

BALDWIN PANTHERS



2020-2021 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Baldwin Community Schools

525 Fourth Street
Baldwin, Michigan 49304

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**Games are SHORT
SPORTSMANSHIP isn't!**

School Mission Statement

The mission of Baldwin Community Schools is to prepare students for the *promise* of tomorrow.

Athletic Philosophy

Athletics are an integral part of our educational program; therefore, it should be understood that athletics exist to give each student the opportunity to develop to his/her fullest potential in an environment that strives for excellence. Like our classroom curriculum, the athletic curriculum is built on a foundation of strong fundamentals and is developmental in nature.

With this overriding philosophy, it is therefore appropriate that the head coach of each sport, under the direction of the athletic director, is responsible for the direction, the fundamentals, the type of play, and the overseeing of his/her sport.

In the elementary and the middle school grades, the fundamentals identified by the head coach will be taught. A winning and competitive attitude will be encouraged. All eligible athletes will participate in games provided they are in compliance with all expectations of the coach.

In high school, teams will refine and improve the fundamentals of the game as well as practice advanced skills of the game. Coaches of high school sports will use their best judgment in the allocation of playing time to the team members.

***Good Sports are
Winners!***

Affiliation with Michigan High School Athletic Association

The athletic department at Baldwin Junior/Senior High School will abide by all rules and regulations of the MHSAA including those dealing with eligibility, number of contests, use of registered officials, etc.

MHSAA Eligibility Rules

Every student who wants to represent Baldwin Junior/Senior High School in sports must:

- 1) Be enrolled in Junior/Senior High School no later than the Fourth (4th) Friday after Labor Day for the first (1st) semester or the fourth (4th) Friday of February for the second semester.
- 2) Not have turned 19 before September 1.
- 3) Have had a physical examination since April 15 and it must be on file in the Athletic Director's Office.
- 4) Have not been enrolled in more than eight (8) semesters in high school (Grades 9-12).
- 5) Have passed at least four (5) full credit subjects in the previous semester of enrollment.
- 6) Be currently passing at least four (4) full credit subjects.
- 7) Have not changed schools without a corresponding move by your parents or persons with whom you were living for at least 30 calendar days during your last semester.
- 8) Have not received money, merchandise or other valuable considerations for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports.
- 9) Have not participated in non-school contests during your sports season after having reported for your school team.
- 10) Have not competed in an all-star or national high school championship after having played for a high school team in a MHSAA tournament sport unless approved by the MHSAA.

Athletic Code of Conduct

All Baldwin Junior/Senior High School athletes are required to be in full compliance with school district policy, rules, and regulations, as well as civil laws of our society. Under no circumstances are athletes to display conduct that is detrimental or demeaning to the school or cast a negative image therein as representatives of the school-community for which they serve. With this in mind, it is the position of the school administration and athletic department that athletes recognize and adhere to the following:

Section 1—The Baldwin Community Schools code of conduct particularly as it applies to the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. The code of conduct states: The unlawful possession, use or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drugs on school premises or as part of any school activity is prohibited.

Section 2 — Civil Laws of Society which involves disorderly conduct or breaking the law in the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products.

Athletes who violate school district policy, rules, or regulations, will be subject to temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the team as determined by the principal, athletic director, and coach.

In the matter of civil laws and training rules broken outside of the jurisdiction of the school, the athlete will be subject to disciplinary action upon confirmation or substantiation of charges against himself/herself.

Pending a deposition, the athlete will be entitled to full athletic participation as long as he/she complies with the rules of that particular sport.

Extenuating cases of deviant conduct will be addressed at the discretion of the principal, athletic director, and coach.

Athletes who exhibit conduct unbecoming of an athlete/student shall be disciplined at the discretion of the principal, athletic director, and coach.

Any athlete charged with a felony shall be suspended pending the deposition. If convicted or pleads no contest, the athlete shall be removed from all teams. (Non-appealable)

Any student athlete, who is assigned to wear an electronic tether through legal authority, shall not participate on any athletic team representing the school until such time as the tether is legally removed. This includes attending or participating in practices and traveling with the team to contests.

Sportsmanship from A To Z

- A. **Accept** and abide by the decision of the contest officials.
- B. **Be** a good host to opponents and treat them as guests.
- C. **Cooperate** with the coach, players, and cheerleaders in trying to promote good sportsmanship.
- D. **Do** unto others, as you would have them do unto you.
- E. **Encourage** your players to play hard and fair.
- F. **Follow** the rules of the contest at all times.
- G. **Good** sportsmanship is the “Golden Rule” in action.
- H. **Hold** assemblies before a contest to encourage students to display proper conduct.
- I. **Intervene** to let others know that ethnic, disability or sexist jokes, racial or religious slurs, taunting, trash talk, and intimidating behavior will not be tolerated at events sponsored at your school.
- J. **Judgment** calls on the part of the officials are not subject to questions or discussion.
- K. **Know**, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- L. **Lose** without excuses; win without boasting.
- M. **Model** language and behavior that is non-biased and is inclusive of individuals regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, or disability.
- N. **Never** criticize players or coaches for the loss of a game.
- O. **Opposing** coaches, participants, cheerleaders, and fans must be respected at all times.
- P. **Provide** opportunities for informing student and adult spectators of their responsibility to uphold the standards of sportsmanship.
- Q. **Questioning** an official’s call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.
- R. **Recognize** and show appreciation for an outstanding play.
- S. **Shake** hands with opponents prior to the contest and wish them good luck.
- T. **Teach** sportsmanship and demand that your players be good sports.
- U. **Use** cheerleaders, pep groups, and other student leaders to help develop a sportsmanship program.
- V. **Victory** celebrations and unscheduled game rallies should not be permitted at events sponsored at your school.
- W. **Work** cooperatively with officials and other contest personnel for an efficient contest.
- X. **eXercise** self-control and be a good example for players and spectators.
- Y. **Yelling**, booing, or heckling an official’s decision is unacceptable behavior.
- Z. **Zero** in on sportsmanship-it’s priority NUMBER ONE.

Good Sports Are Winners!

Rules and Regulations for Athletes

The Baldwin Community Schools Board of Education, with the support of its administrative staff, recognizes that competing in athletics is not a right but a privilege and expects athletes to assume their responsibilities in adhering to established athletic regulations as approved by the Board. Students who are members of athletic teams representing Baldwin Community Schools shall keep in mind that they are not only representing themselves, but also the school, community, parents, and team and shall set an example for younger students in the school. Membership on an athletic team is an honor and a privilege and the athlete's conduct at all times both on and off the field, shall exemplify standards that are above reproach.

The following is a list of requirements and rules governing persons participating in athletics. No athlete shall be allowed to participate until the risk acknowledgment/consent to participate contract is returned to the Athletic Director.

Each athlete that is on a team must have a strong commitment to the team and athletic program in general. Being on a team will require teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance, sportsmanship, and perseverance. If an athlete has a concern or conflict, first, begin by talking with the head coach of the team (see issues in athletics).

- 1) **STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE ROLE MODELS** — Conduct of the highest caliber should be the goal of all athletes whether they are in school, out of school, or out of town.
- 2) **USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS, ETC.** — Any athlete who is participating or planning to participate in a sport shall not use or possess alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illicit drugs or narcotics, or illegal performance enhancing substances at any time. Athletes are considered guilty if charged with a criminal offensive complaint filed by law enforcement, observed by school personnel, or self-admittance. Athletes who are guilty of criminal offenses will also be subject to this policy.
 - a) First Violation — Suspension of 25% from days of competition for which the athlete is otherwise eligible.
 - b) Second Violation — Suspension of 100% from days of competition for which the athlete is otherwise eligible. The Athletic Council may reduce the suspension by one-half, if the athlete complies with the Athletic Councils rehabilitation recommendations.
 - c) Third Violation or More — Third and subsequent violations will incur a penalty (suspension) of one (1) calendar year from date of violation.

NOTES —

- i) Suspensions are calculated using all regular season games, regardless of time in the season that the infraction takes place.
- ii) Percentage of penalties will be rounded up to the next whole number.
- iii) **Late Season Procedure** — If a suspension occurs late in the season and the number of days of competition remaining in the season is less than the number of days of competition required by the suspension, the suspension will extend into the athlete's next competitive season.
- iv) **During Course of School Year** — If the suspension occurs between seasons, then it will be enforced in the next season of participation by the athlete in which he/she actually becomes and remains a member of the team for the complete season.
- v) **Reporting Violation Procedure** — The Athletic Director or designee will attempt to notify parents by phone of the violation of the athletic code by an athlete and the penalty, which will be imposed the same day that the determination is made. The Athletic Director will notify the parent of an athlete in writing, as soon as possible, after the penalty is determined by the nature of the violation and the penalty. Percentage of penalties will be rounded up to the next whole number.
- vi) **Appeal Procedure** — Within three (3) business days following the day of which the athlete/parents were first informed of the penalty, the athlete/parent may appeal the decision in writing to the Athletic Director/Principal stating why he/she objects to the determination made by the Athletic Director/Principal.

If the athlete/parent, after appeal to the Athletic Council, is dissatisfied with the outcome, an appeal to the Board of Education, through the Superintendent of Schools may be made in writing within five (5) business days. The Board of Education will hear the appeal as soon as practical. The Board of Education will have the final disposition of the appeal.

While under appeal, an athlete who is ticketed by law enforcement, observed by school personnel violating school rules or breaking the law, or found guilty or charged with a criminal offense may not participate.

- 3) **ATHLETIC COUNCIL** — The Athlete Council may be composed of the Superintendent, Principal and or Athletic Director, board member, coach, teacher (non-coach), and community member (non-coach). The Athletic Council will meet quarterly or as needed.
- 4) **QUITTING A TEAM** — We strongly encourage any athlete who feels it necessary to quit a team to discuss his/her feelings with the head coach prior to quitting. In the event that the athlete decides to quit, we would like the student

athlete to submit a letter stating the reason for quitting and he/she must turn in all issued equipment and all uniforms to the head coach.

If a student is participating on two teams in the same season and quits one team during the first ten practice days, it does not affect his/her status on the other team.

If a student quits after the first ten practice days, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any sport for the remainder of that season and half of the next sport participated in.

If an athlete quits the sport before the sport(s) season ends, he/she shall not letter in that sport. The athlete will letter if after completing the season he/she is in good standing with the school.

This policy may be appealed to the principal or/and athletic director based upon extenuating circumstances.

- 5) **RULES** — All rules apply to the middle school and high school as two (2) different schools.
 - a) Any athlete who wishes to be reinstated to a sport after a suspension must submit, to the Athletic Director, a written statement to this affect.
 - b) Athletes are to adhere to any additional specific rules set by the coach/administration for each sport (i.e. rules governing dress, grooming, transportation to and from games, etc.) The specific team rules will be approved by the Athletic Director and will be on file in his/her office.
 - c) All equipment is the responsibility of the person to whom it is issued. All lost or ruined equipment is to be paid for by the athlete.

- 6) **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY** — Maintain full compliance with the Michigan High School Athletic Association's eligibility regulations numbers I and II for high school and numbers III and IV for middle school.
 - a) The student's grade point average (GPA) will carry over for the next year. Grade points are not carried over from 8th grade to the 9th grade. Summer school classes may be used to correct deficiencies.
 - b) Eligibility will be determined at least twice per marking period — once at the end of the marking period and secondly during the interim report period of each marking period.
 - c) Requires that a student maintain a minimum marking period GPA of 2.00.

- d) All students who have a GPA of 1.75 to 1.99 are deemed eligible to participate in athletic activities under the regulation of academic probation for three (3) weeks. If the student does not reach a 2.00 by the end of his/her probation, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in any athletic events. They will have weekly grade checks until they achieve a 2.00.
- e) If a student receives three or more “F’s” he/she will be ineligible until two or fewer “F’s” are on the report, even if the grade point average is above 2.00.
- f) If a student receives an incomplete in a class, the incomplete grade will not be counted in the student’s GPA until the grades are available.

Note: All extenuating circumstances shall be reviewed by the Athletic Council.

- g) Eligibility and practice — BCS require prospective student-athletes to complete and pass 66% of the classes in order to be eligible to compete. In addition to completing required core courses, athletes will also have to maintain at least a 2.00 GPA. If a student-athlete falls below the 2.00 minimum required GPA, he/she shall complete an academic recovery plan to include attendance at study table for a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the practice session(s).
 - h) If a student has a credit/no credit class, the teacher/counselor will provide a letter grade to be factored in for GPA.
 - i) No less than seven (7) grades shall be counted.
- 7) **ATHLETIC PHYSICAL** — Before athletes can practice or participate, they must pass a doctor’s physical exam and have the form filed in the Athletic Director’s Office.
 - 8) **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE** — Athletes must be in school on the day of a contest or practice to participate. Excused absences are permitted with prior arrangement. The Principal/Athletic Director will determine emergency situations. If a student is suspended from school, he/she is not to practice or compete on that day(s).
 - 9) **EQUIPMENT** — Athletes are responsible for equipment and/or uniforms entrusted to them. **All equipment and/or uniforms must be returned to the coach after their last competition within three (3) days of the last day of competition or the athlete will be billed.** In the event the athlete fails to pay for lost or damaged equipment, he/she will not be allowed to participate in other sports.

Uniforms are to be returned to the coach at the end of each contest. Legal action may be taken for uniforms, equipment or fines owed to the school.

10) **TRANSPORTATION** — Athletes are to ride to and from the contests on the team bus. Any transportation other than the transportation provided by the school district must be cleared through the Principal or the Athletic Director.

Athletes may request to go home with parents following a contest in special situations with written permission from parent or guardian only.

It should be on a rare occasion when the athlete does not ride the team bus. Only team personnel are to ride the bus. This would include permanent managers and statisticians.

Sportsmanship is winning, even if you lose the game.

Issues in Athletics

Special topics in practice and conditioning

1) Concussion/Head Injury

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems

Call for medical assistance. Fill out medical forms, a player must have medical clearance to return to play.

2) Heat-related Illnesses

- Profuse sweating
- Cool, moist and pale skin
- Dizziness, nausea or vomiting
- Headache
- Fainting

- Rapid and weak pulse
- Fast and shallow breathing

Remove athlete from heat and sun, reduce athlete's body temp by applying cold water/ice. Provide slow sips of water to hydrate, loosen clothing and rest athlete supine with feet elevated. Fill out medical forms. Get medical treatment.

3) Cold-related Illnesses

- Pain and burning
- Numbness and/or tingling sensation
- Skin starting to itch, peel or get blisters
- Skin appears grayish-yellow or waxy

Move to a warm and dry location immediately. Remove any wet or constrictive clothing. Fill out medical forms. Get medical treatment.

4) Asthma

- Fast hard breathing
- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Chest tightness

Have athlete see physician to develop plan to control asthma. Share plan with coach and trainer, have athlete provide an inhaler and keep records when an asthma attack occurs.

Questions, Concerns, Complaints, Etc.

Baldwin Junior–Senior High School is very proud of our sound educational and athletic programs. We have committed ourselves to continue to have a program that all students can be proud to be a part of while they are in school. We perceive ourselves as having one of the best educational athletic programs in Michigan. As a result of our commitment, we will also invite comments or criticism from our public. We enthusiastically participate in discussion of ways to address and resolve the issues and challenges that lie ahead.

As when a person (such as a student, a parent, a coach, a teacher, or an administrator) has a question, concern, or complaint regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication very effective in resolving issues:

- 1) Attempt to apply 24-hour rule (12) twelve–hour rule, a person should wait with a complaint (cool down period) before direct contact with a coach. All immediate areas of concern shall be directed to the Athletic Director.
- 2) Start with the source. Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment.
- 3) If necessary, talk next with the head coach of the sport.
- 4) If necessary, talk next with the Athletic Director.
- 5) If necessary, talk next with the Principal.
- 6) If necessary, talk next with Superintendent.
- 7) If necessary, talk next with the Athletic Council.
- 8) If necessary, talk next with the Baldwin Community Schools Board of Education.

All complaints must be heard at the lowest possible level before intervention by the higher authority can occur. However, the next level arbitrator will always be willing to meet with the complainant if sub-level discussions do not accomplish their intended purpose.

Help the athlete learn to resolve his/her own differences. When a student successfully deals with difficult situations, he/she learns and grows. Of course, a parent always has the right to intervene on behalf of a student.

When stating your concern, be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand or can ascertain them. Think through our expectations for the outcome resulting from voicing your concern. That is, be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.

As you converse with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him/her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk with them.

We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the students in mind when concerns are discussed. We will make every effort to assure the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a concern.

Code for Athletes

- 1) Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.

- 2) Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical, evidence of loyalty to school and team, and a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
- 3) Observe completely, all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team, and self.
- 4) Counsel with the Athletic Director over questions of eligibility.
- 5) Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
- 6) Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
- 7) Demonstrate respect for opponents and of officials before, during, and after contests.

**Trash Talk is NOT
Spoken Here**