

**BELLEVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 201
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

District 201 considers athletics to be very important components of the comprehensive high school program. These experiences greatly enhance a student's involvement with and enjoyment of his/her high school career, and contribute to a well-rounded and multi-faceted individual. As part of any athletic team, you become a representative of District 201. As such, you are expected to behave in an appropriate manner, both on and off the field. The success of our athletic program depends on the quality of the people participating within them. In order to succeed in athletics, good sportsmanship is required.

Philosophy

Belleville Township High School District 201's Athletic Programs are an integral part of the total curriculum of the district. They provide wholesome opportunities for young people to learn lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition (how to win and lose gracefully), and self-discipline. Athletic programs play an important part in helping students develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Healthy competition adds to our school spirit and school pride.

Belleville Township High School District 201 athletic programs provide young people with an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to the student athlete.

The interscholastic athletic programs shall be conducted in accordance with existing school policies, rules, and regulations as well as the by-laws of the Southwestern Conference. While the administration takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost" and discourages any and all pressure which might neglect good sportsmanship and wholesome competition. At all times, the athletic programs must be conducted in such a way so as to justify them as educational activities.

Belleville Township High School District 201 clearly understands athletics are competitive experiences, and therefore, not all athletes receive the same participation opportunities in game and contests. This philosophy supports that athletics are learning experiences and that all student-athletes, regardless of ability, will be afforded opportunities to develop the intangibles such as skill development, commitment, perseverance, self-discipline, self-efficacy, and respect for rules and regulations. These skills are essential life skills.

Purpose

Participation in student athletics is considered an extension of, although separate from, the regular school day. While the regular curricular program is a right afforded each student, participation in athletic programs is a privilege, and as such carries substantially increased expectations beyond those applicable in the daily classroom situation. This Code of Conduct is established for young people taking part in these programs. By electing to participate in an athletic program, the student is choosing to extend their school day, as well as the expectations for appropriate behavior and conduct. This code is considered to be in effect, at all places and times, 24 hours per day, 12 months per year. Annually, students participating in athletics will be required to sign a form agreeing to adhere to this code of conduct.

Covered Activities- All Athletics Teams

The following regulations are in effect during all the years a student attends Belleville East or Belleville West High Schools. Penalties for Level I, II, and III shall be cumulative for each independent level beginning with and throughout the student's career and participation in extracurricular activities in Belleville School District 201. Level IV shall be cumulative on an annual basis and will reset at the beginning of each school year. The following violations and consequences represent guidelines that will be followed.

In-Season Violations- Any violation in-season in which the penalty cannot be completed within one sport/activity will be carried over to the student's next sport/activity.

- Note: Offenses are based on the concept of the penalty being proportional to the anticipated normal opportunities to compete. Penalties that carry over from sport to sport shall carry the same proportional effect. (Example: Miss 1 game at the end of football and 2 games/competitions at the start of wrestling.)

Out-of-Season Violations- Violations out-of-season will carry over into the next sport season or participatory activity in which the student is involved.

- The 'next season' is to be determined by a student's prior pattern of seasonal activity. Incoming freshman, who, by definition, have not established a pattern of athletic, will be allowed to state their athletic intentions when Code of Conduct infractions occur.
- If a student is involved in more than one sport when the penalty is enforced, the consequence will apply to each sport concurrently.

Under IHSA rules, any student who transfers in or out of District 201 must serve his/her remaining consequence prior to participation in a new school system. It is the Principal's/Athletic Director's obligation to identify code violations for incoming or exiting students. The coach affected will be notified in writing of what disciplinary action has been taken against a student in violation of the code. Disciplinary action relating to the Code of Conduct imposed by a coach will be written and submitted by the Athletic Director.

Under Southwestern Conference By-Laws, "The Southwestern Conference prohibits students from participating in conference events if the student is charged with a criminal felony. The student shall remain ineligible to participate in conference events until the criminal charge(s) are adjudicated or dismissed." Furthermore, it will be the policy of District 201 to apply this by-law to conference, non-conference, and IHSA postseason athletic events.

The following levels of offenses are only guidelines. The coach and/or administration are not bound by these guidelines. A student that violates any school rule, including but not limited to those violations set forth in Board Policy 7:190, shall be subject to discipline under this code of conduct policy at any level the coach and/or administration deem appropriate based on the circumstances of the offense.

Level I (Shall be cumulative throughout student's career at BTHS)

- Use or possession of a controlled substance as defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Use or possession of an alcoholic beverage as defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Hosting a party where under-age drinking or alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs are permitted, as those terms are defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Any violation of District 201 rules and regulations that results in an out of school suspension of ten (10) days.
- Theft at school or in community.
- Possession of a weapon, explosive, or incendiary device as defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Use or possession of performance enhancing drugs.
- Any violation of Board Policy 7:190 that the coach and/or administration deem appropriate to classify as a Level I offense.

Consequences

- A. First Offense- Participant will be suspended from athletic events for a period of 1/3 of the season. Participation in the Family Assistance Program (FAP) will reduce that to 1/6 of the season.
- B. Second Offense- Participant will be ineligible to participate for any athletic team for a period of one (1) calendar year.
- C. Third Offense- Participant will be ineligible to participate from any athletic team for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Level II (Shall be cumulative throughout student's career at BTHS)

- Use or possession of any tobacco substance/product, nicotine, or e-cigarette as those terms are defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Possession of stolen goods.
- Vandalizing community, school, or personal property.
- Transportation of alcohol or illegal drugs as defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Possession of drug paraphernalia as defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Any violation of District 201 rules and regulations that results in an in-school and/or out of school suspension from four (4) to nine (9) days.
- Any violation of Board Policy 7:190 that the coach and/or administration deem appropriate to classify as a Level II offense.

Consequences

- A. First Offense- Participant will be suspended from an athletic event for one contest.
- B. Second Offense- Participant will be suspended from athletic events for a period of 1/3 of the season. FAP will reduce that to 1/6 of the season.
- C. Third Offense- Participant will be ineligible to participate for any athletic team for a period of one (1) calendar year.

Level III (Shall be cumulative throughout student's career at BTHS)

- Attendance at parties where under-age drinking of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs are present, as those terms are defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- In a car where alcohol or illegal drugs are being transported, as those terms are defined in Board Policy 7:190.
- Any violation of Board Policy 7:190 that the coach and/or administration deem appropriate to classify as a Level III offense.

Consequences

- A. First Offense- Probation. If it is discovered that the participant states that he/she attended, but did not use alcohol or drugs, the participant will be advised by the coach or sponsor not to attend any similar functions again.
- B. Second Offense- Participant will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for one contest.
- C. Third Offense- Participant will be suspended from all athletic events for a period of 1/3 of the season. FAP will reduce that to 1/6 of the season

Level IV (Shall be cumulative on an annual basis and will reset at the beginning of each school year.)

- Any violation of District 201 rules and regulations that results in an in-school and/or out-of-school suspension from one (1) to three (3) days
- Any violation of Board Policy 7:190 that the coach and/or administration deem appropriate to classify as a Level IV offense.

Consequences

- A. First Offense- Probation. Participant will be instructed by coach/athletic director of his/her violation and informed of the consequence for a second violation at this level.
- B. Second Offense- Participant will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for one contest.
- C. Third Offense- Participant will be suspended from all athletic events for a period of 1/3 of the season. FAP will reduce that to 1/6 of the season.

Family Assistance Program

When an infraction occurs at Level I (1st Offense), Level II (2nd Offense), or Level III (3rd Offense) and the penalty is to be suspended from contests for 1/3 of the season (athletics), he or she will have the option to "buy back" ½ of the penalty time reducing it to 1/6 of the season under the condition that the student and his/her parent or legal guardian agree to enter and to successfully complete the Family Assistance Program. The six sessions of the Family Assistance Program must be completed or the "Buy Back" option is null and void and the full penalty will be implemented at the student's next sport.

Imposition of Discipline

Notwithstanding any provision in this policy, coaches and school officials shall have the right to impose discipline at any level and in any manner appropriate to the offenses committed. The discipline imposed for any particular offense shall be at the sole and exclusive discretion of the coaching staff and/or other school officials. Disciplinary action may include suspension or removal from any activity or program. Violations to the previous athletic code may be carried over to the new athletic code of conduct on a case by case basis.

Due Process

A student does not have a legal right to participate in extracurricular athletic events or contests and such participation is a privilege. A student will be provided minimal due process that will include notice of the misconduct charge(s) and an opportunity to respond. The student and his/her parents/guardian will be advised by District 201 Administration/Athletic Director of any disciplinary action taken as a result of the charge(s).

Appeal Process

This appeal process is provided to students and parents/guardians as a matter of courtesy and not as a right of law. This appeal process shall not entitle a student or parent to a hearing at any stage of the appeal proceedings.

If a student, parent/guardian wishes to appeal a disciplinary decision, the following procedures shall apply and failure to follow these procedures shall terminate any right of appeal:

- A. The student or parent/guardian must submit a written statement to the Athletic Director identifying the specific basis for appealing the disciplinary decision within five (5) calendar days from the date the discipline was imposed. The Athletic Director will review the appeal and issue a written decision. Alternatively, the Athletic Director may, at his/her discretion, schedule a meeting with the student and parent/guardian to discuss the appeal and then issue a written decision to the student and parent/guardian.

- B. If the student or parent/guardian is not satisfied with Athletic Director's decision, the student or parent/guardian must submit a written statement to the Superintendent identifying the specific basis for appealing the Athletic Director's decision within five (5) calendar days from receipt of the Athletic Director's decision. The Principal or his/her designee will review the appeal and issue a written decision. Alternatively, the Principal or his/her designee may, at his/her discretion, schedule a meeting with the student and parent/guardian to discuss the appeal and then issue a written decision to the student and parent/guardian. The Principal's or his/her designee's decision shall be final and not subject to further appeal.