

Buckhorn Middle School Athletics



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Athletic Handbook

Athletic Statement

The following information is designed to inform student-athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations, and information that help guide athletic activities at Buckhorn Middle School. Participation in middle school athletics is a privilege, which carries varying degrees of honor, responsibility, commitment, and sacrifice. Participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, and those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Athletic Department. Each student-athlete represents his / her school and student body. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to conduct himself / herself in a manner that is becoming to the student-athlete, his / her family, the Madison County Board of Education, and the community. It must be understood that athletes who violate these rules, regulations, policies, and procedures shall face disciplinary action. While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the principal and / or athletic director for this information.

Athletic Department Philosophy

Athletics are an integral part of the total school educational program. Athletics can help to develop young athletes in the areas of knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns. Athletics should promote the development of qualities such as self-control, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, hard work, and friendship. Additionally, the concept of being on a team should allow the athlete opportunities to excel in the areas of humility and selflessness and at the same time give the athlete a proud sense of belonging. Sportsmanship is paramount at Buckhorn Middle School and held in high esteem. Winning is not the only thing, but to play at a maximum ability level with maximum effort, is the goal for every team. Athletics should be fun, and at the same time be a great challenge.

Athletic Goals and Objectives

- To learn teamwork – To work with others, an individual must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.
- To have fun – This is the main reason people participate in sports and games.
- To be successful – Our society is very competitive. 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. Develop a desire to excel.
- Sportsmanship – To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- To improve – Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
- Enjoy athletics – It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- To develop desirable personal health habits – To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Athletic Seasons

Fall Season: Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading

Winter Season: Boys and Girls Basketball, Cheerleading

Spring Season: Baseball, Softball

Eligibility

The Madison County Board of Education and the AHSAA prescribes the following regulations for eligibility by students in this school system to participate in athletics, fine arts, and/or other extracurricular activities:

- Seventh graders must have been promoted from 6th grade the preceding year. The student must be taking new courses including Math, English, Social Studies, and Science.
- Eighth graders must have passed at least 5 subjects from the previous year. These grades must have an overall average of 70%. Physical Education and electives may count for a credit.

Residency Requirements

Student-athletes and managers must meet the residency requirements of the Madison County Board of Education as well as the AHSAA.

Before You Can Practice

The following list must be completed by the student-athlete BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE with any team:

- Meet academic eligibility requirements
- Take and pass a pre-participation physical with parental signature
- Provide proof of insurance
- Complete AHSAA forms
- Parent and athlete sign "Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook Document"

Conflicts Between Activities

Activities and teams at Buckhorn Middle School share many students and therefore it is inevitable that conflicts will arise between activities. Communication between the student involved and the coaches involved is vital so conflicting events can be handled in a timely manner. Consideration must be given to the importance of the event and the role the student-athlete will play in it.

Quitting a Team

Any student-athlete that decides to quit a team during the season will be prohibited from participating on another school sponsored team during the same season; this includes practicing with another team until that team he / she quit has completed its season. If a student-athlete is participating on two teams in the same season and quits one of them, the decision to allow him or her to continue on the other team will be at the discretion of the two head coaches involved. If necessary, the athletic director and principal will handle any extenuating circumstances. If an athlete quits a team all fee money must be paid in full and none will be returned.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at school is very important to the success of a student-athlete. Student-athletes are expected to be present at school everyday. We realize that some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. Any absence on the day of an athletic contest must be approved by the coach.

Hazing

Under no circumstances will hazing in any form be tolerated within the scope of any extracurricular sponsored program at Buckhorn Middle School. Hazing is defined as forcing others to perform strenuous, humiliating, or dangerous tasks. Student-athletes are obligated to discourage and report hazing to their coaches, teachers, and or administrators. Hazing or an initiation is a form of harassment and endangers the physical and mental health of an individual or group. Buckhorn Middle School reserves the right to limit participation because of inappropriate behavior at any time.

Physical Examinations

All students desiring to practice in interscholastic athletics must undergo a physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor prior to the first practice of any sport. The physical form, which must be signed by the doctor, student, and parent / guardian, may be obtained from the athletic office, main office, or from the coaching staff. Each physical must be on file in the main office and will be good for one calendar year from the date of the doctor's signature. Each spring and fall athletes will have an opportunity to have a physical examination with a minimal cost.

Insurance

All Buckhorn student athletes are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in practice and / or competition.

Drug Policy

At Buckhorn Middle School, we fully support the substance abuse policy of the Madison County Board of Education. In addition to the policy from the Madison County Board of Education, the athletic department at BMS will take disciplinary action for any student athlete that engages in the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other at-risk behaviors. If a student athlete is caught or suspected of partaking in any of the substances listed above, a required meeting will take place involving the student athlete, parents, coach, athletic director, and administration to determine a suitable disciplinary action.

Selecting School Teams

Each head coach has the responsibility of selecting his / her own team. In some sports it is necessary to select specific numbers due to squad size limitations. Coaches will post in advance of tryouts the dates of the tryouts and explain their tryout policies before the first tryout date.

Transportation

The athletic department will provide transportation to events when necessary. Parents may be

called upon, at times, to help transport team members to events.

Parent / Coach Communication

As your son / daughter becomes involved in the sports program at Buckhorn Middle School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. This is an opportunity for your child to talk with their respective coach and discuss the situation. When your child addresses the issue properly, it becomes part of the learning process. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach and the parent. If this is the case please follow these procedures:

- First Level: Parent / Guardian calls or emails the head coach involved at least 24 hours after the incident to discuss the concern.
- Second Level: Parent / Guardian sets up an appointment for a meeting with the head coach and other coaches involved to discuss the concern.
- Third Level: If the concern is not resolved, call the Athletic Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach, parent, and Athletic Director.
- Fourth Level: Meet with Principal or Assistant Principal

Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote solutions.

Playing Time

Playing time is an earned privilege not a right. Athletes earn playing time during the off season and in practice. Playing time or player positions will not be discussed between parents and coaches by any means of communication. Failure to abide by this rule will result in the athlete being removed from the team. Coaches will discuss playing time with athletes.

Media Guidelines

Email: Email groups serve Buckhorn Middle School Athletics greatly as a tool to communicate pertinent information quickly to a large number of people for the benefit of our programs. It should be used for that purpose and that purpose only. It is not a sounding board for complaints and opinions. It is not a means for anyone to pursue a personal agenda (i.e. business ventures, selling a home, etc).

Social Media & Public Forums: (Facebook, Twitter, al.com, etc.)

Parents and athletes must refrain from posting anything negative towards other athletes, coaches, teams, or the athletic program in a public forum. Athletes must also refrain from using profanity and vulgarity in a public forum. Any violation of the rule will result in disciplinary action determined by the head coach and athletic director.

Academic Policies

BMS coaches will monitor the grades of their athletes throughout the school year. Three consecutive weeks of unsatisfactory grades could result in removal from the team. This will be the head coach's decision.

Equipment

BMS strives to provide each sport and team member with the safest and the highest quality equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (except for normal wear). When equipment is lost or damaged, the athlete will be required to compensate the athletic department for the item. Failure to return equipment or compensate the school for lost or damaged equipment will result in report cards and transcripts being held until such equipment are returned / replaced.

Financial Responsibility

Each sport requires financial support to maintain equipment, improve equipment, and operate the program. Fees must be paid, or arrangements must be set up with the head coach by the beginning of the season for that sport. If fees cannot be paid by the deadline set by the coach, a payment plan (in writing) must be agreed upon between the coach and parents well in advance before the deadline approaches.

Fundraising

At Buckhorn Middle School, it is our desire to compete at the highest level we possibly can. In order to be competitive, fund raising is extremely important to provide equipment, uniforms, and training. We want all of our student athletes to give their very best effort in everything they do. Fundraising is no exception to the rule. Everyone must do their part in order to be successful.

Participation in Concurrent Sports

Buckhorn Middle School supports the concept of participation in more than one school sanctioned sport. Coaches should not establish expectations out of season which would prohibit or restrict a student's participation in another school sanctioned sport. A student who wishes to participate in two sports concurrently in the same season must have written consent of both coaches and the athletic director. A schedule resolving all practices and competition conflicts must be established prior to the season and approved by the coaches and athletic director. There may be some occasions that there may be a change that is necessary because of weather or other extenuating circumstances. The coaches must work together to help resolve the situation. If a conflict occurs in scheduled events, the primary sport prevails.

Injuries

All injuries must be reported to the head coach of the specific sport in season. Going several days without treatment can make a minor injury very severe.

Doctor Visits

Athletes are strongly encouraged by the athletic department to go to a sports medicine doctor for any and all injuries. A general practice doctor and pediatricians will not take measures to get student-athletes back on the field or court like a sports medicine doctor. At Buckhorn Middle School we are very fortunate to have an athletic trainer on campus.

Sportsmanship Program

Instructions for NFHS Sportsmanship Course:

- Students will visit www.NFHSlern.com and register an account if they have not done so before. Keep record of your username and password. The AHSAA does not have access to these.
- Under courses, type in sportsmanship and The Sportsmanship Elective Course should appear.
- Click on the course. Then click the View button.
- Next, a blue tab should appear that says Order Course. The course is free.
- A box will appear for the student to identify who will be completing the course.
- Next, a shopping cart appears. Select the state of Alabama, and checkout.
- Order status and an agreement statement appear. After checking the agreement statement choose continue. Last, at the Order Receipt box, click here.
- Next, begin taking the course.
- A student can come back and finish at any time. When finished, a student should print the certificate from that screen or save and print later.

Forms

The following forms must be on file with the Athletic Director:

- Birth Certificate
- Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form
- AHSAA Concussion Information Form
- AHSAA Participant Agreement, Consent, Release, and Venue Form
- Sportsmanship Certificate
- BMS Ejection Letter
- MCBOE Extracurricular Participation Permission / Waiver

BUCKHORN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Buckhorn Athletic Handbook and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for Buckhorn Middle student-athletes. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program and with other specific rules of my coaches.

Printed name of Student-Athlete

Date

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Printed name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date