

Byron-Bergen Central School District Athletic Student Code of Conduct

(Revised, June 2019)

Participation on an athletic team is a privilege that entails increased responsibility on the part of students who choose to participate.

Overview:

The Byron-Bergen Board of Education believes that involvement in athletics is an integral part of a student's total educational program as it forms a connection between the student and the school community and nurtures each student's special interests and abilities. The intent of these regulations is to foster and promote good citizenship, sportsmanship and conduct by all student athletes. Students and their parents will be expected to read and comply with this athletic code and “e” sign a "Signature of Agreement Form" (via the Family ID program) prior to participation in any and all athletic(s) activities **for each season of participation. This document works in conjunction with and in addition to the B-B C.S.D. School code of conduct.**

Athletic participation is defined as involvement in any non-credit bearing, school sponsored athletic team. As representatives of our school and community, students are expected to exemplify positive role models. For this reason, additional protocols regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco (including any form of “e cig or vape”), performance enhancing substances, illegal chemical substances, as well as, citizenship and sportsmanship are required by the Byron-Bergen Central School District. Therefore, students are expected to use good judgment and avoid situations in which alcohol or other drugs are being used illegally. Further, students are expected to engage in behavior that demonstrates the ideals of good citizenship. This code of conduct will be applied for one calendar year from the time you sign. Violations will carry over from year to year. For instance, the first time you violate the drug / alcohol policy you will be on strike one for the remainder of your athletic career, or until graduation.

Decisions involving improper student conduct are made collaboratively between the Coach, Athletic Director, and the Building Principal.

Citizenship:

Athletic participants are expected to follow the rules and regulations of the school district as stated in the District's Code of Conduct. A few examples of unacceptable behavior are: truancy, insubordination, hazing, vandalism, academic dishonesty, bullying/cyber threats, stealing and violation of the rights of others. Each member of an athletic team is expected to do the following: attend all practice sessions or meetings, refrain from all profane and vulgar language, demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperative attitudes, and treat all officials, coaches, and spectators with respect.

As school representatives, students are expected to be positive role models through their own actions. Actions meant to demean officials and other participants do not support the highest ideals of interscholastic activities and will not be tolerated. Consequences for displaying poor citizenship and sportsmanship can result in a suspension from the athletic team ranging from one day to one year based on the nature and level of severity of the offense as determined cooperatively by the Athletic Director, coach and Building Principal.

Behavior and Conduct of Participants:

Good community citizenship is required of all participants and involves following a high standard of behavior and conduct while in or out of the school setting. Students are expected to follow all laws, school policies, and regulations. Any student who is arrested or receives an appearance ticket by police may be suspended from all athletic activities until the infraction can be investigated by the Athletic Director/Building Principal.

- a. Athletes who violate the Byron-Bergen Code of Conduct may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the coach. This will result in a variety of consequences ranging from a temporary suspension to dismissal from the activity depending upon the severity of the offense. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the athletic activity must be approved by the Building Principal.
- b. Athletes who violate the law may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach after an investigation. This may result in consequences ranging from temporary suspension to dismissal from the activity depending upon the severity of the offense. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the athletic activity must be approved by the Building Principal.
- c. Athletes engaging in criminal activity prior to the commencement of an athletic activity may be barred from participation for that activity provided that the Athletic Director/Building Principal determines that the student was, in fact, arrested or issued an appearance ticket which makes participation in all athletic activities inappropriate.

Responsibilities of Spectators:

Athletes representing and attending events involving the Byron-Bergen School District will recognize and show appreciation for both Byron-Bergen and the opposing athletic teams or participants. Admission to an event extends the privilege of observing a contest and is a contract for its holder to act in an appropriate and sportsmanlike manner. Students are expected to respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials and learn the rules of the game so that they may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Equipment/Supplies:

Each Athlete / Parent will "e" sign an equipment loan form. Please be aware that you are accepting school property when you join an athletic team. As such, you are responsible for any and all athletic clothing that you are given. In the event that any piece is not returned please be aware that you will be financially responsible for the cost of replacement.

Attendance:

Students are required to attend all classes during the school day in order to participate in athletic activities after school. The exception is made for a bona fide appointment such as dentist, doctor, court, or college visitation or other absences deemed legal by New York State Education law other than illness must be verified by an appropriate legal written excuse.

a. Absences: If a student has an unexcused absence, is truant, suspended in or out of school, or excused from any part of the school day due to illness, s/he may not participate in any athletic activities that day. If a suspension spans a weekend, the student may not participate in any athletic activities that weekend.

b. Tardy: Any student who is late to school is considered tardy. S/he must sign in at the attendance office and report to the Building Principal to get permission to participate that day. The Building Principal will consider the circumstance and frequency of previous tardies to determine the student's status for participating in an activity for that day. If tardiness is not a reoccurring problem, permission to participate in athletic events will be granted. If tardiness has been a problem, the student will not be allowed to participate that day and a suspension of the next scheduled activity may occur by the Building Principal.

Students who are tardy to school and do not report to the appropriate school office upon arrival to school will not participate in that day's activity and may be suspended from the next activity.

c. Absent Following Athletic Events: Each student must make every effort to attend school the day following an athletic event. If a pattern of absences develops following an athletic event, the coach will take appropriate disciplinary action. If absences occurring after an athletic event are an ongoing problem as deemed by the Building Principal, participation in the next scheduled athletic activity may be suspended.

Athletic Team Rules Established by Coach:

In addition to the athletic rules for participation set forth in this policy, the individual coach may establish rules for the activity above and beyond what is outlined in this policy. Some areas regulated by the coach rules may be, but are not limited to, curfews, lateness to an activity, or insubordination to the coach. Violations to these rules may range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the athletic activity. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the athletic activity must be approved by the Building Principal.

Drugs & Alcohol:

We believe strongly in educating students in the areas of substance abuse. Any student illegally using or possessing alcohol or tobacco (including “e” cigs or vapes) or using, possessing, buying, or selling illegal substances may be denied participation or face suspension of games or contests.

Offenses are defined as drug, tobacco (including “e” cigs or vapes), and/or alcohol use, possession, or attending a gathering where a student knows that drugs, and/or tobacco, and/or alcohol are being used.

First Offense

A. Minor infractions (include, but are NOT limited to: the use of any illegal substances, drugs, alcohol, & tobacco in any form including “e” cigs or vapes, “attending gatherings”, etc..) will result in exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports for 25 percent of the total number of games (students will be given a date of return to full participation, regardless of canceled games for any reasons such as weather, etc.). In addition, it may be required that a mandatory evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency take place.

OR

B. Major infractions include, but are NOT limited to: possession of illegal substances, being under the influence of any illegal substances, long term suspension from school (Long term suspension is defined as a suspension lasting more than 5 days), and/or involvement in any criminal activity will result in exclusion from participation in interscholastic athletics for up to five (5) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

Second Offense

A. Minor infractions (include, but are NOT limited to: the use of any illegal substances, drugs, alcohol, & tobacco in any form including “e” cigs or vapes, “attending gatherings”, etc..) will result in exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports for 50 percent of the total number of games (students will be given a date of return to full participation, regardless of canceled games for any reasons such as weather, etc.). In addition, it may be required that a mandatory evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency take place.

OR

B. Major infractions include, but are NOT limited to: possession of illegal substances, being under the influence of any illegal substances, long term suspension from school (Long term suspension is defined as a suspension lasting more than 5 days), and/or involvement in any criminal activity will result in exclusion from participation in interscholastic athletics for up to five (5) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

Third Offense and all subsequent offenses

For any infraction, minor or major, committed by someone for the third time may result in exclusion from participation in interscholastic activities for ten (10) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

OR

The student athlete may be excluded from participation for the rest of their academic career.

Consequences at all levels of offenses pertaining to this code are in effect from one sport season to the next (e.g., student plays football and basketball but is not able to serve all the game suspension during football season, then the remaining games will be served during the basketball season).

Offenses are consecutive and penalties accrue from one year to the next.

Criminal Offense

In the event you are charged with a crime you will be suspended from all athletic activities pending administrative review by Building Principal and/or Superintendent.

Self-Referrals for Assistance with Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

A student who self-refers him/herself for alcohol and/or drug abuse is not exempt from the penalties and procedures outlined in this policy.

Attending Gatherings:

A student present at locations where he/she knows that the use of alcohol and/or other illegal substances is/are occurring, will be subject to the same penalty as those involved with use or possession.

Quitting the Team:

It is highly desired that student-athletes refrain from quitting an interscholastic athletic team. If a student quits a team after the team has already started to compete in games or meets, a meeting will occur between the coach, parent, Athletic Director, and Building Principal. The student will be suspended from 25 percent of the next athletic season in which they choose to participate. In the event of a hardship forcing an athlete to discontinue participation, the Athletic Director and Building Principal will determine whether a suspension is warranted.

Violation Reports and Penalties:

Athletic Code of Conduct violation reports will be accepted only from coaches, administrators, teachers, school personnel or police officers who have personal knowledge of the violation. Violation Reports are submitted directly to the Athletic Director/Building Principal. It is the responsibility of the coach to inform the student's parent of the violation. Substantiated violations of this code will result in penalties ranging from suspension to dismissal from the athletic activity as listed in the general rules of conduct.

Alleged violations from all other sources must be based on personal knowledge, and addressed directly to the Athletic Director/Building Principal which will be shared with the Superintendent of Schools by the administration. If reasonable suspicion exists, school authorities will conduct a thorough investigation.

The respective coach and the Athletic Director/Building Principal will make a decision on the penalty. The District reserves the right to determine any appropriate penalty based on the circumstances of a violation. When determining the penalty, consideration will be given to the type of violation and previous involvement in other violations by that particular student.

The student and the parent will be notified by the respective coach, within a reasonable amount of time, of the determination of the suspension or dismissal.

Signature of Agreement Form:

The (e) signatures of the student's parent/guardian and the student are required for participation on any athletic team. Any student involved in more than one school activity needs to complete this agreement only once for each season via the "family id" on line sign up system.

BYRON-BERGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Student Athletic Code Signature
of Agreement Form

For students to participate in Athletics

Through the signature(s) listed below, the individuals named agree that the Athletic Student Code of Conduct has been read and understood. It is also understood that the terms and conditions of the Athletic Student Code of Conduct will be followed so that the student named below may participate in any of the interscholastic athletic activity in the Byron Bergen Central School District.

Student Name: (print) _____ **Grade:** _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

School Year: _____