

**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
CODE OF CONDUCT**

Revised 5/7/21

PHILOSOPHY:

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege offered to students of the Bedford Area School District to extend learning opportunities. Students who voluntarily participate in interscholastic athletics represent themselves, the community, and the school district. All student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards of sportsmanship and athletic competition.

The Code of conduct is designed specifically to establish high expectations and standards for all participating student-athletes. These expectations embody a total lifestyle approach with emphasis on **Respect** for self, others, and property; **Loyalty** to self, teammates, coaches, and school; support for the ideals of true **Sportsmanship**, and **Maturity** to accept all choices made and the consequences each carries.

The terms of the Code of Conduct extend for the duration of the school year. Sanctions imposed as a result of the Code of Conduct may carry into the next school term. Final decisions regarding this policy will be determined by the district administration.

STANDARDS:

A. Academic

- Bedford High School and Bedford Middle School students have to be passing at least 5 full credits (including Cyber classes and Vo-Tech) enrollments according to PIAA standards or the equivalent as of each Friday of the grading period. Failure to meet this requirement will cost the student-athlete one week of eligibility.
- Fall sports eligibility is based on the final grades from the preceding school year.
- Failure to pass the full credits as prescribed by the school at the end of each marking period will cost the student-athlete 20 school days of eligibility in the next grading period.

B. Attendance

- Participating student-athletes must attend on the day of practice or contest. Students who sign in one hour or more beyond the start of school or who leave one hour or more before the close of school without a school approved appointment are ineligible to participate that day.
- Coaches are responsible for enforcing these attendance guidelines.
- Students serving an In School Suspension are eligible for practice and games on the day of the suspension. Students serving an Out-Of-School Suspension are ineligible to participate in practice or games during the length of the suspension.
- Students missing more than 20 days in a semester are ineligible per PIAA regulations.

C. Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco

- No student-athlete shall use, possess, give, sell, or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of a prohibited substance.
- In the Bedford Area School District, participation in interscholastic athletics requires both the student and parent's consent to random drug testing for the student-athlete.
- The Bedford Area School District considers tobacco products a prohibitive substance for all student-athletes.
- By signing this form, both the student-athlete and the parent are consenting to the test and sanctions as outlined by the Bedford Area School District Policy #227.1.

D. Unacceptable Behaviors

- A student athlete shall not engage in any inappropriate or unlawful behavior that violates the District's Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook, the respective District Rules and Regulations building handbook, and the Athletic Code of Conduct. Additionally, by volunteering to participate, no student athlete will commit ANY unlawful act to include any unlawful acts committed outside regular school operations.
- By volunteering to participate, the student agrees to follow written team rules provided by the coach or athletic department. Additionally, the student agrees to follow appropriate school staff directives necessary to operate the activity.
- By volunteering to participate, the student will not offend, disparage, or tarnish team members, coaches, the school activity or the school. Please note social media posts that offend, disparage, or tarnish team members, coaches, the school activity or the school could be considered a violation under this section.

E. Transportation

- All student-athletes should ride district provided transportation to competitions.
- Student-athletes should return on school provided transportation except for the following:
 - Players may return home with parent(s) with coach's approval.
 - Parent(s) must speak with the coach at the event and sign a transportation release form.
 - Extenuating or emergency situations require prior administrative approval.
- All transportation rules apply to athletes while riding school transportation.

Your signature below indicates you have read and understand the Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it.

Name of Student-Athlete _____ Signature _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Signature _____

GRADES	GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Student is failing one class.	Student is eligible for all practices and games.
Student is failing two classes (assumes student is taking 5 credits).	Student is eligible for all practices and games.
Student is not passing 5 credits.	Student is ineligible until the next Friday.
Student is not passing 5 credits and end of the 9 weeks.	Student is ineligible for 20 school days.
ATTENDANCE	GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Student arrives at school after school has been in session for one hour with a school-approved excuse.	Student is eligible for practice and contests that day.
Student arrives at school after school has been in session for one hour without a school-approved excuse.	Student is ineligible for practice and contests that day.
DRUG TESTING	GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Student refuses to sign Code of Conduct (including consent to test.)	Student may not participate in interscholastic athletics in the Bedford Area School District.
Student refuses to take the drug test.	Student will face the same sanctions as if the student tested positive for the test.
Student fails drug test: First Offense	Student is suspended for two weeks of the season(s), including any playoffs if they should fall during the two-week suspension. Parents are contacted immediately. Student shall undergo drug and alcohol counseling with an outside professional agency approved by the district without district expense. Student will be drug tested prior to resuming activities if the suspending action was drug-related.
Second Offense	Student shall be suspended from their activity for the balance of the season(s), including playoffs, for the activity wherein a second offense occurred. All previously mentioned above will also take place.
Third Offense	Student shall be prohibited from participating in privileged activities for the duration of the school term. All previously mentioned above will also take place.
UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Student commits unlawful behavior or act	Student may be suspended for 25% of the sports season(s), including playoffs.
Student violates the District Rules and Regulations, Building Rights and Responsibilities handbook or Athletic Code of Conduct	Student may be suspended for up to 20% of the sports season(s), including playoffs.
Student violates team rules	Student may be suspended for up to 15% of the sports season, including playoffs at the discretion of the coaching staff and with approval of the Athletic Director.

GENERAL AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FORM

I hereby give my permission for the Bedford Area School District and a laboratory of the school district's choosing to perform a urine drug screen on my son/daughter. I realize the purpose and ramifications of the testing and will follow the policy guidelines set forth for positive test results.

I understand that my son/daughter will not be punished by suspension or expulsion for a positive test result; however, he/she must follow the guidelines as outlined in the School District Policy #227.1.

The Bedford Area School District is committed to providing safe, drug-free programs. The school district appreciates your support, encouragement, and cooperation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

As a student participating in privileged activities, I agree to participate in the urine drug-screening program. I have read and understand the School District Policy #227.1 "Student Drug Testing."

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____