

Athletic Department

Bishop McDevitt Student Academic Policies and Code of Conduct for Athletic Activities

The Athletic Department is an integral part of Bishop McDevitt High School. Athletic teams in the various sports are organized whenever it is feasible and practical. These teams compete on an interscholastic basis under the rules of the P.I.A.A. If a student meets the requirements: average scholastic standing, parental permission, physical fitness, and necessary skill, he or she may represent the school in athletic competition.

Student accident insurance is available on a per student basis to be purchased at the beginning of the year by individual students. Individuals who plan to participate in interscholastic sports should purchase this insurance if no other coverage is available to them through their family policy. Separate insurance is purchased by the school for those individuals participating in the various levels of junior varsity and varsity football.

The following PIAA sports are available:

Baseball	Golf	Lacrosse (boys/girls)
Basketball (boys/girls)	Soccer (boys/girls)	Wrestling
Cross Country (boys/girls)	Softball	Track & Field (boys/girls)
Field Hockey	Swimming (boys/girls)	Girls Volleyball
Football	Tennis (boys/girls)	Cheerleading

Athletic Academic Policy

Each student athlete is expected to maintain passing grades in all subjects. Failures will merit suspension from practices and games/matches according to the PIAA regulations. Coaches are permitted to enforce academic regulations which are stricter than the PIAA. These expectations must then apply to every student in that program.

Bishop McDevitt takes great pride in our athletic program and we encourage students to participate in one or more of our many sports teams. However, participation in McDevitt athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are first and foremost students and are therefore required to maintain certain academic standards to be eligible for participation. The guidelines for determining eligibility are as follows:

- Any student failing two or more subjects is considered academically ineligible. This includes ALL subjects – electives as well as Phys Ed class.
- A grade report will be run by the Academic Office every Friday morning at 7:30 am beginning 15 days into the grading period in order to determine eligibility for the following week – Sunday through Saturday. Eligibility will be determined based on their grades at the time the report is run. Any grades

posted later in the day on Friday will be applied to the following week, therefore the academic week for athletes runs Friday to Thursday for eligibility.

- Names of athletes who are deemed ineligible will be given to the Athletic Director who will notify the students and the coaches.

- Any athlete who fails two or more classes at the end of a quarter will remain ineligible until the reporting resumes 15 days into the new academic quarter.

- Any issues or disputes concerning individual grades should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director who will conference with the teacher of record on the issue. Should an issue or concern be validated the Athletic Director will notify the Assistant Principal for Academics review concerns and ensure the athletes grades are correct for eligibility. .

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to keep up to date with all assignments, classwork and grades. All students, but especially athletes, should be checking Rediker on a regular basis to review grades for eligibility status.

Please note the following:

- Teachers are allotted a reasonable amount of time to post grades. Our guidelines state 48 hours for homework/class work and up to a week for tests. Major projects such as research papers may require more time. It is not the teacher's responsibility to grade and post things quickly to allow for eligibility and this should not be expected.

- All students are expected to complete course work on time. All late assignments will be graded and posted at the teacher's convenience. It should not be expected that the teacher grade and post late assignments immediately to allow for eligibility.

Every athlete (fall, winter, spring) must have an agreement signed by both the student and a parent turned in by Thursday, September 1st, 2022, or they will not be allowed to practice.

Athletic Policy – Absences and Suspensions

- Any student who is absent from school may not participate in either practice or a game on the date of the absence.

- Any student who is serving a school suspension (In School or Out of School) may not participate in either practice or a game until suspension is lifted or served. Principal or Assistant Principal for Student Services may waive if scheduling issues arise where ISS cannot be served prior to practice or competition.

- Any student athlete who is not in class by 9:00 on the day of competition will be ineligible for any competition on that day. Also, a student must complete at least a half-day schedule of classes to be eligible for competition that day. The only possible exception may occur with documentation from a doctor on that same day.

- Any student athlete who becomes ill during the school day where the student misses a class period due to illness will be ineligible to participate in any competition or practices on that day.

Athletic Policy – Other Specifics

1. Stealing will result in immediate expulsion from the team.
2. Athletes will stand at respectful attention during the National Anthem and Alma Mater. Multiple offenses may result in dismissal from the team.
3. Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the team.
4. All equipment and uniforms are to be properly cared for. Loss or failure to turn in these items will result in a replacement charge.

Athletic Courtesy

1. Athletics should foster clean sports.
 - a) The rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit or the letter of which no honorable person would break.
 - b) Unsportsmanlike or unfair measures are not to be used.
 - c) A student spectator represents his school the same as does the athlete.
 - d) Any spectator who continually evidences poor sportsmanship should be requested not to attend future contests.
 - e) Decisions of officials are to be abided by, even when they seem unfair.
 - f) Officials and opponents are to be regarded and treated as honest in intention.
 - g) Good points in others should be appreciated and suitable recognition given.
 - h) The practice of "booing" is regarded as discourteous and unsportsmanlike.
 - i) Profane and abusive language should never be used and is regarded as discourteous and unsportsmanlike.) Tempers should and must be controlled at all times.
 - k) Visiting teams and spectators should be treated as guests.
 - l) Gambling and drinking have no connection with athletic contests and are detrimental to the best interests and standards that sports endeavor to foster. These should not be tolerated.
 - m) Hisses and boos directed toward an official or player is unsportsmanlike.
 - n) Attempts to rattle a player or team are signs of poor sportsmanship.
 - o) Victory accepted without boasting; defeat without excuses.
 - p) Cheerleaders are representatives of the school. All rules apply to them as well as the players, students, and general public.
 - 1) Cheer positively, using cheers that boost their own team, without antagonizing their opponents.
 - 2) Suggestive words have no place in cheers. Cheers that are the least bit suggestive or have phrases that rhyme with or use swear words, are not allowed.
2. No individual has the right to take away from traditions that thousands have built.

Code of Conduct and Policy on Drugs, Alcohol, and Performance Enhancing Drugs

1. Purpose: The Athletic Department is an integral part of Bishop McDevitt High School. Bishop McDevitt considers participation in athletic activities to be a privilege, not a right. Students who desire to participate in the athletic activities offered by Bishop McDevitt are required to comply with additional rules and undertake added responsibilities.

As representatives of the school, students involved in athletic activities are scrutinized by the public, become role models to younger children and their peers, and are ambassadors of our community. Having chosen to accept this role, it is the responsibility of every athletic participant to refrain from behavior

prohibited by this policy. Each athlete will receive an Athletic Code of Conduct. The athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian will be required to sign the Athletic and Extra Curricular Activity Contract and will be expected to operate within the framework of the code.

2. Definitions: For purposes of this policy, the terms listed below shall be defined as follows:

Alcohol means any beverage that contains ethyl alcohol (ethanol), including beer, wine or distilled spirits.

Controlled substance means any substance listed under the Controlled Substance Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, 35 P.S. § 780-101 et seq., and related regulations, as amended, including performance enhancing drugs, look-alike, or designer drugs.

Distribute means the delivery, exchange, sale or transfer of an item or possessing an item with the intent to deliver, exchange, sell or transfer.

Drug means any controlled substance or other substance that is used for mind/behavior altering effects.

Paraphernalia means any equipment, product or matter used to store, ingest, inhale, conceal, convert, package, test or transfer a drug.

Use means possession or any manner of consumption

Verification means the accuracy of information is confirmed by any of the following methods:

- Self-admitted involvement by the student
- Witnessed student involvement by an advisor, coach, sponsor, school, or diocesan employee or credible witness.
- Parental acknowledgement of their child's involvement.
- An official police report given to the school.
- Notification of a conviction, delinquency findings or other admission of wrongdoing before a court.
- Verification through process of physical search or administrative investigation

Week means seven (7) consecutive days running from Sunday to Saturday (based on the date of infraction of the code of conduct).

3. Authority and Scope: To ensure the consistent enforcement of this policy, it applies to all students participating in athletic activities enrolled in grades 9 through 12. The terms of this policy apply throughout the year to conduct occurring on or off school property.

Prior to participating in any athletic activity, students and their parents/guardians will be required to review and sign an "Athletic Activity Contract." The contract shall apply to all athletic activities during the school year it was executed.

4. Prohibition Against Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco:

PROHIBITION: All students are prohibited from engaging in the following:

- The possession, use or distribution of alcohol, tobacco and drugs or related paraphernalia: and
- The possession, use or distribution of a prescriptive drug in a manner inconsistent with the directives of the prescribing physician.

SANCTIONS: The following sanctions apply to all verified violations of this section. These sanctions are in addition to and in conjunction with any rules that fall under the Student Handbook and Diocesan

Policy.

Use/Possession of Alcohol, Drugs or Paraphernalia

First Offense: Immediate suspension from participating in athletic activities/competition for fourteen (14) calendar days. A student *may* be permitted to practice at the discretion of the Principal or designee.

Second Offense: Suspension from all athletic activities for sixty (60) days from the date of the offense.

Third Offense: Total prohibition for all athletic activities for one calendar year from the date of the offense (If not expelled from school)

Student Assistance Programs

In addition to the sanctions specified above, all students violating this section must participate in the student assistance program and comply with any treatment recommendations. Failure to comply with the evaluator's recommendations will result in the student's dismissal from athletic activities until compliance is met.

Distribution of Alcohol, Drugs or Paraphernalia (If not expelled from school)

First Offense: Suspension from all athletic activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of the offense.

Mandatory Reporting: The principal shall report to the police or proper authorities all incidents of students distributing alcohol or drugs.

Student Assistance Programs

In addition to the sanctions specified above, all students violating this section must participate in the student assistance program and comply with any treatment recommendations. Failure to comply with the evaluator's recommendations will result in the student's dismissal from athletic activities until compliance is met.

Use/Possession of Tobacco, vape pen, e-cigarette etc. in any form

First Offense: If in school or at school event, suspension as per School Code of Conduct and other penalties as allowed by Diocesan policy. One contest athletic suspension in addition to the School Code of Conduct disciplinary procedures (may be additional game suspension if suspension covers more than one contest).

Second Offense: Results in athletic suspension from the team for ten (10) calendar days.

Third Offense: Will result in additional suspension or expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season.

Moral Values for Student Behavior

In-School Conduct: If a student is suspended out of school for any reason, the student shall be subject to the following sanctions:

First Suspension: The student shall be prohibited from participating in all athletic contests during the period of the suspension.

Second Suspension: The student shall be suspended from the current team/activity for 14 Calendar Days.

Third or Subsequent Suspension: Student will be suspended from participation in athletics for 60 calendar days.

In/Out of School Conduct: If the School received verified information that a student engaged in criminal or immoral conduct as defined by Diocesan Policy, School Policy, the Pennsylvania Crime Code or a similar state or federal statute, the student shall be subject to the following sanctions:

First Offense: Immediate athletic suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or school year depending upon the severity of the offense.

Second Offense: Suspension from all athletic activities for one (1) calendar year from the date the incident is verified.

5. Verification Process: No student shall be suspended from athletic activities until the building principal verified that the student violated this policy.

The following procedures apply to reports of alleged violations of this policy:

1. Coaches and advisors shall immediately report alleged violations of this policy to the athletic director who will report immediately to the building principal.
2. The athletic director and building principal shall investigate reported violations of this policy to determine their credibility.
3. If a report is credible, the athletic director and building principal shall provide an informal meeting/hearing to explain the information to the student and parent, allow the student to respond and ultimately decide whether or not the student should be suspended from athletic activities.
4. If the athletic director or building principal finds the student violated this policy, the student's parents/guardians shall be sent a written notice informing them that the student has been suspended from athletic activities.
5. If the parents appeal the matter, it shall be heard by the building principal or assistant principal, the athletic director. The student's suspension shall continue during an appeal. The appeal board shall review the initial determination to decide if it was based on verified information.
6. Any recommendation by the appeal board shall be subject to the final approval of the building principal.

Athletic and Extra Curricular Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form 2022-23

Acknowledgement of Student

This is to acknowledge that a copy of the Bishop McDevitt Athletic Code of Conduct has been issued to me. I have read and understand the information contained in this Athletic Code of Conduct.

Student's Name (please print): _____

Activities or Sports: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement of Parent/Guardian

- I understand and consent to the student responsibilities set forth in the ***Bishop McDevitt Student Code of Conduct, Extra Curricular Code of Conduct*** and the ***Athletic Code of Conduct***. I also understand and agree that my child shall be held accountable for the behavior expectations and consequences set forth in the Bishop McDevitt Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Code of Conduct.
- I also understand that in addition to obeying rules set forth in the ***Bishop McDevitt Student Code of Conduct***, all students participating in Bishop McDevitt Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities will be required to comply with the guidelines and disciplinary regulations contained in the organizational sports and extra-curricular constitution and by-laws.
- I also understand that the Bishop McDevitt Athletic Code of Conduct is not a substitute for the ***Bishop McDevitt Student Code of Conduct*** or ***Diocese of Harrisburg Policies***. I understand that the Bishop McDevitt policies and procedures can change at any time. Additionally, I have been advised that my child's participation in extracurricular activities and extracurricular organizations, including interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right. Since extracurricular activities are optional, I understand and agree that those who choose to participate will be held to higher standards of behavior and performance in and out of school.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s) (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your Coach or Moderator