



**BRASHER FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**(St. Lawrence Middle/High School)**  
**2023-2024**

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Brasher Falls Central School District's Interscholastic Program. This handbook is presented to you and your parents because you have expressed a desire to participate in academic, athletics, and extra-curricular (interscholastic) activities. You and your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in interscholastic activities provides the opportunity for developing lifetime skills that will help the students in becoming well-rounded individuals capable of making decisions and handling problems that will enable them to lead a happy and prosperous life.

The main goal of the Brasher Falls Central Interscholastic Program is to provide experiences that are fun and promote individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. We hope that all students will participate in some phase of our interscholastic program. These will be memorable school experiences that will last a lifetime.

When you (your child) choose to participate in one of our interscholastic programs, we feel that you/they have committed yourself/themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some specific policies and rules that are necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic activities. The program is governed by the regulations established by the Commissioner of Education's basic code for extracurricular activities.

As far as Athletics, St. Lawrence Central Middle School and High School are members of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, competing as a class "C" school, with some minor exceptions in specific sports. Our league affiliation is the Northern Athletic Conference.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Brasher Falls Central School District Interscholastic Programs, please contact Jamie LaBarge, Middle School Principal; Kristen Zender, High School Principal; or Joey Reome, Athletic Director, at (315) 389-5131 or by email at [jlabarge@bfcsd.org](mailto:jlabarge@bfcsd.org); [kzender@bfcsd.org](mailto:kzender@bfcsd.org) or [jreome@bfcsd.org](mailto:jreome@bfcsd.org). We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to get involved in interscholastic activities.

Sincerely,

*Jamie LaBarge*

MS Principal

*Kristen Zender*

HS Principal

*Joey Reome*

Athletic Director



**BRASHER FALLS  
CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**St. Lawrence Middle/High School**

*Home of the Larries*

**INTERSCHOLASTIC  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2023-2024**

## **Interscholastic Programs**

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Brasher Falls Central School offers you opportunities in both scholastic and non-scholastic programs. Be sure you make the most of these opportunities. Remember, the reputation of our school is dependent upon you. Your conduct both in and out of school affects the school. Brasher Falls Central School is and will be what you make it, so let's put and keep SLC on top!

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that requires dedication and commitment. In participating, our students gain invaluable educational experiences as members of a team or club, as student leaders, and as young adults setting and reaching their goals. This participation enriches their middle and high school years and develops personal standards of discipline. To ensure participating students meet reasonable academic standards and appropriate standards of conduct fitting their status as leaders in our school and local community, the Board of Education established the Code of Conduct. We expect parents and students will review these codes and will comply.

Membership in a club/organization is a privilege and gives a student a chance to develop some particular talent or interests as well as to give him/her training in working in cooperation with fellow students. It is urged that all students take advantage of the benefits offered through club membership.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to the following groups/organizations for the school year:

Student Council (MS & HS), Class Officers, Senior Honor Society, Junior Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, Drama/Musical, Outing Club, Robotics (MS & HS), Impetus, Spanish Club, Yearbook (MS & HS), Whiz Quiz, GSA "The Collective", Mock Trial Club and Greenhouse.

### **Student Council**

Student Council is an organization which provides students the ability to participate in school affairs. It is not an organization for "self-government" nor for "student government." Rather, students through their Student Council, share in the administration and management of school activities. It is a democratic organization developed by the mutual cooperation of the entire school community. Through participation in the Student Council, students learn the principles of democracy.

The most important aims of Student Council are to:

1. Develop leadership, scholarship and citizenship;
2. Develop in the student a greater appreciation of membership in a democracy;
3. Promote the general welfare of the student body and the school;
4. Coordinate and promote student activity and encourage greater student participation;
5. Stimulate and develop a healthy school spirit, promoting loyalty and pride in the school;
6. Promote harmonious teacher – student and student – student relationships;
7. Promote school/community spirit.

### **Senior National Honor Society**

National Honor Society membership recognizes the high academic achievements of students and helps reinforce the importance and joy of giving back to their communities. The St. Lawrence Central chapter of the National Honor Society recognizes students in tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades who have attained a cumulative grade point average of 90 or greater. Prospective

candidates must also exhibit exemplary behavior in the areas of leadership, character, citizenship, and service. Students who meet the academic requirements are invited to apply at the end of their sophomore or junior years. Applications are then reviewed by a faculty council and successful candidates are inducted in a ceremony in May.

Once students attain membership, they must continue to maintain a grade point average of 90 or greater. They must also participate in community service projects, both as part of the club and independently.

National Honor Society membership also looks great on a college application!

### **Junior National Honor Society**

The Brasher Falls Central chapter of the National Junior Honor Society recognizes students in 7th and 8th grade who have attained an average GPA of 90 or better and exhibit exemplary behavior in the areas of leadership, character, citizenship and service. Students are recommended for membership at the end of the 3rd quarter in their 6th and 7th grade. Junior National Honor Society participates in the summer festival and also participates in community service throughout the school year.

### **Tri-M Music Honor Society**

The purpose of the Tri-M Music Honor Society is to provide an appropriate method for recognizing the musical achievements of our members, strengthen our school's music program, help our members reach their full musical potential, motivate and recognize our members' musical and personal achievements, credits, and grades, encourage our members to work together toward the same goal, inspire and challenge our members, and focus public attention on our school's music program through community service.

1. They must have enrolled in one or more performing ensembles (senior band, senior chorus, chamber singers) for at least one school year.
2. They must have continued commitment to at least one of these classes throughout their membership.
3. They must have maintained for the previous year a GPA of 85 or greater
4. Members must continue to maintain a GPA of 85 and a grade of 90 or greater in music classes.

### **Drama Club/Musical**

Drama Club is for students in grades 7-12. The club will meet at least monthly. Drama Club will prepare for a Play in the Fall and students who are academically eligible can participate. The SLC musical season begins with auditions in October and regular rehearsals from December through the performances in March. Students develop skills in both on-stage and off-stage roles. Students in grades 7-12 are welcome to audition. Should a student not receive an on-stage role, off-stage roles will be available. Casting and backstage assignments are at the discretion of the directors. Students must be academically eligible at the time of auditions to participate. Applications and audition materials are distributed at a meeting prior to auditions.

### **Stage Band**

Stage Band is a small ensemble designed to allow students to explore different styles of music than the traditional western art music in a smaller, condensed setting. This ensemble is open to all Senior High band students and to teacher-selected Junior High Band students, for readiness purposes. All students are strongly encouraged to try playing their corresponding secondary instruments if they

do not already play the instrument within the traditional instrumentation of a jazz ensemble. The ensemble has annual performances so consistent attendance would be necessary.

### **Outing Club**

A student-led club centered on outdoor recreation; providing sports, recreational, social, educational and wellness activities to the students of SLC high school. The club is designed to get students outdoors and go on adventures they might never be able to do on their own. The club is geared towards activities the students choose or vote on. The outing club does not require fundraising, the students pay out of pocket for each trip (if necessary). Activities completed in the past or on the to do list are: Hiking, Mountain Climbing, Canoeing, Whitewater Rafting, Rock Climbing, Downhill Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Ropes Course, Snow Shoeing, Destiny USA Wonder Works, and Adirondack Extreme Treetop Adventure Park.

### **Robotics**

High School Robotics - It's way more than building robots. *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams (up to 15 team members, mostly grades 9-12) are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format.

Guided by their coach and mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a team. Meetings are in the evenings and weekends. Meetings start mid-September and run through March. Competitions can begin as early as December.

Middle School Robotics Club focuses on designing, building and programming robots to complete different tasks. The club competes in the First Lego League Competition each year through Clarkson University. Students in grades 5-8 can participate in this club.

### **IMPETUS**

Impetus is a selective grant based program for students in grades 7-12 in conjunction with Clarkson University. The IMPETUS (Integrated Mathematics and Physics for Entry To Undergraduate STEM) for Career Success program provides mentoring and supervised training to enrich students' education in science and technology.

There are two Key Program Components. The first being an academic year program. Benefits include academic support, mentoring, and tutoring through after school activities. These include one Clarkson Campus visit per month, one Clarkson student visit per month, and the remainder of the weeks spent on developing a functional roller coaster model. The second is a summer program. A multi-day program at Clarkson working with mathematics and physics professors and students. Roller Coaster Camp includes a day-long trip to the Six Flags Great Escapes in Lake George, NY to collect data on the body's response to roller coasters.

### **Spanish Club:**

The Spanish club aims to promote interest in and appreciation of the Spanish language and culture while increasing opportunities for students to use and enhance their language skills in authentic settings. An election will be held at the beginning of each school year for officer positions. There will be monthly meetings in which members will participate in cultural activities such as a Día de los Muertos celebration, preparing authentic dishes, celebrating various Hispanic holidays, and more. Every two years, students will have an opportunity to travel internationally to a Spanish-speaking country. The Spanish Club will participate in multiple fundraising opportunities

throughout the year to raise money toward the trip and club activities. Any students who have completed Spanish 1 will be permitted to join the Spanish club and travel internationally.

### **Yearbook**

Joining the St. Lawrence High School Yearbook Club gets students involved on all levels – from mingling with students, to attending school events, and actively participating in a club that benefits the entire school body. Students benefit from yearbooks just as much as the schools do in creating a positive school spirit. Working on the yearbook with help you develop skills including writing, editing, leadership, time management, yearbook layout and marketing yearbooks ads.

Students who participate in Middle School Yearbook Club get involved in helping to create the Middle School yearbook. This includes taking candid photos of students and faculty, taking photos of sports and extracurricular activities, developing interest surveys, giving creative input toward the final creation of the yearbook, and helping in the sale of the yearbook. Students gain skills in teamwork, time management, organization, public speaking, and money management.

### **Whiz Quiz**

Whiz Quiz is a program on WPBS – Watertown. Our team competes with teams from other schools from throughout the North Country in a single elimination tournament, Quiz Bowl-style tournament. Teams consist of four competitors with an alternate chosen by the advisor.

### **Diversity Club “The Collective”**

Diversity Club is a student led club which provides a safe place for students to meet, support each other, raise awareness, discuss resources available, address needs of students, educate ourselves and the community, discuss issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and work to end homophobia and transphobia, all under the advisory of a Teacher Advisor.

### **Mock Trial Club**

The Mock Trial club provides students with the opportunity to compete in the New York State Bar Association’s Mock Trial Competition. Using a provided fact pattern, students act as attorneys and witnesses, implementing the rules of evidence and their rhetorical skills to present their case in front of a real judge.

### **Greenhouse**

The Greenhouse Club is open to middle and high school students. The club provides students opportunities to come and learn what it takes to run some aspects of greenhouse care, or who are interested in doing something with plants or other activities that will be associated with the greenhouse. Participants can engage in activities like: growing food or flowers; Starting seeds; potting seedlings; watering plants and monitoring the environment of the greenhouse; constructing and maintaining raised-bed gardens, hanging planters, or clay pots; mentoring younger students, peers, or even working with community members; and doing plant sales or other fundraising activities. Students in the Greenhouse Club have significant input on the direction of greenhouse activities or projects, and the experiences gained from working with plants can serve them in all walks of life and for the rest of their lives.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising projects in which students sell merchandise, provide services, or in other ways solicit money for school activities may be sponsored by school organizations with the express approval of the Building Principal. Any such plan shall have a clearly defined purpose and, in general, shall

contribute to the educational experience of students and shall not conflict with instructional programs or state mandates. All participation shall be voluntary. All student activities/fundraising dates/ideas must be approved by the Student Council Advisors and Building Principals to avoid overlap. Fundraising for individual athletic teams is discouraged; events to sport the athletic department as a whole must be approved by the Athletic Director.

### **Student Eligibility Blocks**

The school year will be divided into three seasonal blocks. All students will be held accountable to the eligibility standards during these three blocks for whichever sport/activity they are a member of that fall within these time periods.

**Fall Block:                    September 7 – November 10, 2023**  
**Winter Block:                November 13, 2023 – March 8, 2024**  
**Spring Block:                 March 11 – June 7, 2024**

### **Athletics**

The following modified, junior varsity, and varsity sports teams make up the athletic programs in the Brasher Falls Central School District:

<b>Fall:</b>	
Football (Boys).....	Modified, Varsity
Swimming (Girls).....	Modified, Varsity
Soccer (Girls).....	Modified, JV, Varsity
Soccer (Boys) .....	Modified, Varsity
<b>Winter:</b>	
Hockey (Boys).....	Varsity
Basketball (Boys).....	Modified, JV, Varsity
Basketball (Girls).....	Modified, JV, Varsity
Competitive Cheerleading (Girls).....	Varsity
<b>Spring:</b>	
Baseball (Boys).....	Modified, Varsity
Softball (Girls).....	Modified, Varsity
Lacrosse (Boys).....	Modified, Varsity

### **Sport Starting Dates**

**Fall Sports –                 Football – 8/19/23**

**Varsity & JV Sports – 8/21/23**  
**All Modified Sports – 8/28/23**

**Winter Sports –             Varsity & JV Sports – 11/13/23**  
**All Modified Sports – 11/20/23**

**Spring Sports –             Varsity Sports – 3/11/24**  
**All Modified Sports – 3/18/24**

*These are the first dates that teams can meet with their coaches according to Section X, but the actual starting dates are set by the coaches.*

## *rSchoolToday*

This site is helpful to see the most up to date and accurate sport game schedules, as the coaches and officials use the same site to determine the times and venues of the games in Section X. Here are the steps that you need to take to look up the sport/level that you are interested in.

-Log on to <http://www.sectionxboces.org/>

-Click on St. Lawrence Central School. Click on the sport and then view.

## *Goals and Objectives of Interscholastic Programs*

### **Our Goal:**

The experience of participation in athletic contests and extra-curricular activities should reflect the total educational goals of our district.

### **Our Specific Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the place which interscholastic sports and activities occupy in the American culture and by developing sound educational attitudes toward them.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to enjoy them from the point of view of good sportsmanship/citizenship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit, and loyalty of students and the community by providing a common meeting ground and enthusiasm shared by all.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness, and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics and activities.
5. To provide the opportunity for a student to learn to handle winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves and members of their team/club.
6. To learn to develop, through hard work and dedication, a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem in participating.

## *Attendance Policy*

Participation in an activity or sport is one part of a student's educational program. **The student must be in school on time every day to participate in a game, practice, or activity on that day.** If a team goes onto a state competition or an out of town event, the time of arrival at school the day after this game/event depends on travel and will be decided by the Athletic Director. If a student is late for an unexcused reason, the student will be given one warning per season block. A second unexcused tardy will result in the student being suspended for one quarter of the next game or activity. A third unexcused tardy will result in the student being suspended for one half of the next game or activity. A fourth unexcused tardy and any subsequent tardiness will result in suspension for a game or activity. Students will be expected to be in school all day every day. Students will not be allowed to leave school for any reason other than a legal excuse (doctor/dentist, funeral, court, etc.) If a student leaves for an unexcused reason, they will not be allowed to practice or play in a game or participate in an activity on that day (ex. tanning, tuxedos, prom gowns, etc.). The student will be expected to attend the event, which they are suspended from. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the next event.



Students suspended from school for any disciplinary infraction will not be allowed to practice or participate in any contest/activity until reinstated in school. This includes in-school suspension. If this happens, the student will not be able to participate in the contest/activity that day, if it is on a day of a game/concert/musical/play/etc. Students assigned to *administrative* detention on a day of a game, must serve the complete detention on the assigned date.

### **Family Vacations**

When parents and students choose to take family vacations during a season block, it must be understood that the time missed by the student can affect team/club chemistry. Students who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted. Coaches/Advisors will make every effort to inform students of the season's/activity schedule as far in advance as possible.

### **Transportation**

Extra-curricular participation will also involve travel in school district vehicles. Because all travel includes serious risk of injury, no travel to an event will be permitted other than in district vehicles unless there is a valid reason. (This must be signed by the principal of the school). Brasher Falls Central does not provide late buses for practice and games. The students must arrange for their transportation to and from the school. After away games students are allowed to ride home with parents only if the release form has been signed at the pre-season meeting.

### **Athletic Code of Ethics**

#### *IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS*

1. *To emphasize* the property ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. *To eliminate* all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. *To stress* the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. *To show* cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. *To establish* a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. *To respect* the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. *To achieve* a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8. *To encourage* leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. *To recognize* that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. *To remember* that an athletic contest is only a game .... Not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan community, state or nation.

### **Responsibility of the SLC Spectators**

1. Spectators are an important part of an interscholastic contest. Supporting one's team and good sportsmanship are both a part of being a fan.
2. **Bells, noisemakers, and other distractions are prohibited.** Players and coaches need to be able to hear each other, the referees and should be able to concentrate on the play of the game.

3. Spectators are expected to comply with all local school rules regarding safety, smoking, and facility use. Spectators are expected to follow directions from school authorities regarding these matters.
4. Officials, coaches, and visiting players are guests and must be treated with courtesy. Enthusiastic cheering can support a team's play but a spectator whose behavior distracts the game, may be asked to leave.

## **Philosophy of the SLC Athletic Programs**

### **Modified - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade**

The 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade modified interscholastic program is the foundation for developing skills and building team concepts. Active involvement is the priority, as these students will begin to practice with a purpose and develop skills of teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline. Any 9<sup>th</sup> grader on a modified team will follow the Academic Eligibility of Grades 9-12 students.

### **Junior Varsity**

As development continues, the student will become more familiar with the philosophy used at the varsity level. The student will be exposed to higher levels of skill development, competition, team concepts, and leadership roles. This will enable the student to more clearly recognize the philosophy used at the varsity level. Learning how to compete, becoming a member of a team, and understanding how the individual fits in a team role are explained. Winning and success becomes more of a priority at the varsity level. Playing time is entirely at the discretion of the coach. Safety factors, due to the increased number of participants, may mean cuts need to be made at this level.

### **Varsity**

Varsity interscholastic programs are the culmination of continuous commitment and dedication to a particular activity. Students in these activities participate in a highly competitive atmosphere at the interscholastic level. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires. By signing the code of conduct, you have placed your trust in the coach's ability to make decisions that will foster team success. Playing time is entirely at the discretion of the coach. Safety factors, due to the increased number of participants, may mean cuts need to be made at this level.

## **Athletic Age/Grade Eligibility**

A student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 7, 8, 9,10,11,12 until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday – (a student who attains the age of 19 years on or after July 1 may continue to participate during that year in ALL sports). Modified Athletic Programs Eligibility - upon entry into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, a student is eligible for modified program competition. One is **ineligible** when the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday is attained; however, if a student attains the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday during a sport season they may complete that sport season.

## **Advanced Placement**

According to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, students in grades 7 and 8 may not participate on high school level teams without going through an extensive screening process called Advanced Placement. This privilege is limited to the **unusually advanced athletes** in the sport requested. As part of the screening process, a candidate must be able to show that there is

objective evidence of their advanced abilities as demonstrated in prior competitive situations in that sport. For team-type sports, the recommendation of the prior coach is critical.

Candidates must have sufficient social and emotional maturity, have shown adequate academic progress, and have a positive behavior record. If your student meets all the above, please begin with a phone call or email to the Athletic Director. ***Deadlines for requests*** are June 15<sup>th</sup> (fall sports); October 1<sup>st</sup> (winter sports) and February 15<sup>th</sup> (spring sports). When the student athlete meets all the criteria and passes the advanced placement test, then that student athlete can begin to practice with the team. Section X has scheduled the Regional Testing as follows:

<b>Fall:</b>	<b>8/12/23 9:00 AM @ Ogdensburg Free Academy</b> <b>8/16/23 9:00 AM @ Salmon River Central School</b> <b>8/23/23 6:00 PM @ Potsdam Central School</b> <b>9/09/23 9:00 AM @ Massena Central School</b>
<b>Winter:</b>	<b>10/14/23 9:00 AM @ Ogdensburg Free Academy</b> <b>10/21/23 9:00 AM @ Franklin Academy, Malone</b> <b>12/09/23 9:00 AM @ SUNY Potsdam</b>
<b>Spring:</b>	<b>3/02/24 9:00 AM @ SUNY Potsdam</b> <b>4/13/24 9:00 AM @ Potsdam Central School</b>

### ***Physical Education Requirement***

Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education Program. Those students demonstrating outstanding skill, attitude, and effort are those encouraged to participate in interscholastic activities. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports, and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, all students will be required to participate in physical education throughout the school year.

### ***Sports Physicals***

A student who participates in interscholastic athletic competition must receive an adequate health examination and health history update when required and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school medical officer. The St. Lawrence Central School physician is available to perform these physicals. Medical examinations will be scheduled during the school year, it is the student athlete's responsibility to sign-up for the physicals being offered. These physicals will be valid for a period of 12 continuous months through the last day of the month in which the physical was conducted. Also, parents must complete the Athletic Pre-participation/Interval Health Questionnaire at the beginning of each sport season.

### ***Concussion Impact Test***

As we have done for the past few years, all athletes will be given a computer test on brain activity. This is a management tool used to compare data from the baseline neuro-cognitive data to post concussion scores. It measures memory, working memory, attention, reaction time and mental speed. This is not a replacement for comprehensive neuro – psychological testing. This test is free and it will help the coaches, nurses, athletic director and athlete understand why or why not they may or may not return to the playing field. **No student can begin sports practice until they have completed this Impact Test.**

## **Changing Sports**

Students may not change from one sport to another if they quit the sport prior to completing the state mandated number of practices for competition. If a student changes sports they must get permission from the coaches involved and the athletic director. A student may not switch teams after the first week of practice. The student must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot transfer from one sport to another. No student will be allowed to join a team after two weeks from the starting date unless approved by the Athletic Director.

## **Issuing of School Clothing and Equipment**

It is the responsibility of the athlete to return to the coach all clothing and equipment issued during the season. **All equipment and clothing must be returned before the student can play in the next sport season. Failure to do this will result in the student paying for the missing articles. Students not paying for the missing articles will not be issued equipment for the next sport season and will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action.** School issued equipment such as game uniforms cannot be worn for physical education class.

## **Risk Factor in Sports**

Participation by a student in interscholastic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity be it a “contact” or a “non-contact” sport. Further, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardian assume the risks for injuries to occur.

## **Injuries**

It is extremely important to report any injury a student suffers immediately to his/her coach. Medical expenses resulting from any injury must first be submitted to your own insurance carrier. Any remaining balance can be submitted to the school’s accident insurance carrier by processing a claim form that can be obtained from the high school nurse. **The Coach must report all injuries to the nurse and athletic director within 24 hours of the injury.**

*Note: If you have any questions regarding the school insurance program, please contact the school nurse.*

## **Returning to an Athletic Team after an Injury or Illness**

Any student, who has been seen by a doctor, must be released (signed statement) by the doctor before the student can resume participation with his or her team. If you have to go to an emergency room for care, please obtain the release (written) before leaving the hospital since many times the attending physician may not be there the next time you visit. This release must be filed with our school nurse. It is the athlete’s responsibility to get the release to the school nurse; do not leave the responsibility to some other person (coach, teacher, friend, etc.).

## **Concussions**

***Please be aware that any student who is suspected of having a concussion will be removed from interscholastic activity and will remain out of such activities until evaluated by a physician and cleared to return to the activity by the school physician/nurse practitioner.***

## **Concussion Management and Awareness Act**

As of July 1, 2012, the State Education Department and the Department of Health require that all parents and athletes must read the following Concussion Information:

### **WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?**

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?**

#### **Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians**

*If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:*

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

#### **Symptoms Reported by Athlete**

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

- Does not “feel right”

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?**

Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from injury.

- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?**

1. **Seek medical attention right away.** A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
2. **Keep your child out of play.** Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon – while the brain is still healing – risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
3. **Tell your child's coach about any recent concussion.** Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

***It's better to miss one game than the whole season.***

For more detailed information on concussion and traumatic brain injury, visit: [www.cdc.gov/concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion).

## **Return to Play Progression (following concussion)**

The return to play progression is broken down into six steps in which only one-step is covered a day. The six steps involve the following:

1. No exertion activity until asymptomatic for seven consecutive days.
2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary bike, etc. No resistance training.
3. Sport specific exercise such as skating, running, etc. Progressive addition of resistance training may begin.
4. Non-contact training/skill drills.
5. Full contact training in practice setting.
6. Return to competition.

## **Conflicts with Other School Activities**

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many activities will undoubtedly be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in school activities and will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize the conflicts. The students and parents must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of league or section regulations or facility usage.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about being in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the coaches/advisors involved immediately when a conflict arises, not on the day of the conflict.

## **Academics**

It is expected that academic achievement is a priority to each student. The value of participation in extra-curricular activities is clearly documented in research.

As an interscholastic student, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your schoolwork thus earning passing grades. Poor classroom performance will result in being suspended from the team or activity for a period of time.

## **Eligibility Standards for SLC Students**

Eligibility standards for all Brasher Falls Central School programs, for all students, have been adopted by the Board of Education and will be strictly enforced.

***THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETES AND NOT ALLOWING ANY STUDENT TO PRACTICE OR PLAY UNLESS CERTAIN THAT ALL RULES ARE BEING FOLLOWED.***

***THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY FOR CLUB STUDENTS AND NOT ALLOWING ANY STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CLUB ACTIVITIES UNLESS CERTAIN THAT ALL RULES ARE BEING FOLLOWED.***

Please note the rules as indicated. When an alleged violation of rules is reported to or comes to the attention of the coach/advisor, the coach and the athletic director/building principal will meet with the student.

## **Academic Eligibility**

A student will be placed on warning for poor academic performance in any 1 subject. The Athletic Director will notify the coach, or the School Principal will notify the Advisor, and the coach/advisor will tell the student that he/she is on warning. If a student is failing two or more courses, they are immediately deemed ineligible and is not allowed to play in games or participate in activities, for two weeks (Monday to 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). The School Principal

will send copies of this ineligibility to the parents; the Athletic Director will advise the coaches; and the School Principal will advise the Club Advisors. All scheduled courses are included in determining eligibility status. Grades in all scheduled courses will be checked every 5 weeks (report cards/progress reports) by the School Principal. The passing grade for grades 7/8 is 70 and the passing grade for grades 9 - 12 is 65.

**Warning Guidelines:** Warning will run from Monday to the following Monday. If a student is placed on warning, he/she *must do the following*:

1. Report to the respective teacher at 2:35 p.m. Monday-Thursday, when available. The student will be allowed to continue playing in games and practices/activities.
2. Once the student returns to good standing, the student must return a signed Student Return Form to their School Principal by noon on Thursday, or the student will remain on warning. This form will let their School Principal know if the student is off warning. *COMPLETION OF THE STUDENT RETURN FORM IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY.* The form can be obtained at the School Main offices, High School Guidance Office or from the Athletic Director.

**Ineligibility Guidelines:** Ineligibility will run two weeks. If a student is ineligible, they *must do the following*:

1. Report to the respective teachers at 2:35 p.m. Monday-Thursday, when available. A student who is ineligible for 2 classes will not be allowed to play in games or participate in activities until deemed eligible by their School Principal. The student will be required to continue to participate in practice. If the student has brought all grades, but one, to passing, the student then falls under the warning guidelines and may participate in games/activities. *Incompletes will be reviewed by the building principal and the guidance counselor.*
2. Once the student returns to good standing, the student must return a Student Return Form to their School Principal by noon on the second Thursday. This sheet will let their School Principal know if the student is now eligible. *THIS IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY.*

*At any time the parents have the right to remove their child from play for academic or any other reason.*

### **School and Community Citizenship**

Good school and community citizenship is necessary to participate in any activity. Failure to be a good citizen (for example, suspension from school or arrested by law enforcement) can mean immediate removal from any activity. The length of time of this removal will be at the discretion of the athletic director/building principal and the eligibility committee according to the severity of the offense for athletes. In addition to any penalties, which may be imposed by the court of law, the period of removal could equal or exceed those listed in the rules below.

### **Games and Practice Sessions (Athletics)**

Team members must be present and on time for all scheduled practice sessions and games. Any student who is present in school, but absent or late to the athletic activity without prior permission from the coach, will be subject to team disciplinary action. That action may range from a warning to suspension from the team. This is a team rule. Remember once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to the team for the full season.

Exceptions:

1. Sickness
2. Emergency appointments (doctor, dentist, court)
3. Funerals
4. Religious obligations
5. Special Exams

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the coach in advance (if possible) before missing practice or a game. The athletic department realizes that unusual situations arise and the student must miss practice. *Students must have a signed and dated excuse from a Parent/Guardian.*

***PLAYING TIME IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. THIS IS THE COACHES' DECISION.***

## **Athletic Code of Conduct** **St. Lawrence Central Middle and High School**

At the beginning of each sport's season, all students and their parents will be required to attend a preseason meeting to sign an Athletic Code of Conduct and meet with each coach. This Code of Conduct outlines the rules and regulations that each student must abide by while participating on a St. Lawrence Central team. The code addresses students' behavior in school, community and athletic arena, sportsmanship, academics, use of athletic equipment, and training and conditioning requirements.

The Athletic Code of Conduct commits the student to many responsibilities, and this code must be signed and turned in to the coaching staff before the first practice. If the Athletic Code of Conduct is not turned in on time, the student will not be allowed to participate.

We need the help of parents and guardians to make the Athletic Code of Conduct successful. By signing this form, we hope you are making the commitment to enforce it with your son/daughter.

### **Procedures for Violations**

1. Violation of this Athletic Code of Conduct will result in a restriction from participation, a suspension for a period of time, or a loss of eligibility based on the offense. Upon a credible report to any school official of an alleged violation of this policy, the Athletic Director, building principal or designee shall interview the student involved. Such interview will be conducted in private, and the student's parent(s) or legal guardian need not be informed of the interview or otherwise be entitled to be present.
2. In the enforcement of this policy, school authorities are not bound by the same rules of evidence as a court of law.
3. Upon completion of the investigation, the Athletic Director and building principal shall conduct a meeting with the student. Immediately after such meeting, the administration of discipline as outlined in this policy shall be imposed and the parents/guardians notified.
4. The student or parent(s) and/or legal guardian may appeal the decision by requesting, in writing within five calendar days, a conference with the Superintendent of Schools. If they do not agree with the Superintendent's decision, they have the right to appeal to the Board of Education.

### **Training Rules**

The following rules and standards apply throughout the next ten school months. Enforcement of the rules and standards will begin with the signing of the first consent form and will be in effect throughout the next ten school months. Students violating the rules at any time during the school year, even between sport seasons, will be disciplined in the subsequent sports season. Participation in interscholastic athletics requires a student to become physically conditioned to develop and maintain his/her level of fitness and skill. Therefore, we expect our students to adhere to proper rules for good conditioning and good health standards.

- A. Attend all required and scheduled practices. If for some reason you may not be able to attend, notify your coach as soon as possible.
- B. Under no circumstances, will the possession or illegal use of intoxicating beverages be allowed. **Alcohol by State Law is illegal for anyone under the age of 21.**



## NEW YORK STATE USE LAWS

A person under the age of 21 is guilty as a minor in possession, a misdemeanor, if that person attempts to purchase, purchases or is found in the possession of alcohol.

Our message to students is loud and clear and should be understood by all stakeholders  
**“NO USE, POSSESSION OF, OR BE IN THE PRESENCE OF, ILLEGAL USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS will be tolerated.”**

- C. Under no circumstances, will the use or possession of tobacco products be allowed (i.e. cigarettes, cigars, pipe, chewing products, vaping products).
- D. The possession of or use of all drugs (except those prescribed by a doctor for that student, or over-the counter drugs taken for illness) is prohibited. Any drugs prescribed by a doctor or over the counter drugs should be brought to the nurse’s office as soon as the athlete arrives in school.

***Marijuana is an illegal drug, punishable by criminal arrest and prosecution.***

- E. Hazing - The Penal Law defines hazing as a person intentionally or recklessly engaging in conduct during the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury (Penal Law §120.16). Under the Penal Law, it is also considered hazing, even when physical injury does not occur, if a person intentionally or recklessly engaged in conduct during the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, which created a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person (Penal Law §120.17). Examples of hazing may include rookie haircuts, asking new members to wear embarrassing / humiliating attire, “pink bellies,” “swirlies” or in other words, dunking someone’s head into a toilet. Hazing is not limited to sports and can occur in club settings as well. For more information, please see [www.stophazing.org](http://www.stophazing.org).

### F. Harassment

- i). Harassment is creating a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that:
  - ◆ has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or
  - ◆ reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment of students and staff WILL NOT be tolerated.

***The following process is recommended if a person feels threatened or intimidated while in school in any way.***

1. The victim should inform their parents of the situation.
  2. The victim should tell the harasser that they object to the comment or action and wants the harasser to stop.
  3. The victim should record the time(s), place(s), and witness(es) to the events.
  4. The victim (or a witness) should report the incident promptly to someone with authority (staff member or administrator).
- ii). Sexual harassment means unwanted and unsolicited, sexually suggestive touches, remarks, and/or gestures. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and prohibited. Students or staff who allege sexual harassment (by either another student or adult within the district) should follow the same steps as in the previous section. The victim or a witness should report the incident to the building principal. A statement of the problem with supporting evidence must be reported to the principal, who will then investigate the incident. If substantiated, they shall: (a) take the appropriate disciplinary action against the offender, or (b) report the incident to the Superintendent of Schools (if staff is involved) (School Board Policy #7531).

G. Cyber Image Policy – Cyberbullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen, or teen using the Internet (ie: Facebook), interactive and digital technologies or cellphones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. If cyberbullying is impacting the educational process or jeopardizing the safety of the victim while at school, the school is obligated to intervene in a manner that is measured, balanced, and age-appropriate. ***The following process is recommended if a person feels threatened or intimidated while in school in any way.***

1. The victim should inform his/her parents of the situation.
2. The victim should tell the harasser that he/she objects to the comment or action and wants the harasser to stop.
3. The victim should record the time(s), place(s), and witness(es) to the events.  
Keep the messages, texts, copy the page, etc.
4. The victim (or a witness) should report the incident promptly to someone with authority (staff member or administrator) and/or the police if threats of violence are involved.

H. Individual Coaches' Rules – Coaches shall establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. These additional rules must be stipulated in writing to all team members and parents and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for a violation of team rules will also be administered by the coach.

I. Inappropriate Behavior - If for any reason a student is *out-of-school suspension* or *in-school suspension*, the student will not participate in practices or contests that day. The student must serve detention on the days assigned regardless of scheduled games.

J. Section and State Eligibility Rules – All eligibility rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the Northern Athletic Conference (NAC) must be strictly followed. Copies of these rules are available for review in the office of the Athletic Director.

### **Penalties for Violations (Athletics)** (Within a One Calendar Year Period)

#### **First Offense**

1. Effective on the date when penalties under the Athletic Code of Conduct are imposed, the student will be placed on probation for one calendar year. The student must also enter into counseling, as appropriate.
2. During the period of probation, the student will be expected to practice with the team, but will not be allowed to participate in 1/4 of their scheduled games in the sport involved. Scrimmages are not considered scheduled contents.
3. Penalties which cannot be served during the eligibility block in which they are imposed, will be carried over for completion in the next eligibility block in which the student participates. The penalty assigned will be adjusted proportionately based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in the subsequent season.
4. Written notification to parents/guardians will be provided.

#### **Second Offense**

1. If a second offense occurs during the probationary period, all provisions set forth in the first offense will apply. However, the games penalty will be doubled (1/2 of scheduled games). In addition, a new probationary period of one calendar year will be assigned, beginning on the date the second penalty is imposed. For a second offense within the same eligibility block, the student will also be suspended for the remainder of the season.

2. The student will enter counseling with a counselor from an outside agency. (In the case of using out-of-school counselor, the student and parents must sign a release of information form so information pertinent to the situation may be forwarded to the school counselor.)
3. The number of required sessions will be left up to the counselor involved, and recommendations must be followed to become eligible again.
4. The appointment for the first counseling session must be set up within five (5) school days of the reported incident and the parent must provide the Athletic Director with documentation of the appointment date within the 5-day period.
5. Written notification to parents/guardians will be provided.

### **Third Offense**

1. If a third offense occurs during the new probationary period, the student shall be removed from participation in ALL athletics for one calendar year beginning on the date the penalty for the third offense is imposed.
2. The student will enter into counseling with a counselor from an outside agency. (In the case of using an out-of-school counselor, the student and parents must sign a release of information form so information pertinent to the situation may be forwarded to the school counselor.)
3. The number of required sessions will be left up to the counselor involved, and recommendations must be followed to become eligible again.
4. The appointment for the first counseling session must be set up within five (5) school days of the reported incident and the parent must provide the Athletic Director with documentation of the appointment date within the 5-day period.
5. Subsequent offenses will result in removal from all sports for the remainder of the student's high school athletic eligibility.
6. Written notification to parents/guardians will be provided.

# Brasher Falls Central School Interscholastic Code of Conduct Form

All students & Parents MUST Read, Sign and Return this Form to their Advisor/Coach at the BEGINNING of the School Year/Sports Season

Club Member/Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name, First Name)

Club/Sport: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the guidelines, procedures, training rules and consequences. I give my child permission to participate.

I have read and reviewed the rules and regulations with my child.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I have read the guidelines, procedures, training rules and consequences and I agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in order that I may participate.

Club Member/Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***BRASHER FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL-Athletes Only***

Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF CONCUSSION INFORMATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the Parent/Guardian of the above-named athlete hereby states that I and my child have read and will abide by the Student and Parent Concussion Information Sheet and I further agree to have my child perform the concussion test.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Parent/Guardian Signature

.....  
**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR GRADES**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the Parent/Guardian of the above-named athlete hereby give our permission for the school to release my child's G.P.A to the Section X office for academic all-northern awards.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Parent/Guardian Signature

.....  
**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the Parent/Guardian of the above-named athlete, authorize BFCSD personnel to obligate me for services of a local doctor/hospital for my child. My child's primary doctor is \_\_\_\_\_ and my hospital preference, if possible, is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Parent/Guardian Signature

**DESIGNATED DISTRICT AGENTS: BRASHER FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL.**

_____ Date	_____ PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
_____ Date	_____ STUDENT SIGNATURE
_____ Date	_____ COACH SIGNATURE
_____ Date	_____ COACH SIGNATURE
_____ Date	_____ COACH SIGNATURE
_____ Date	_____ ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SIGNATURE