



Participation in Extra-Curricular Athletics

General

The Bear Creek Community Charter School believes it is important to maintain a co-curricular program to enhance the regular curricular program. Participation in these activities is a privilege which students learn through appropriate behavior, conduct, and attitudes. Consistent with our school's philosophy, the rules and regulations contained herein represent responsibilities to which students must adhere, in order to participate in the co-curricular program.

By being allowed to participate in a school activity, the student agrees to follow the rules outlined in this Code and accept the responsibilities set forth herein.

Participants in the interscholastic athletic program must abide by the PIAA, Wyoming Valley Conference, and Bear Creek Community Charter School requirements concerning the eligibility of students which include, but are not necessarily limited to age, amateur status, attendance, health, transfer, academic performance, conduct, and out-of-season regulations.

We hope that all persons in our school community will be supportive in helping to establish a positive, meaningful, healthy, and safe atmosphere for our students and families. Students involved in extra-curricular activities and benefitting from their privileges should be committed to the same sense of purpose.

Any participant in a school activity who violates this Code may be suspended from participation in activities for a minimum of one game to a maximum of the remainder of that current activity season. Students may be suspended from an activity at the beginning of a season if the violation occurs between seasons. Students who participate in extra-curricular activities are representatives of the school 24 hours a day and are, therefore, subject to the Code even outside of school hours and off school premises and are subject to the same consequences as if it happened while in school.

Academic Eligibility

1. All athletes must be passing all core subjects in order to be eligible to play any sport. An athlete must also have not failed two or more core subjects in the previous quarter to be eligible to play a sport.
 - Fall Sports (Soccer): Refer to Fourth Quarter grades;
 - Spring Sports (Baseball/Softball): Refer to Second Quarter grades;
 - Core Subjects consist of: Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Literature, and Business/Technology ;
2. If an athlete failed two or more subjects in previous quarter, they are ineligible to play (PIAA regulation);
3. If an athlete failed one core subject, the athlete will be placed on probation. The following applies during the probationary period:
 - a. Probation is a period that last for two weeks (10 school days);
 - b. During the probation period, the athlete will still be expected to attend all practices and all contests; however, the athlete will be unable to participate as a player in any contest games. The athlete is also expected to remain on the sidelines during games in order to continue to show team camaraderie and team spirit. Failure to do so can be a reason to be dismissed from the team;
 - c. During the probation period, the athlete must show improvement in the failing core subject;
 - d. Improvement measures will be decided and agreed on by the cooperating teacher, athletic director, school administration, athlete's parents and the athlete;
 - e. Improvement will be checked up on weekly. After two consecutive weeks of satisfactory improvement (and providing the athlete is no longer failing the core subject), probation will be lifted and the athlete will be permitted to return to normal play;
 - f. If improvement is not shown in two consecutive weeks, a third week of probation can be added at the discretion of the athletic director and school administration;
 - g. If improvement is not shown following the third week, the athlete will be dismissed from the team and will be considered ineligible for the remainder of that sports season;
 - h. Due to the sports season typically only lasting six weeks, athletes will only be allowed to be placed on probation once during a season. If an athlete begins failing for a second time during the same season, the athlete will become ineligible to play for the remainder of the season;

4. Bear Creek Community Charter School students who elect to play extra-curricular sports within their school district of residence are required to comply with this policy. All student athletes interested in any non-school sponsored sport must inform the Athletic Director of their interest. Providing the student athlete is academic eligible, the student athlete must provide the Athletic Director of Bear Creek all schedules of practices and games, which include any requests for early dismissals in order to attend the non-school sponsored sport. Failure to inform the Athletic Director with the sports schedule of practices and games will result in the student athlete not being excused early from school to attend the games and/or practices. The Bear Creek Community Charter School Athletic Director will notify the Athletic Director of a student's school district of residence if an academic concern arises within the context of this policy. Students who fail to meet the academic requirements of this policy will not be excused from school to attend athletic practices or games.

Multiple Sport Participation

Participation in two sports within the same season is not recommended. However, if a student athlete chooses to play two sports within the same season or join two different teams (ie. a Bear Creek PIAA sport and a local sports team) the Bear Creek PIAA sport's schedule of practices and games should take priority over all others. The student athlete should attend all practices and games, prescheduled and rescheduled throughout the season. Failure to attend Bear Creek's scheduled practices and games may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Head Coach. The disciplinary action may include a minimum suspension from the next game to a possible dismissal from the team. A student athlete must get the approval of the Athletic Director in order to play another PIAA sport in the student's district of residence. The student athlete must make Bear Creek's PIAA team their priority, which means all practices and games take precedence over the other school's team sports schedule. Failure to make Bear Creek's PIAA sports team priority may result in dismissal from Bear Creek's PIAA team.

Other School Activities

Students who elect to participate in an after-school athletic activity are also permitted to participate in other extra-curricular school activities. Students who choose to participate in an after-school athletic activity and another after-school activity (tutoring, band, etc.) will not be penalized due to scheduling conflicts related to dual participation.

School Absenteeism

A student may not participate on a day that he/she has been absent from school, unless such absence had prior approval from administration. A student must attend school for at least half a school day in order to participate on the school sports team the same day; this includes all practices and games.

School Suspension

A student on suspension from school (in-school or out-of-school) may not attend practices and may not compete while on suspension. This ban shall begin on the first day that the suspension is being served, and remains in effect until the day on which classes are to be resumed. A student athlete who is suspended from school during the season will be dismissed from the school team if the student athlete is suspended a second time during the same season.

Attendance

Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, and contests unless excused by the coach and/or the Athletic Director. This also includes post-season playoff competition. No more than six excused absences from games/practices will be allowed during any one season. The student athlete will be dismissed from the team on the seventh absence.

Conduct

Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct or the use of profanity toward an opponent, teammate, official, or coach will result in counseling by the coach and possible suspension from the team by the coach or the Director of Athletics. Athletes removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will receive a mandatory one game suspension (minimum). This suspension shall commence with the first scheduled contest following the ejection.

Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco

While this policy encompasses student responsibilities related to school attendance and overall behavior, we are most concerned with the involvement of our young people with drugs and alcohol. As stated in the Code of Conduct, "Possessing, using, distributing, delivering, manufacturing, being involved in any aspect of a related transaction, and/or being under the influence of any drug or mood altering substance and/or alcoholic beverage, or substance paraphernalia on school property, in one's locker or book bag, on one's person or personal property, or in one's vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity, or conspiring to do any of the above acts" is a violation of school policy.

Transportation

All team members are to travel to and from away contests by means of the transportation provided by Bear Creek Community Charter School. Players may travel from away games with their parents only if written documentation is presented to the coaches prior to travel. Players may not travel with anyone other than their parent or guardian. Exceptions to this requirement will be made for emergency purposes only and must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

Equipment

Athletes are responsible for returning all uniforms and equipment, after thoroughly cleaning each item that was issued to them. Failure to return all uniforms and equipment cleaned will result in a financial obligation equal to the full replacement cost of the item.