Parental/Coaches 24 Hour Rule

Sometimes following an athletic contest parents have a high level of angst and feel the need to express negative opinions to a Coach. We have advised Coaches not to speak with parents during this time. Please contact the coach the next day to set up a time if a meeting is desired.

Pre-Season eligibility

Before a student is allowed to practice, tryout, play for any interscholastic teams at Bethel-Tate Local School District the student-athlete and parent must have the following

items into the school.

1. A physical - an OHSAA approved medical consent form must be on file and a medical provider must have signed off that the student-athlete is medically okay to participate.
2. Completion of Final forms - all documents on Final Forms must be filled out and signed by both parents/guardians and the student-athlete.
3. Once teams are selected, one parent/guardian and the student-athlete must attend, one time during the school year, a mandatory OHSAA night. This must be done before the student-athlete can play in any competitions.

Vacation Policy

Student-athletes need to personally contact the coach prior to any vacation which will cause the athlete to miss a practice or athletic event. If the student-athlete misses a contest, then the athlete must participate in one practice for every two practices/athletic events missed before being allowed to enter a contest.

Student-Athletes – General Responsibilities

1. Maintain academic eligibility as stated in the OHSAA Eligibility Rules.
2. Conduct themselves in a manner that is a credit to themselves, their families, the Bethel Community, and the Bethel-Tate Local School District.
3. Be responsible for the care of the equipment issued to her/him. Loss or willful damage of equipment that has been issued to a player will necessitate restitution to the school.
4. Attend all practices unless ill, or excused in advance by the coach
5. Inform the coach, before the season begins, of any planned periods of absence from the team. This includes such activities as college visits, international exchanges, and family vacations.
6. Attend all practices and games.
7. Abide by the dress and appearance code detailed in the school handbook.

TITLE IX

Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The Title IX coordinators for the Bethel-Tate Local School District is and Christen Davis.

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!



GO TIGERS!