

BATAVIA

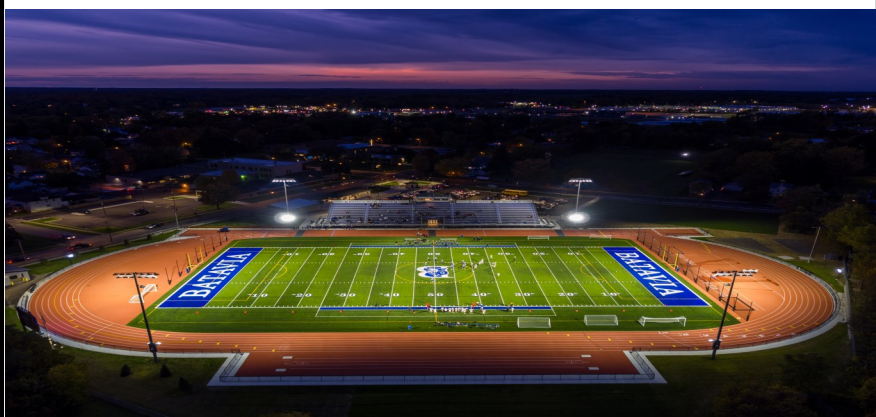
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



STUDENT ATHLETE

2023 - 2024

PARENT HANDBOOK



Home of the Blue Devils!

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Introduction

Welcome to our athletic program! We are thrilled that you are interested in Batavia City School District Athletics and look forward to working with you. We are a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section V, and the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference and offer a wide variety of athletic teams for students in grades 7-12.

This handbook and the contents within are to be used as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to guide you through the process of joining and participating in our interscholastic athletics program. Being part of the Batavia CSD athletic program is considered a privilege, not a right, and one that you should take great pride in. With that privilege come expectations. All provisions of this handbook must be adhered to in order to be eligible to participate and/or attend athletic activities. If violations of the policies set forth in this handbook occur, eligibility to participate and/or attend athletic activities will be in jeopardy. The student's coach, the Athletic Director, or any school administrator may impose the loss of this eligibility.

Vision of Athletics

Our athletic department will provide a challenging, first class, positive experience where everyone strives for excellence and learns lifelong lessons as a result of being involved in our program. This involves a collaborative effort where we foster a connection between students, coaches, families, administration and staff.

District Mission

The Batavia City School District is committed to empowering students to achieve their maximum potential, while becoming socially responsible citizens.

VISION:

The Batavia City School District, in partnership with the Batavia community, will provide a safe and nurturing environment to develop students with high moral character who are able to successfully meet life's challenges.

CORE BELIEFS:

Faculty/Staff will:

- * create a safe, relevant and engaging learning environment that motivates students to learn while promoting proper health and wellness
- * commit to continuous improvement and life-long learning
- * use knowledge of each child's varying life experiences, learning styles, abilities and interests to maximize learning

Students will:

- * contribute to creating a safe, respectful environment
- * put forth their best effort
- * be independent learners and competent problem-solvers who seek help when needed

Families will:

- * make education a priority in the household
- * support the school in promoting a good work ethic and personal responsibility, as well as encouraging health and wellness
- * provide the necessary time, space, and supplies at home for homework and studies to be completed

The Community will:

- * work with the schools to provide authentic experiences for Batavia students
- * collaborate with the schools to provide opportunities within and outside the school day
- * communicate real-world expectations for future workers

Explanation of Levels

MCPSAC Modified Sports Proposal

Goal: Teams play teams with similar experience and abilities

Students in grades 7 – 9 can play in all Divisions

Division 1

Most advanced level of Play
Similar to Mod A
of the Past

Division 2

Moderate/ intermediate
level of
competition

Division 3

Athletes may be
beginners or
have less experience



- ✓ Athletic Departments declare the level of play
- ✓ Schedules are determined by geography when possible
- ✓ BEDS numbers do not impact alignment
- ✓ All schedules will be listed as "Modified" in R School
- ✓ Schools determine how to name the teams
- ✓ If a school has two teams in the same division, teams are split evenly

Modified - Division 2, 3 and A—grades 7-9

Modified— B— grades 7 & 8

Modified Division 3 and B – This is an introductory level of participation. This level is recognized as being primarily a learning and improvement experience. Focus is on the fundamentals of the game, team play, training, rules, and basic skills. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning and maximum participation is desired. Playing time will be directly linked to league rules, practice time, attitude and effort. All team members should participate in all games, unless due to disciplinary actions.

Modified Division 2 and A – The competition level and skill level expected is higher at this level than it is for Modified Division 3 and A. It is a faster pace and the emphasis on winning increases slightly. It is still a level where fundamentals, team play, rules, and skills are still emphasized, but it is expected that all skills will be at a higher level than they are for Modified 3 or B. Playing time will be linked to league rules, practice time, attitude and effort, but also can be increased based upon skill level.

JV – Students in grades 9-11 can participate at this level. Students in grades 7 and 8 may be eligible for JV if they successfully complete the Selective Classification process outlined on page 8 of this handbook. Junior Varsity competition is a transition experience from the learning and improvement focus of modified athletics to the greater expectations and intensity of varsity competition. The junior varsity level of competition is a program where there is an even further increased emphasis placed on team play, physical conditioning, and the development of basic fundamental skills. Winning is definitely more emphasized at this level, but is not the main emphasis. At this level, it is recognized that athletes may not have equal playing time. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

Varsity – Varsity athletics is the culmination of continuous commitment and dedication to a particular sport. Athletes in these sports participate in a highly competitive atmosphere. We expect our varsity teams to be competitive in performance and the team definitely plays to win the contest within the spirit of the rules and within our school core beliefs. It is recognized that not all participants will play in every contest. Athletics is a performance based activity, not linked to grade but rather ability. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach or coaching staff and based upon their expertise and experience from working with the team on a daily basis. Students in grades 9-12 can try out for this level of competition. However, typically the majority of the participants at this level are in grades 11 and 12. Students in grades 7 and 8 may be eligible for Varsity if they successfully complete the Advanced Placement Process outlined on page 8 of this handbook.

Sport	Varsity	JV	Modified A/2	Modified B/3
Cheerleading	X			X
Cross Country - Boys	X	X		X
Cross Country - Girls	X	X		X
Football	X	X		X
Gymnastics- Girls	X			
Soccer – Boys	X	X		3
Soccer – Girls	X	X		3
Tennis - Girls	X			X
Volleyball - Girls	X	X	2	3

Sports/Levels Offered

Sport	Varsity	JV	Modified A/2	Modified B/3
Alpine Ski - Boys	X			X
Alpine Ski - Girls	X			X
Basketball - Boys	X	X	2	3
Basketball - Girls	X	X		X
Cheerleading	X			X
Ice Hockey	X	X		
Indoor Track - Boys	X	X		X
Indoor Track - Girls	X	X		X
Swimming - Boys	X			
Swimming - Girls	X			
Wrestling	X	X		X

Sport	Varsity	JV	Modified A/2	Modified B/3
Baseball	X	X	X	X
Softball	X	X		X
Golf - Boys	X	X		
Lacrosse - Boys	X			X
Tennis – Boys	X			X
Track & Field – Boys	X	X		X
Track & Field - Girls	X	X		X
Flag Football –Girls	X			

Fall Modified Sports Descriptions

Boys Mod Division 3 Soccer — The modified B boys soccer program begins late August and continues through the month of October. The modified B team may consist of students in grades 7, 8 and 9. The soccer teams play 14 scrimmages/contests against other Monroe County schools. Practices and home contests are held every day at John Kennedy Elementary.

Girls Mod Division Soccer — The modified B soccer program begins late August and continues through the month of October. The modified B team may consist of students in grades 7, 8 & 9. The soccer team plays 14 scrimmages/contests against other Monroe County schools. Practices and home contests are held every day at John Kennedy Elementary

Boys & Girls Cross Country — The modified B cross country teams compete in 10 events. Races take place throughout Monroe County and are a distance of 1.5 miles for the first half of the season increasing to 2 miles for the second half. Practice begins late August and continues through the end of October. Practices are held at BMS or John Kennedy Elementary and may include supervised off-campus workouts using the neighborhood.

Boys Football — The modified B football team begins late August and continues until November. The modified B team may consist of students in grades 7 & 8. The football team typically plays in one scrimmage and 7 contests. All practices and home contests are held at Vandetta Stadium.

Mod A Girls Tennis — The modified A tennis team is the feeder program for the varsity level. The team is made up of students in grades 7, 8, and 9. The team practices and plays home matches at Batavia High School. The team competes in 14 matches. Practice begins late August and runs through October.

Mod 2 & 3 Volleyball — The modified teams may consist of students in grades 7, 8 & 9. The teams competes in 14 contests. The team swill practice at Batavia Middle School and or John Kennedy and play home contests at John Kennedy Elementary and/or Batavia High School .The season begins late August .

Girls Modified Cheerleading— Students in grades 7, 8 & 9 are eligible to compete. Practices will begin in late August . The team will cheer at our home modified/JV football games and attend competitions.

Winter Modified Sports Descriptions

Boys Division 2 & 3 Basketball — The modified basketball teams compete in 14 contests against other Monroe County schools. The modified teams may consists of students in grades 7, 8 & 9. Practices begin in late November and the season runs until February break. The teams practice and play games at Batavia Middle School, Jackson Elementary and John Kennedy Elementary.

Girls Division 3 Basketball — The modified basketball team competes in 14 contests against other Monroe County schools. The modified teams may consists of students in grades 7, 8 and 9. Practices begin in late November and the season runs until February break. The teams practice and plays games at Batavia Middle School, Jackson Elementary and John Kennedy Elementary.

Wrestling — The modified B wrestling program competes in up to 10 matches against other teams in Monroe County. Practice begin in late November and continues through February break. The practices are at BHS or Robert Morris Elementary and home contests are located in the auxiliary gym at Batavia High School.

Boys & Girls Indoor Track & Field — The modified B track & field teams compete against other schools in the Rochester Indoor Track League. The modified B team may consists of students in grades 7 & 8. Practices begin in late November and the season runs until February break. The teams practices at Batavia Middle School and Batavia High School. All contests are hosted by venues in the Rochester area.

Girls Modified Cheerleading— Students in grades 7, 8 & 9 are eligible to compete. Practices will begin in late . The team will cheer at our home modified basketball games and attend competitions.

Spring Modified Sports Descriptions

Modified A Baseball — The modified A baseball team will begin practice in late March at Batavia Middle School. . The modified A team may consists of students in grades 7, 8 & 9. Once the weather clears, the team will transition to John Kennedy Elementary where they will practice and play. The 14 game season will continue until the end of May.

Modified B Baseball — The modified B baseball team will begin practice in late March at Batavia Middle School. The modified B team may consist of students in grades 7 & 8. Once the weather clears, the team will transition to John Kennedy Elementary where they will practice and play. The 12 game season will continue until the end of May.

Modified B Softball — The modified B softball team will begin practice in late-March in the Batavia Middle School gym. The modified B team may consists of students in grades 7 & 8. Once the weather clears, the team will transition to the Batavia Middle School softball field where they will practice and play. The 12 game season will continue until the end of May.

Boys Lacrosse — The modified B lacrosse teams begins practices in the John Kennedy gym in late March . The modified B team may consists of students in grades 7 & 8. Once the weather clears, the team will transition to a practice field at John Kennedy. All home contests are played at Batavia High School or Vandetta Stadium. The 12 game season will continue until the end of May.

Boys & Girls Track — The modified B boys and girls track team consists of students in grades 7 & 8. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of running and field events during the 10 meet season. Practices and home meets are held at Vandetta Stadium. Practices will begin in late March and the season will run through the end of May.

Mod A Boys Tennis — The modified A tennis team is the feeder program for the varsity level. The team is made up of students in grades 7, 8, and 9. The team practices and plays home matches at Batavia High School. The team competes in 14 matches. Practice begins in late March and runs through May.

Participation Regulations

Title IX and Section 504 Statement:

The Batavia City School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or handicapping condition in the educational programs or activities it operates and is in full compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The policy on non-discrimination includes the following: recruitment and appointment of employees, employment pay and benefits, counseling service for students, and access by students for athletic sport teams. The Title IX compliance officer in our district is the Superintendent of Schools.

Joining a Team:

Ideally, students who are officially enrolled at the beginning of an athletic season should express interest in joining a team to the coach prior to the season actually beginning. Unless a student moves into the district from another school, a student cannot join a team after the first week of the season has been completed. There may be exceptions to this rule based upon extenuating circumstances. In order to be granted an exception, a student must submit a letter to the coach requesting permission to join a team late and state specific reasons why they did not join on time. If the coach approves, he/she must gain final approval from the Athletic Director before that student will be allowed to participate.

Medical Recertification Procedures:

A student is required by New York State law to have a sports physical prior to participating in an interscholastic athletic team. This physical will remain valid for one calendar year and is valid for any sport unless restrictions are noted. Our district provides physicals for all of our students in our MS and HS Health Offices. If a student

chooses, they can see his/her own physician. A student may not participate in any athletic activities (practices or contests) if they do not have a valid physical on file with the school nurse.

In addition, students and parents must complete a health history form and a sports questionnaire form prior to each season. Students will not be able to participate in practice until both forms are completed and turned in. The forms may be picked up at any School Nurse's office or at the Athletic Director's Office. Students are expected to return the forms to the MS or HS Health Office prior to the start of the season. The recertification forms provides the student's updated health history and also serve as an emergency contact form.

Advanced Placement Process:

Students in grades 7 and 8 may be eligible for JV or varsity teams by going through the Advanced Placement Process (please go to our website for specific information). This procedure is used in the case of exceptionally skilled athletes who have the ability to compete at a higher level of competition. The varsity coach will facilitate this process in conjunction with the parent. The steps in completing this procedure include a signed parental permission form, a medical maturity exam administered by a physician, and a statement signed by the prospective coach. These forms are available from the Athletic Director and should be turned in to the team coach. Once these forms have been turned in, the student must pass a rigorous physical fitness test. This test will be scheduled and administered by the Athletic Director before each sports season. Successful completion of these items does not guarantee a student a spot on a team. The student must also go through try-outs and make the team as any other student would.

Mixed Competition

All Commissioner of Education procedures for mixed gender competition will be followed. If a student would like to be part of

this process, the parents of the student must contact the Director of Athletics.

Tryout Process and Roster Selection:

The first few days of a sport season are considered a try-out period. Depending upon the number of students who try out for a team, the coach may choose to make cuts to the roster. Coaches will use an evaluation tool for each student who tries out for a team. At the end of the try out period, each coach will notify those students he/she is planning to cut from the roster. The explanation for this decision and the evaluation for students who were cut will be made available to a student and/or parent upon request.

Preseason Meetings:

There will be a pre-season meeting held for parents and prospective student-athletes prior to, or during the first few weeks of each season. Typically these meetings will be held in the evening for those on Modified and JV/Varsity teams. All coaches will be present and will discuss team rules, schedules, expectations, and other pertinent information. Coaches will also be available for any other questions that parents or students may have. All students and parents are highly encouraged to attend these meetings each season. Important information may be missed for those that do not attend.

Leaving a Team:

A student is fully considered a team member after the first scrimmage or contest takes place. Prior to this time, a student can leave a team for any reason without consequences. Once the first scrimmage or contest is held, each student is expected to remain with the team for the remainder of that season. If a student/athlete decides to leave a team during the season he/she needs to discuss the situation with the coach and return any school district issued items. Student/athletes that leave one sport team during a season will not be allowed to join another team or be a student manager of another team during that sport season. Possible exceptions can be made with Athletic Department and Coach approval. Student/athletes that leave

a sport team during the season to avoid team suspension or discipline penalties will have those penalties assessed during the next sport season they participate in.

Dismissal/Removal – A student may be removed from a team at any time by the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal. If a student is removed from a team for any reason, this student will not be eligible to participate in, be a manager of, or even compete exhibition in another sport during that same season.

A student who leaves a team or is removed from a team during a season must petition for reinstatement if they wish to participate in that sport in any future school year. A formal letter must be written by the student and addressed to the team coach and Athletic Director requesting that they be allowed to participate. This letter must be presented prior to the new season beginning and must state reasons as to why they feel they should be granted a roster spot. Before the student can actually return to that sport in any capacity, a meeting must be held with the student, a parent/guardian, and the coach. It is in that meeting that final approval will be granted or denied.

Policies, Rules, and Procedures

Bullying/Dignity for All Students:

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act states that all students have the right to attend school in an environment free of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to, conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse on school property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored events based on a person's actual or perceived: race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex. All Athletic teams are included into this act and behaviors of this nature will not be tolerated. Any reports of behaviors that may violate this act will be investigated and could result in dismissal from a team or other disciplinary consequences.

Social Media:

Student-Athletes who use cell phones, websites, email, or any other form of social media as a means of communication are expected to do so responsibly. Inappropriate social media postings can have a disruptive impact on the morale and success of a team. Any posting that contains any of the following items may result in disciplinary consequences:

1. is designed to harass or bully students and/or school personnel, or violates the Dignity for All Student's Act
2. is a form of hazing
3. displays photos that display drug, alcohol, or tobacco use
4. nude/sexually-oriented/indecent photos/images or altered pictures
5. contains sexually explicit, profane, lewd, indecent, or defamatory language
6. contains derogatory language regarding school personnel or other students
7. any other posting that may be disruptive or detrimental to the team

Depending upon the severity of the situation, any irresponsible posting using social media may result in suspension and/or dismissal from a team.

Cell Phone Usage

Cell phone use during contests is strictly prohibited by student-athletes. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices during other team-related activities is at the discretion of the coach. Cell phones are never permitted to be used in locker rooms.

STUDENT ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GRADES 7-12:

This Athletic Code of Conduct is intended to inform athletes and their parents of the high level of conduct and integrity demanded of Batavia City School athletes. It also generally informs athletes and parents of the disciplinary consequences that may be expected should violations occur. The Athletic Code of Conduct, however,

should not be interpreted as limiting the District's discretion as to disciplinary consequences. Any disagreement as to the interpretation of this document shall be resolved in the discretion of District Administration.

As a foremost priority, members of a team MUST fulfill their academic responsibilities. We expect all athletes, who represent the entire Batavia Community, to be exemplary in all aspects of their daily lives. Athletic participation on our school teams remains a privilege and should be upheld as such.

THE ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT IS THAT OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND SPORTSMANSHIP. They will live by the laws of the country, state, county and city; also follow the rules and policies of the school district and athletic department. Being a member of an athletic team is a major commitment that requires many sacrifices. Athletes are expected to participate for the entire season making contest and practices a priority. A few examples of unacceptable behavior both on and off school property are: drug and alcohol use, truancy or illegal absence from school or classes, insubordination, fighting, lack of cooperation with school personnel, vandalism, violation of the rights of others, stealing, assault, and harassment.

The consequences for breaking this code of conduct can range from a one game suspension to being permanently suspended from all succeeding interscholastic athletic participation based on the nature of the misconduct, the level of severity, and the number of times it occurs. It will be deemed sufficient evidence of a violation when a member of the District teaching, coaching, or administrative staff or a recognized law enforcement agency determines that a violation has occurred.

The following Student Athlete Code of Conduct shall govern all student spectators/participants in the District's athletic programs and/or activities. These rules must be read and signed by all student athletes and their parents/guardians, signifying an

agreement to abide by such Code of Conduct, and returned to the Athletic Director.

I. ELIGIBILITY

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE AND MAY PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

1. Are taking at least four subjects, including Physical Education.
2. Are a student in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, or meet the Selection/Classification standards for the high school program.
3. Are a student in grades 7 or 8, age 14 and under in the Modified "B" program or in grades 8 or 9, age 15 and under in the Modified "A" program.
4. Are less than 19 years of age before July 1 of the current school year.
5. Have been approved to practice and participate by the school doctor.
6. The attendance/tardy policy is:
 - **School Attendance/Tardiness:** If a student is not in school by 8:45am due to illegal tardiness, the student will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity scheduled for that day or night. If the student is legally tardy, they must be in school by 11:00am.
 - **Potential Consequences:** A student who is illegally tardy to school, cuts classes or has other attendance concerns on a regular basis can jeopardize participation in extracurricular activities for that season. These students will work through the 2022-23 "Multi-Tiered" School-Wide attendance plan. Coaches, teachers, advisors, administrators and counselors will collaborate to assemble a plan for the student.

7. Abstain from the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products on or off school grounds.
8. Use transportation provided by Batavia City School district to and from contests, unless permission is received from the Athletic Director.
9. Are academically eligible.
10. Maintain a minimum of 80% attendance in each class.
11. Abide by all the rules of N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Section V League, your team, and the laws of the country, state, county, and city.

GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND INTEGRITY:

All students, spectators/participants in the District's interscholastic athletic program/sports activities are expected to demonstrate the same standard of acceptable behavior and level of responsibility as is expected in the classroom. Further, all student spectators/participants are expected to abide by the District-wide Student Code of Conduct applicable to the general student body. Student athletes/spectators are to demonstrate acceptable standards of behavior and respect for others at all times and abide by the rules and regulations of the game. Student athletes/spectators are to respect the judgment and actions of game officials.

Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension from participation in any District athletic program or activity as well as the possible imposition of additional sanctions as determined by the District. Participants who are under suspension from school are not allowed to participate in a game or activity during the time of suspension.

III. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Students participating in a District athletic activity are to refrain from the use, sale and/or possession of alcohol, powered alcohol, vaporizers, tobacco (including e-cigarettes) and/or drugs (an illegal or non-prescribed "controlled substance" as defined by Penal Law Section 220.00), whether on or off school grounds, during the time that the student athlete participated in the District athletic program as specified in the Batavia City Schools Student-Athlete Training Rules for grades 7-12.

Students are to refrain from the use, sale and/or possession of any illegal or non-prescribed "controlled substance" which includes Synthetic Drugs. The Batavia City School District's Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced if it is determined by administration that a student uses, sells or possesses Synthetic Drugs. If a student possesses an unidentified substance, the District will exercise caution and the substance will be turned over to the Batavia City Police for further analysis and investigation.

Training Rules: It is generally known and understood that the use of tobacco, alcohol and non-prescribed drugs are detrimental to one's health and physical condition. The Board of Education and the coaching staff of the Batavia City Schools does not condone the use of the above listed substances. Therefore, any student-athlete determined by the administration to use/possess or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, synthetic drugs, vaporizers and/or non-prescribed drugs will be disciplined as outlined below.

The training rules for each school year will take effect on the first day of the fall practices and will conclude on the last day of contests for the spring season. If a student/athlete is on or trying out for an interscholastic athletic team at the time of a violation of the training rules, the code will take effect immediately. If a student/athlete is not in season then the code will take effect for the sport that the student competes in next. The student/athlete must complete the season in which the suspension takes place. If the student/athlete

does not complete the season the suspension will carry over to the next sport season during that school year.

Any reference to contest suspension(s) in this policy is made to the contest/contests immediately following the determination of the offense.

FIRST OFFENSE:

A first offense by any student-athlete who is found in possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol or other drugs during their season of participation will be suspended from contests for 20% (a minimum of two contests*) of the total contests scheduled for that season. The student-athlete must be in attendance at all practices and contests during the suspension, but may not participate in or dress in uniform at contests. A conference will be held between the student-athlete, his/her parents/guardians, the coach, and the Director of Health/PE/Athletics (all attempts will be made to make this procedure occur in a timely manner). The student-athlete will also be referred to the Batavia City School District Student Assistance Counselor (SAC). Failure to attend the sessions with the SAC will result in suspension from interscholastic athletics until the counseling requirement is fulfilled.

*Parts of a contest count as whole contests.

*An entire day of competition will be missed as a result of the suspension (ex., both games of a double header in baseball, an entire track and field meet, the entire day of ski races, etc.).

SECOND OFFENSE

A second offense occurring within six consecutive sport seasons by any student-athlete who is found in possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs during their season of participation will be suspended from that sport for the duration of the season*.

A conference will be held between the student/athlete, his/her parents/guardians, the Student Assistance Counselor and the Director of Health/PE/Athletics. The student-athlete will be referred to the Batavia City School District Student Assistance Counselor. Failure to attend the scheduled sessions will result in suspension from interscholastic athletics until a counseling requirement is fulfilled. In addition, the student-athlete must successfully complete the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program that is provided by GCASA. The student-athlete is responsible for all fees that are associated with the program.

* Consecutive sport seasons is defined as the rotation of sport seasons from Fall, Winter to Spring; starting in the season that the athlete has violated the rules and continuing for six consecutive seasons forward.

The first offense procedure will be followed if a student-athlete is found in possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs during their season of participation if the offense occurs after six consecutive seasons of the first violation.

THIRD OFFENSE

If the third offense occurs within nine consecutive seasons of the first violation, the student-athlete will be suspended from all succeeding interscholastic athletic participation.

** Please note: All appeals are to be made in writing to the Batavia Coaches Advisory Team. The Coaches Advisory Team will consist of the Athletic Director, three coaches (from three different sports) and the Principal of the building where the student-athlete attends school. An appeal may be made at any step in the process.

IV. OTHER SERIOUS MISCONDUCT

Students involved in other serious misconduct, on or off school grounds, will be referred to the Athletic/Disciplinary Committee. The Committee will then determine disciplinary action.

- Serious misconduct may include but is not limited to:
 - * Hazing (which is discussed further below),
 - * Participation/attendance in an activity or party that includes the filing of a police report.
- A student/athlete being charged by the police (examples):
 - * Unlawfully dealing with a minor
 - * DWI/DUI
 - * Assault
 - * Harassment

Hazing

Hazing among students is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to join a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. Even if the hazing victim participated “willingly” in the activity, or there was no “intent” by the hazer to harm or injure another individual, hazing is against District Policy, District Regulations and the District Code of Conduct, and may be in violation of New York State Law. However, hazing of a student does not need to rise to the level of criminal activity for such conduct to be in violation the District’s Hazing Policy/Regulation. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or group, shall be forced activity and in violation of the District’s Policy/Regulation, regardless of the willingness of the student to participate.

Activities that may be considered as hazing pursuant to the District’s Policy/Regulation include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student which is performed as a condition of attaining/maintaining membership in any school sponsored group, club, team; and/or as a condition of participating in any school sponsored event or activity whether occurring on or off campus.
2. Forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
3. Forced exposure to the elements.
4. Activities intended to degrade, humiliate, embarrass, or shame.
5. Physical brutality/assault such as paddling or beating.
6. Sexual violation, including sexual simulation and sexual assault.
7. Assignment of "pranks" to be performed.
8. Forced calisthenics or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical well being or safety of the individual.
9. Social isolation.
10. Personal servitude.
11. Sleep deprivation/restrictions on personal hygiene.
12. Nudity.
13. Kidnapping.
14. Binge drinking and drinking games.
15. Yelling, swearing or insulting an individual.
16. Forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public.
17. Forced to engage in destructive and/or criminal acts such as vandalism, stealing and cheating.
18. Restraining an individual against his/her will.

Sanctions and Penalties

1. Infractions of these rules will result in penalties. If the penalty is not specified in Section III above or in the Student Code of Conduct, the Athletic/Disciplinary Committee may make a decision. Students and their parents/guardians will be afforded an opportunity to discuss the problem/charges with the appropriate administrator.
2. Students arrested and/or convicted for offenses that occur on or off school grounds may be referred to the Athletic/Disciplinary Committee. A student may be suspended from participation until the record of the offense is determined. The status of an offense will be monitored by the Athletic/Disciplinary Committee, who may impose sanctions after applicable due process rights have been accorded the student.
3. Individual coaches or advisers may recommend additional items to supplement the above rules. These additional items will be given to the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of the season. Student athletes/spectators are to abide by such further conditions so implemented while participating in or attending an athletic activity.

The Athletic/Disciplinary Committee will be comprised of the following:

- a. Athletic Director
- b. Student's Coach
- c. Coach Chosen by the Student

Sanctions imposed as penalties may range from suspension for one game to a maximum of one year. A student with a finding of guilty in felony/misdemeanor charges may no longer have the privilege of participation on athletic teams.

V. TRAINING STANDARDS

1. All student athletes are required to maintain a level of attendance at practice and training sessions as established by the coach.
2. Athletes should be ready to play at all contests. Failure to attend contests may result in suspension from the team.
3. Student athletes are to abide by such further rules/requirements as established by their particular coach(es).
4. Failure to conform to such training standards may result in suspension from the athletic activity during the remainder of the sport season.

Away Activities

1. Students must ride the school bus to and from the game or activity. A parent/guardian may sign a school district release form at the site of the contest to be able to transport the student(s) home. A written request from the parent/guardian requesting another individual other than themselves to transport their student home must go through the Athletic Director.
2. All district students must stay together as a group. The students must not leave the area of activity.
3. Students should leave the site visited in the same condition as when they arrived.

School Equipment and Uniforms

School equipment/uniforms are loaned to students for their use; they must be returned at the completion of an activity.

If equipment/uniforms are not returned, students will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity until either the equipment/uniforms are returned or payment is made.

If the student does not participate in another activity, the parent/student will be notified by a letter indicating a deadline for either the return of the equipment/uniforms or the payment of the replacement value of the equipment/uniforms. Failure to do so may result in the notification of the City of Batavia Police Department.

Attendance:

Unless excused for a school sponsored event, a student must be in attendance in their regular classes at school to be deemed eligible to participate in practices and events on that day.

All student athletes are expected to be on time and in attendance at all athletic practices and contests. There may be practices and contests on Saturdays, holidays, and over school vacations. Any student who anticipates being tardy or cannot attend a team related event, should notify the coach directly and provide as much advance notice as possible. Students should realize that arriving late or missing practice for any reason can result in consequences including loss of playing time, suspension, or removal from a team. If parents and student-athletes choose to take vacations during sports seasons, it must be understood that the time missed can affect personal conditioning, the learning of team concepts/ systems, and team chemistry.

Participation in PE:

Due to the importance of physical education, all athletes are required to participate in physical education throughout the year. Athletes who are illegally absent or do not participate in physical education class will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of the absence/offense.

Parent/Guardian Pickup:

Coaches are responsible for student-athletes until they are dismissed to their parent or legal guardian. Parents must be timely when picking students up from practices/contests.

Individual Team Rules:

Each coach shall establish and administer specific guidelines for expectations he/she has for team members. These guidelines will be written, approved by the Athletic Director, and shared with parents and athletes in pre-season meetings and any other time necessary throughout a season. These rules can be somewhat different than the guidelines outlined in this handbook but can never be more lenient, or go against any school policy. Enforcement of these guidelines will be the responsibility of the coach. Any violations and consequences will be reported, in writing if possible, to the Athletic Director. Parents/guardians will also be contacted by the coach when any disciplinary or attendance issues arise.

Chain of Communication:

From time to time, parents/guardians and student-athletes may have questions and/or concerns they wish to address. In these situations, the following chain of communication must take place in this order:

1. The student-athlete should talk directly with the coach. This should always be the first step. The team coach is the best source of information for all questions.
2. After the student has spoken with the coach, if further clarification is needed, the parent/guardian should contact the coach directly to discuss the issue and/or arrange a meeting. However, the parent must follow the 24 hour rule before contacting the coach. Please do not contact a coach directly following a contest or event. Contact with the coach should only be made after a 24 hour period has elapsed from the time that the student athlete has met with the coach.
3. Athletic Coordinator or Director – If after speaking with the coach the issue has not been resolved, the student and/or parent/guardian should contact the Athletic Office. Depending upon the issue or availability, either the Athletic Coordinator or Athletic Director will discuss the issue. A meeting may also be scheduled if needed.

The following topics fall under a coach's prerogative and parents should avoid interfering with his/her decisions:

- Playing time at the Varsity level
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

Sportsmanship:

The Batavia City School District Athletic program is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all sports activities. We are further committed to the belief that schools participating in interscholastic athletic activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, faculty members, and spectators. Conduct which is

detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities may be deemed just cause for school district officials to reprimand, issue probation, suspension from a particular sport, or suspension from interscholastic athletic activities. This applies to students, coaches, personnel, and spectators.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association supports and encourages spectators to enjoy the competition between our student-athletes and cheer for their teams in a positive manner. Negative comments and behavior will be addressed by the appropriate site personnel. Spectators should “Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive” toward all players, coaches, officials and spectators. All individuals who are participating and/or are in attendance at an athletic event should follow the guidelines outlined here:

- Learn and understand the rules of your sport.
- Play hard, play to win, but play fairly within the rules.
- Do not allow your temper to distract you from displaying good sportsmanship.
- Maintain self-control.
- Respect your opponent.
- Never taunt.
- Congratulate the opposing team at the end of the contest.
- Acknowledge good play.
- Respect integrity and judgment of officials. Never question the decision of an official.
- Be an example for your school, teammates, and opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner only – “Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive.”

Any player, coach, or spectator who is disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior by an official, or is asked to leave a contest by a school official is prohibited from attending a minimum of the next regularly scheduled contest in that sport. This includes home and away events. Additional consequences may result

depending upon the severity or frequency of unsportsmanlike offenses.

Additional Rules for Attending an Event:

- Noise makers of any kind are not allowed at any indoor event within Section V. Those who refrain to abide by this rule will be asked to leave.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages or other illegal substances, or anyone who smells of or is acting as if they are under the influence of such substances will be grounds for removal from the event and school property.
- All food and beverages should not be consumed in the gym for inside events.
- Swearing and/or using profane language will be grounds for removal from an event.
- No objects may be thrown from the stands onto a playing surface.
- Any beverages brought to events may be searched and subject to removal by athletic staff.
- Any bags brought to events may be searched and contents are subject to removal by athletic staff.
- Only players, coaches, staff, and game day personnel are allowed on playing surfaces or in the playing or bench area.
- It is recommended that all students who are in Grades K-8 be accompanied by an adults at evening events.

Booster Club and Fundraising

Booster organizations may be defined in two (2) ways:

- a) An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for specific extracurricular activities (e.g., athletics, speech and debate, musical groups); or
- b) An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for a school's general extracurricular program.

Parents and other interested residents who wish to organize a booster group for the purpose of supporting a specific school program should be encouraged to do so and given clear guidelines. It is important that the activities of such organizations do not interfere unduly with the total educational program or disrupt School District operations in any way. Groups wishing to make a contribution adhere to the District's policy and regulations regarding the acceptance of gifts.

The Board of Education retains final responsibility and authority on all activities that have an impact on students, school programs and/or school-owned property. Violations of School District policy or regulations may result in the inability of the group or organization to donate gifts to the School District.

Adoption Date 9/26/22

Best Practices:

- The district no longer requires written approval for fundraisers. We do ask that we are notified at least a week in advance of the event so that we have knowledge if/when asked by members of our community.
- The following is from our insurance agent. "Please be advised that the inclusion of alcohol is construed to be the sale of alcohol under the "Dram Shop Act" and creates a liquor liability exposure for Booster Clubs and its members". Alcohol should not be included in the price of a ticket that Boosters sponsor.
- A policy can not occur under which the parents must earn fundraising credits and/or pay shortages to enable their child to participate in activities.
- The IRS allows booster organizations and other nonprofits to operate tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3). This section establishes stringent guidelines for nonprofits, including, "none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual." Inure means "to become beneficial or advantageous." Therefore, a booster organization may not allocate funding in a manner that would benefit any individual student over the other students in the program. Funding must be distributed equally to all

students, regardless of their individual level of participation in fundraising activities. Furthermore, no student may be denied the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular program based on his or her ability to participate in fundraising.

Scheduling and Website

Scheduling athletic practices and contests are performed through the coaching staff and the athletic office. All schedules and questions about schedules should be directed to the team coach.

In addition, the following website provides up to date scheduling information for all of our teams. All Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference schools use a sport scheduling program called rSchoolToday. This program will enable you to receive notifications by text and/or email of any changes in a scheduled contest (time change, site change, postponement, cancellation and reschedule).

rSchoolToday provides an opportunity to sign-up to receive these notifications. You will need to access the website on how to get on the “notify-me” list. The web site is www.mcpsac-ny.org , and all you have to do is click on the Batavia name on the right hand side, and then follow the directions that are listed on the site.

Awards

At the discretion of the coach, teams may have a banquet at the end of their sports season. Varsity and JV usually have a formal banquet. Modified coaches usually choose to have a year end gathering at the end of the season after school.

The school district provides a MVP trophy for each varsity team. The majority of programs provide many additional awards. A Certificate will be given to all athletes that complete the season (this will happen every season).

A letter B with a pin will be given to all Varsity athletes the first time that he/she completes a varsity sport. A pin will be given for the first time that a person completes each specific varsity sport.

A letter B with bars (each one signifying the number of years that the person has been a varsity athlete) will be given during the senior year. Once again a pin will be given for each specific varsity sport that the athlete completes.

All senior athletes that compete in three sports will receive a special plaque at the evening awards program in June.

Outside Participation

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association allows outside participation, however, Batavia CSD student-athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Batavia CSD team. There will be many circumstances where a student-athlete should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the team or on themselves. A student-athlete who misses a school practice or contest (whole or partial) in order to attend an outside team practice or contest will have chosen to no longer remain a member of the Batavia CSD school team. Please do not participate until you check with the individual coach involved with our school team.

Safety, Injuries, and Risk Factor

Participation in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity. Further, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his or her parents/guardians assume the risk for injuries to occur.

Any student-athlete who suffers an injury requiring a physician's attention, must be issued a medical release (signed statement) by the physician who treated them or from their primary care physician in order to resume participation with their team. This release must be turned in to the school nurse. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question as to whether he/she is in adequate physical condition. Depending upon the injury, a conditioning period may be needed before returning to contests. The school nurse, school doctor, athletic trainer, team coach, and athletic director will work collaboratively as needed to assess each situation.

Heat and Wind Chill Procedures:

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has rules and procedures in place to address athletic participation in inclement temperatures. The athletic department and coaching staff will fully comply with these regulations at all times.

Concussion Management/Head Injuries

The Batavia City School District has a Board approved Policy #7522 that discusses how concussions and head injuries are handled. One of the most important things to understand is that in the event of a head injury, the school district's physician working with the district athletic trainer is the only person authorized to fully clear a student/athlete to return to play. A primary care physician may release students back into the Return to Play Protocol, but not to full participation. The following document (which appears on pages 36 & 37 of this handbook) is an informational sheet from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association on this topic. This Return to Play Protocol is also explained on this sheet.

Dual Participation

SAME SEASON DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION

The Batavia City School District seeks to provide quality co-curricular athletic opportunities for its 9-12 grade students. Some students have talents and abilities which they have a desire to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season and both of these teams can benefit. Some programs may struggle with low numbers, and this can help boost participation in those sports.

Students Participating in Two Sports During the Same Season

Student-athletes are now allowed to participate in two co-curricular athletic programs during the same season. Students wishing to participate in two sports during the same season will need to obtain a request form from the Athletic Director and follow the guidelines established by the athletic department involving dual sport participation. This policy becomes effective in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year and is fully aligned with the approval status of the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference, Section V Athletics, and the NYSPHSAA. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, students can only dual sport in two of the three seasons.

Disclaimer

From time to time, issues will arise that are not specifically outlined in this handbook. In situations of that nature, a coach and the Athletic Director have the right to act according to what they feel is the best solution to the particular situation. If necessary, the Principal and Superintendent may also be consulted.



Concussions: The Invisible Injury

Student and Parent Information Sheet

CONCUSSION DEFINITION

A concussion is a reaction by the brain to a jolt or force that can be transmitted to the head by an impact or blow occurring anywhere on the body. Essentially a concussion results from the brain moving back and forth or twisting rapidly inside the skull.

FACTS ABOUT CONCUSSIONS ACCORDING TO THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

- An estimated 4 million people under age 19 sustain a head injury annually. Of these approximately 52,000 die and 275,000 are hospitalized.
- An estimated 300,000 sports and recreation related concussions occur each year.
- Students who have had at least one concussion are at increased risk for another concussion.

In New York State in 2009, approximately 50,500 children under the age of 19 visited the emergency room for a traumatic brain injury and of those approximately 3,000 were hospitalized.

REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Education:

- Each school coach, physical education teacher, nurse, and athletic trainer will have to complete an approved course on concussion management on a biennial basis, starting with the 2012-2013 school year.
 - * School coaches and physical education teachers must complete the CDC course.
(www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html)
 - * School nurses and certified athletic trainers must complete the concussion course. (<http://preventingconcussions.org>)

Information:

- Provide concussion management information and sign off with any parental permission form.
- The concussion management and awareness information or the State Education Department's web site must be made available on the school web site, if one exists.

Removal from athletics:

- Require the immediate removal from athletic activities of any pupil that has or is believed to have sustained a mild traumatic brain injury.
- No pupils will be allowed to resume athletic activity until they have been symptom free for 24 hours and have been evaluated by and received written and signed authorization from a licensed physician. For interscholastic athletics, clearance must come from the school medical director.
 - * Such authorization must be kept in the pupil's permanent health record.
 - * Schools shall follow directives issued by the pupil's treating physician.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of a concussion are the result of a temporary change in the brain's function. In most cases, the symptoms of a concussion generally resolve over a short period of time; however, in some cases, symptoms will last for weeks or longer. Children and adolescents are more susceptible to concussions and take longer than adults to recover.

It is imperative that any student who is suspected of having a concussion is removed from athletic activity (e.g. recess, PE class, sports) and remains out of such activities until evaluated and cleared to return to activity by a physician.

Symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Decreased or absent memory of events prior to or immediately after the injury, or difficulty retaining new information
- Confusion or appears dazed
- Headache or head pressure
- Loss of consciousness
- Balance difficulties, dizziness, or clumsy movements
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light and/or sound
- Nausea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite
- Irritability, sadness or other changes in personality
- Feeling sluggish, foggy or light-headed
- Concentration or focusing problems
- Drowsiness
- Fatigue and/or sleep issues – sleeping more or less than usual

Students who develop any of the following signs, or if signs and symptoms worsen, should be seen and evaluated immediately at the nearest hospital emergency room.

- Headaches that worsen
- Seizures
- Looks drowsy and/or cannot be awakened
- Repeated vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Unable to recognize people or places
- Weakness or numbing in arms or legs, facial drooping
- Unsteady gait
- Change in pupil size in one eye
- Significant irritability
- Any loss of consciousness
- Suspicion for skull fracture: blood draining from ear or clear fluid from the nose

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

Schools are advised to develop a written concussion management policy. A sample policy is available on the NYSPHSAA web site at www.nysphsaa.org. The policy should include:

- A commitment to reduce the risk of head injuries.
- A procedure and treatment plan developed by the district medical director.
- A procedure to ensure proper education for school nurses, certified athletic trainers, physical education teachers, and coaches.
- A procedure for a coordinated communication plan among appropriate staff.
- A procedure for periodic review of the concussion management program.

RETURN TO LEARN and RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

Cognitive Rest: Activities students should avoid include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Computers and video games
- Television viewing
- Texting
- Reading or writing
- Studying or homework
- Taking a test or completing significant projects
- Loud music
- Bright lights

Students may only be able to attend school for short periods of time. Accommodations may have to be made for missed tests and assignments.

Physical Rest: Activities students should avoid include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Contact and collision
- High speed, intense exercise and/or sports
- High risk for re-injury or impacts
- Any activity that results in an increased heart rate or increased head pressure

Return to Play Protocol once symptom free for 24 hours and cleared by School Medical Director:

Day 1: Low impact, non strenuous, light aerobic activity.

Day 2: Higher impact, higher exertion, moderate aerobic activity. No resistance training.

Day 3: Sport specific non-contact activity. Low resistance weight training with a spotter.

Day 4: Sport specific activity, non-contact drills. Higher resistance weight training with a spotter.

Day 5: Full contact training drills and intense aerobic activity.

Day 6: Return to full activities with clearance from School Medical Director.

Any return of symptoms during the return to play protocol, the student will return to previous day's activities until symptom free.

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT TEAM

Schools may, at their discretion, form a concussion management team to implement and monitor the concussion management policy and program. The team could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Students
- Parents/Guardians
- School Administrators
- Medical Director
- Private Medical Provider
- School Nurse
- Director of Physical Education and/or Athletic Director
- Certified Athletic Trainer
- Physical Education Teacher and/or Coaches
- Classroom Teachers

OTHER RESOURCES

- New York State Education Department
- New York State Department of Health
http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/concussion/htm
- New York State Public High School Athletic Association
www.nysphsaa.org/safety/
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury>
- National Federation of High Schools
www.nfhslearn.com – The FREE Concussion Management course does not meet education requirement.
- Child Health Plus
http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/consumer_guide/about_child_health_plus.htm
- Local Department of Social Services – New York State Department of Health
http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss/htm
- Brain Injury Association of New York State
<http://www.bianys.org>
- Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussions in the Classroom
<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussions-in-the-classroom>
- Upstate University Hospital – Concussions in the Classroom
<http://www.upstate.edu/pmr/healthcare/programs/concussion/classroom.php>
- ESPN Video – Life Changed by Concussion
<http://espn.com/video/clip?id=7525526&categoryId=5595394>
- SportsConcussions.org
<http://www.sportsconcussions.org/ibaseline/>
- American Association of Neurological Surgeons
<http://www.aans.org/Patient%20Information/Conditions%20and%20Treatment/Concussion.aspx>
- Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport – Zurich
<http://sportconcussions.com/html/Zurich%20Statement.pdf>

Website - bataviacsd.org

Schedules - <https://www.sectionvny.org/public/genie/783/school/2140/>

Twitter/Instagram - @BCSD_BlueDevils

Facebook - bcsdbluedevils

Starting Dates for 2023-2024

Fall 2023

JV/Varsity Football	Saturday, August 19th
All Other Varsity & JV Sports	Monday, August 21st
All Modified Sports	Monday, August 28th

Winter 2023-2024

All Varsity/JV Sports	Monday, November 13th
All Modified Sports	Monday, November 27th

Spring 2023

All Varsity & JV Sports	Monday, March 11th
All Modified Sports	Monday, March 25th

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