

**Bond County Community Unit #2
Board of Education Policy Manual**

SECTION 600

ATHLETIC POLICY

I. Mission Statement

Bond County Community Unit #2 Schools are committed to offering every student the chance to develop their talents by offering a wide range of athletic activities. In choosing to participate, the students must realize that their involvement as representatives of BCCU #2 is a privilege, not a right. Participating on an athletic team involves a commitment by the student to adhere to the Code of Conduct. As representatives of Bond County Unit #2 Schools, students must understand that their decisions and actions will be scrutinized by the public and their peers while performing or competing, at practice and within the community. This unique position in comparison to the general school population carries additional responsibilities. The Administration expects students who participate in athletic activities to be leaders and models for acceptable behavior. These criteria are reflected in the following pages and within the Code of Conduct.

II. Objectives

- A. To balance athletic activities with all other student's academic responsibilities and considerations.
- B. To encourage, build and promote the individual's moral character.
- C. To develop in each participant a feeling of pride, a sense of accomplishment and a desire to excel.
- D. To develop excellent athletic programs of which the participants, school and community can be proud.
- E. To promote an appreciation for hard work and good sportsmanship at BCCU#2 schools.
- F. To promote activities which are free of drug, alcohol and/or tobacco (drug, alcohol, and tobacco free activities) for all students who attend BCCU#2 schools.

III. Student Athletic Requirements

Each student must have completed an Athletic Code Notification and Sign-off Sheet. Each participant must have on file at the school a sign-off sheet indicating they have read, understand and agree to the Athletic Code of Conduct. This sign-off sheet must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian.

IV. Coverage

- A. This Athletic Code covers students who participate in any BCCU #2 athletic activities listed in Item V. The Athletic Code is in effect at all times during the school year. (From the start of IHSA/IESA fall practices to the end of IHSA/IESA spring season).
- B. Consequences of code violations will be enforced for each athletic activity in which a student participates.
- C. If a student violates the Athletic Code but at the time of the violation is not participating in any athletic activities, the consequences of the Code violation will be enforced at the time the student next participates in an athletic activity, **regardless of the year.**

V. Athletics Offered at Bond County Unit #2 Schools

Girls' Athletics

Tennis	Golf	Volleyball	Basketball
Track	Soccer	Softball	Cheerleading

Boys' Athletics

Golf	Soccer	Football	Basketball
Track	Tennis	Baseball	

VI. Academic Requirements

Students will be ineligible to participate during each weekly period if they receive more than one failing grade for the previous week and will be ineligible for a semester if they fail more than one class for the previous semester (High School). Student must follow the academic eligibility guidelines as established by the IHSA and IESA.

VII. General Requirements

- A. A student under athletic code suspension shall not be allowed to participate in contests. They may attend practices when suspended from but not removed from the team.
- B. Suspensions and expulsions from school that are imposed as a result of the District's Extreme Discipline Measures Policy (715.11) shall result in a concurrent athletic suspension, and possible dismissal from any participation.
- C. Participants must travel to and from activities which are more than five (5) miles away from BCCU#2 schools in transportation provided by the schools. The only exceptions are:
 - 1. Injury which requires alternate transportation.
 - 2. Written permission given to the coach from the student's parent or guardian for the student to ride with the parent or guardian.
 - 3. Prior arrangements are made three (3) days prior to the activity between the participant's parent or guardian and coach for the student to ride with other adults named in writing by the parent or guardian.
- D. Any participant who has been under a doctor's care for a disorder, which has caused him/her to be medically unable to participate in an athletic activity, cannot begin participating again until the school receives a written release from the doctor.
- E. Curfew hours apply to in-season only. Hours: 11:00 PM during the week and 12:00 midnight, Friday and Saturday. One-hour curfew after school activities that extend beyond these times. Violations will be dealt with at the head coach's/sponsor's discretion.

VIII. Attendance Requirements

- A. Students must be in school the **entire** day in order to participate in any activity that day. Exceptions may be made in the following cases:
 - 1. Medical or dental appointments for which the student has a signed physician's or dentist's statement explaining the absence.
 - 2. Death in the family as determined by Administration on a case-by-case basis.

3. An approved College Day/Military Day.
 - B. If a student is absent the last day of the week, and the activity is on a non-school day, the parent or guardian must give in writing to the coach permission for their son/daughter to participate.
 - C. Excused absences from practices or contests will include: sickness, death in the family, approved pre-arranged trip, or school-sponsored activities (limited to two (2) per sport season), and the other absences deemed unavoidable by the coach (i.e. slick roads). Participants must realize that to be fair to those students attending all games, activities and practices, positions on athletic teams can be affected when missing practices and/or games or activities.
 - D. Unexcused absences from practices or contests will result in disciplinary action by the coach and may lead to removal from the team or activity.
 - E. Any student who is suspended from school will also be suspended from the team for the same period of time or for a longer period of time as determined by the coach and the Administration. Each day of out-of-school suspension is equal to being suspended for one scheduled contest. (High School only). Two (2) nights in the Alternative Classroom (After School Suspension) is equal to being suspended for one (1) scheduled contest.
 - F. Student must be enrolled as a full-time student to be eligible to participate in the athletic program.

IX. **Student/Parent/Supervisor Communication Guidelines**

The School District recognizes that many problems can be solved more efficiently and expeditiously by effective communication through proper channels. To that end, the following procedures will apply.

- A. **Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to address questions or concerns to the coach of the program involved at the mutually agreed upon time. Such contact should not be made before, during or immediately after a game or contest or during the coach's assigned teaching hours.**
- B. **Coaches will listen to the concerns and questions and provide answers and explanations as appropriate.**
- C. **If the student and his/her parents/guardians are not satisfied with the response or explanation of the coach, they may contact the Athletic**

Director, who shall schedule a meeting with them at the mutually convenient time.

D. If the student and his/her parents/guardians are not satisfied with the response or explanation of the Athletic Director, they may contact the Superintendent, who shall schedule a meeting with them at a mutually convenient time.

E. If the student and his/her parents/guardians are not satisfied with the response or explanation of the Superintendent, they may ask to be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Board of Education. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final.

F. No reprisal will be taken against any student because a student or his/her parents/guardians have addressed a question or concern in a manner consistent with this policy.

X. Additions to the Policy

Each activity or group of activities (athletics) may adopt rules in addition to the Athletic Code provided the following criteria are met:

A. The additional rules must not contradict the Athletic Code in spirit or substance.

B. Students and parents/guardians are made aware of the additional rules and have signed an agreement form stating they are aware of the additional code.

C. Approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Bond County Community Unit #2 Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

One of the major objectives of public education is teaching citizenship and responsibility for one's actions. The Board of Education, the community, and staff of Bond County Unit #2 schools believe this to be of primary importance in today's society. Therefore, any student representing BCCU#2 in a public forum is obligated to adhere to the following Code of Conduct with full knowledge of the consequences of their actions which may be detrimental to themselves, their school and their community.

The acceptance of participation in athletic activities involves a commitment by the student to the following code. It is the responsibility of the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Building Principal to inform the parents/guardians and the students of the Athletic Code of Conduct and to enforce the Athletic Code. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the Athletic Code and to adjust behavior accordingly so that it becomes unnecessary to take disciplinary action.

Certain rules will apply to all participants in athletic activities. This Code of Conduct shall be enforced during the school year, 7 days/week, and 24 hours/day. Disciplinary consequences for violations when a student is "out of season" will be levied in the student's next period of participation in any athletic activity. A coach must inform the Athletic Director of the violation and how it is to be handled. Penalties shall be cumulative beginning with and throughout the student's participation in athletic activities while at each attendance center (Bond County Unit #2 Schools.)

I. Level One: Violations

- A. Use, possession, sale or transmittal of a controlled substance.
- B. Use, possession, sale or transmittal of an alcoholic beverage.
- C. Conduct that violates the District Code of Conduct.

Consequences:

- A. First Offense – Participant will be suspended from athletic activities for a period of one third of the season during the current or next season. Counseling and meeting with the Athletic Director will occur before being reinstated to the team.
- B. Second Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for a period of one (1) rolling calendar year (e.g. November 5 to November 4).

- C. Third Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for the remainder of his/her educational career at BCCU #2.

II. Level Two Violations

- A. Use or possession of any tobacco product.
- B. (Civil) **Criminal** offense not covered in level one violations.

Consequences:

- A. First Offense – Participant will be suspended from each category of athletic activities for a period of one-third of the season during the current or next season.
- B. Second Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for a period of sixty (60) days.
- C. Third Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for a period of one (1) year.
- D. Fourth Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for the remainder of his/her educational career at BCCU #2.

III. Level Three Violations

- A. Attendance at parties where underage drinking of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs are present.

Consequences:

- A. First Offense – Written Warning
- B. Second Offense – Participant will be suspended from each category of athletic activities for a period of one-third of the season during the current or next season.
- C. Third Offense – Participant will be suspended from each category of athletic activities for a period of sixty (60) days.
- D. Fourth Offense – Participant will be suspended from all athletic activities for a period of one (1) year at Bond County Unit #2 schools.

IV. Level Four Violations: Unacceptable Behavior

Disciplinary action may include suspension or removal from contests. Some examples of unacceptable behavior are: misconduct at school, practice, contest, or community activity; continued violation of school rules; gross disrespect, confrontation with a school official, director, participant from another school, game/contest official or law enforcement officer.

Consequences:

- A. First Offense – Punishment will be determined by the coach with notification given to the Principal or Athletic Director.
- B. Continual Offenses – Coach, Athletic Director, Building Principal, parent or guardian, and student will meet to develop plan to correct problems. Suspensions and removal from activity can be possible if violations continue.

V. Notification

A student will be advised of the charges against him/her and be given the opportunity to respond to the charges. The students and his/her parents or guardians will be advised by the Administration of any disciplinary action taken as a result of the charges.

VI. Student Requirements

- A. Current Physical Exam: Each athlete must have a current physical exam form from his/her doctor indicating that they are physically fit to participate in sports. A copy of this exam must be on file BEFORE the student may practice or compete in a sport. All physical exams are good for one calendar year. Once a year, BCCU #2 offers athletic physicals at a minimal charge. These physicals are offered each summer with the proceeds being returned directly to the athletic department.
- B. Insurance Coverage: All sports contain an element of danger. An athlete must have insurance coverage through the school insurance or parent or guardian insurance plan. Proof of coverage must be on file at the school BEFORE the student may practice or compete in a sport.
- C. (Parent participation) Athletic Notification and Sign Off sheet is signed and returned to the Athletic Director or coach.

VII. Eligibility for Participation

- A. The by-laws of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) are hereby adopted by the Board of Education. These shall apply in all cases of academic eligibility, transfer, physical examination, insurance coverage, starting dates, and the use of school equipment, unless superseded by District policy.

VIII. General Requirements

- A. No athletic participants may quit one sport and turn out for another during the same sport season after the first practice date.
- B. No jewelry may be worn during practices or games.
- C. An athlete may participate in only one sport per season.

IX. Lettering (High School)

Letters are awarded based on the qualifications listed for each sport plus good citizenship on the part of the athlete. An athlete must complete the season as an active member of the team to receive his/her letter. Any previous letterman, in any sport, who is injured during the season and cannot participate the required time, will still receive a letter. All letters to be awarded must be approved by the Athletic Director.

Baseball – A player must have participated in one-third of the total innings played by the team in at least five games. The letter requirements may be waived on the coach's recommendation if a pitcher plays that position only.

Basketball – A player must have participated in one-third of the total quarters played by the team.

Cheerleaders – Varsity cheerleader for season.

Football – A player must have participated in one-third of the total quarters played by the team.

Golf – Letters will be awarded on a point basis. The total number of points will be determined by the number of matches the team plays. For example, if ten matches are played, it will require ten points for a letter. A player earns one point each day he/she plays and one additional point if his/her score is used in the team total. Tournaments count as regular scheduled matches.

Softball – A player must have participated in one-third of the total innings played by the team in at least five games. The letter requirements may be waived on the coach's recommendation if a pitcher plays that position only.

Tennis – Letters will be awarded on a point basis. The total number of points will be determined by the number of matches the team plays. For example, if ten matches are played, it will require ten points for a letter. A player earns one point each day he/she plays, two points if he/she wins in either singles or doubles. Tournaments count as regular season matches.

Track – A player must score a minimum of 15 points in a varsity meet.

Volleyball – A player must have participated in one-third of the total varsity games played.

Soccer – A player must have participated in one-third of the total varsity games played.

Managers – Must have managed two (2) years in the same sport to earn a letter.

Numerals – For freshmen non-letter winners.

JV Awards – Team members not earning a letter or numerals from a varsity team.

An athlete may earn a letter if he/she: participates in the same sport for a period of four (4) years and does not meet any of the requirements for a letter winner.