



BRAZOS ISD
Athletic Handbook
2016-17

Ned Barrier Athletic Director

(979) 478-6025 Work

Brazos High School 979 478-6000

Ned Barrier Athletic Director / Head Football

Deena Kolafa Girls Athletic Coordinator / Head Tennis / Assistant Volleyball

Shannon Medina Athletic Trainer (832) 528-3837

Brad Norris Assistant Football / BMS Basketball / Assistant Baseball

Cathy Egger MS Girls Athletic Coordinator / MS Volleyball / MS Basketball / MS Track

Corey Cook Assistant Football / Basketball / Track

Denise Minks MS Volleyball / MS Basketball / Head Softball

Derek Lewis BMS Football, Basketball, Track

Denyse Fernandez Head Volleyball / Head Girls Track

Diane Garner MS Girls Athletic Coordinator / MS Volleyball / MS Basketball / MS Track

Eric Steussel Cross Country / Track

Jacob Smith Football (Offensive Coordinator) / Golf / Powerlifting

Jon Waldrop Football (Defensive Coordinator) / Head Boys Track / Head Boys Basketball

Kevin O'Rourke MS Football / Head Girls Basketball / MS Track

Michael Pyeatt Head Baseball / BMS Football

Schuyler Weishuhn Assistant Volleyball / Assistant Girls Basketball / Assistant Softball

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Brazos Independent School District

Vision

Every student is encouraged, supported, and challenged to achieve the highest levels of knowledge, skills, and character.

Philosophy

We believe that an exemplary athletic program is an extension of the classroom. As such, athletics offers students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The positive benefits that participation in athletics offers include, but are not limited to self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and the development of team spirit. Further, participants learn the values associated with competition and benefit from the experience of both winning and losing. For the participating athlete, these experiences provide an integral part of the foundation needed to be a productive citizen capable of leading a full and enriching life.

II. BOARD POLICY FOR ATHLETICS

UIL ACTIVITIES

State Board and UIL rules shall govern interscholastic activities; however, Board policies and District rules may supplement State Board and UIL rules.

No event shall be scheduled and no student allowed to participate in any UIL event unless all pertinent rules and regulations are strictly enforced. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain all necessary records and reports. Sponsors and coaches are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with rules for eligibility and participation.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

A well-rounded program of interscholastic athletics shall be maintained in the District secondary schools. The operation of the total program, including the starting and ending dates for each sport, shall be in accordance with regulations set by the UIL and the Board.

Supervision of the program shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, but certain responsibilities may be delegated to other staff members. In each school, the principal shall have direct responsibility to maintain the athletic program as an integral part of the educational program of that school.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The coaching staff of the district shall be under the supervision of the athletic director, building principal, and Superintendent in that order. Coaches, being recognized leaders of boys and girls, will cooperate with the school officials with all problems for the benefit of the school program.

Each student who chooses to participate in an interscholastic athletic program shall be required to present to the principle or designee a certificate of consent to participate signed by the student's parent(s) or guardian.

III. INTRODUCTION

The athletic program is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to all students who have potential skill and the desire to participate.

The policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide for successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the athletic program. This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing Brazos athletic teams and shall be used by all principals, coaches, and players in grades 7 through 12.

IV. PARTICIPATION

You, the student athlete, are accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook and for any additional ones that your respective coaches might add.

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required.

It is also to be stressed that participation in Brazos ISD's athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with Brazos ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.

V. AVAILABLE SPORTS

The following sports are available for High School Athletes grades 9 through 12:

Football

Volleyball

Cross Country

Basketball

Baseball

Softball

Track & Field

Tennis

Golf

The following sports are available for Middle School Athletes grades 7 and 8:

Football: Boys

Volleyball: Girls

Cross Country: Boys and Girls

Basketball: Boys and Girls

Track & Field: Boys and Girls

Tennis: Boys and Girls

VI. GENERAL POLICIES: RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ATHLETE

All athletes have the responsibility to give their best, play to win, follow training guidelines, and exhibit good conduct and fair play at all times so as to be a credit to their school. Athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display. We are judged by the company we keep. Our actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program and our school.

A. During competition, an athlete:

1. Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and learns to accept both. Be modest in victory; be gracious in defeat.
2. Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.
3. Have complete control of him-self / her-self at all times. Horse play, display of temper, use of profanity, and disrespect for coaches or officials will result in loss of respect for the athlete and in disciplinary action from the coach.
4. Will respect the decisions of officials. The breaks of the game may go against you, but the officiating is not to blame. Officials are human beings who are doing their best to see that a contest is being run smoothly and honestly and also being conducted in accordance with the established rules.

B. In the classroom, an athlete:

1. Must realize that he/she is a student first, an athlete second. The student-athlete must give time and energy to classroom studies to ensure good and acceptable grades that meet the UIL requirements for participation.
2. Must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving respectful attention to classroom activities and by treating teachers, administrators and fellow students with respect. Tardiness, horse play, and unnecessary talking are unacceptable behavior habits that, if uncorrected by the student athlete, may result in suspension from the athletic program.
3. School attendance is a high priority for our student/athletes to be successful academically. Athletes are expected to have a high attendance rate for all classes. Low attendance rate by an

athlete can be used as a reason for limiting an athlete on competing in an athletic competition or even dismissal from the athletic program.

C. On campus, an athlete:

1. Must maintain proper dress and appearance, good grooming, and personal cleanliness. You are a leader and you have only one chance to make a good first impression.

A. Male athletes will refrain from wearing earrings of any kind.

B. All dress, hair, makeup and clothing shall be clean, neat, and well-groomed. It shall not be excessive, exceptional, or designed to draw attention to the individual. Sweatbands shall not be worn. Facial hair will not be permitted.

C. Hair must be off the collar, at the top of the ears, and out of the eyes.

2. Will refrain from fighting, scuffling, horse play and juvenile behavior in and around the school building.

3. If suspended from school will not be permitted to work out with, travel with, or participate with the team.

Eligibility for subsequent contests will be left to the discretion of the coach and/or administration.

D. During the athletic period and practices before and after school, an athlete will:

1. Notify the coach if he/she needs to miss a game or practice session that is scheduled after school hours. Absences from athletic period practices should be handled according to school guidelines. Any absence should be made up before an athlete participates in the first quarter of a contest.

2. All athletes must be prompt for roll call. Tardiness to our class period is as inexcusable as it is to any other class.

3. Maintain neat and clean locker space. Be proud of your dressing area and keep it neat.

4. Take a shower for hygiene purposes and for aiding the body in its temperature adjustment after workout. Rough housing, towel popping, or throwing objects is not allowed in the shower or the dressing room.

5. Dress decently as he/she leaves the dressing room. You will not be allowed to wear practice clothes home. Wear your own clothes home.

E. During team travel, an athlete will:

1. Travel to and from all out-of-town contests with the team. If, for some reason, you need to ride home with your parents, you must clear this with the coach before leaving for the contest, and you must give a written release from one of your parents to the coach. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than your parents, or a person designated by your family.
2. Dress neatly and properly on all trips. Coaches will advise you regarding the proper attire.
3. Conduct him-self / her-self properly on the school bus or in any school vehicle.
4. Receive permission from the coach before bringing any radios, electronic games, etc., aboard the bus.
5. Be informed of departure and return times for each trip by a notice posted on the bulletin board or whiteboard. It is your responsibility to be on time for all departures and to inform your parents of the time to pick you up after the contest. Every effort will be made by the coaching staff to notify proper personnel as to unexpected changes in arrival time.
6. Not be allowed to bring parents, family members or friends on bus trips. Only coaches, managers, and athletes are permitted to ride on the school bus.
7. Dress for all home contests according to the school and team dress policies. Your appearance before and after home games is as important as it is on out-of-town trips.

F. Club Participation:

An athlete in-season for any BISD sport shall not participate in club competition at the same time, without the BISD Head Coach's approval.

VII. ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility:

A student in grades 7-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses indicated.

1. At the beginning of the 7th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 6th to 7th grade.
2. At the beginning of the 8th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 7th to 8th grade.
3. At the beginning of the 9th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 8th to 9th grade.
4. At the beginning of the 10th grade year, the student must have at least five credits towards graduation.
5. At the beginning of the 11th grade year, the student must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or have passed five credits during the previous 12 months.
6. At the beginning of the 12th grade year, the students must have at least 15 credits toward graduation or have passed five credits during the previous 12 months. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity event for a six week period following the initial six weeks period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for that preceding six weeks period. A student whose recorded six weeks grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a six week period shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity event during the succeeding three weeks period.

Regulations:

Each August there is a required UIL in-service for all coaches. Each coach is given a UIL Constitution and Contest Rules book that addresses each sport's regulations and eligibility. Practice regulations and eligibility are governed by that book.

VIII. OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

Students involved in UIL competition above the UIL-district level that requires an overnight trip shall have their expenses paid by the District in accordance to Board Policy.

Any overnight trip that is not above the UIL-district level must be approved by the Athletic Director, building Principal, and Superintendent.

Student Conduct:

Students will be required to comply with District rules and regulations regarding discipline and conduct while on a trip. This includes the BISD Student Code of Conduct as well as Section V of the BISD Student Athletic Handbook. Coaches are encouraged to communicate these requirements along with any additional rules or regulations to their athletes and parents through meetings and/or other venues. When there is overnight travel involved, it is recommended that a minimum of two coaches attend. If the students are both male and female, then every attempt should be made to make sure there is a male and female coach attending the trip. If a coach is not available, then the athletic director and coach will recruit a BISD employee to attend the overnight trip with the coach.

During team travel including overnight travel, an athlete will travel to and from all out-of-town contests with the team. If, for some reason, a student needs to ride home with his/her parents, the student must clear this with the coach prior to leaving for the contest, and provide a written release from a parent to the coach.

Contact Information:

The coach is responsible for providing an itinerary that is to be given to parents, athletic director and principal prior to going on the overnight trip. The itinerary should include the time of departure and estimated expenses and time of return, lodging information and whom to contact in case of an emergency.

IX. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

In School Suspension (ISS) Procedures

An Athlete that is assigned ISS will be permitted to practice, but will not be allowed to participate in a school contest if the ISS assignment is on the day of the competition. The athlete will become eligible for competition on the day after the final day of the ISS assignment.

Suspension from Athletics:

Each coach will have the authority, with the concurrence of the Athletic Director, to suspend or place on probation for an extended period of time, any student-athlete for major or minor infractions of rules for that team. Any student suspended from athletics must be given:

1. The reason(s) for the suspension.
2. The time and provisions of the suspension.
3. The procedures for reentering the program.
4. Information on class schedule change or options, and
5. The opportunity to appeal.

Appeal:

The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend a student, expel a student, or place a student on probation from the athletic program.

Appeal Process:

1. Personal visit with the coach and the Athletic Director.
2. Personal visit with the Athletic Director.
3. Personal visit with the Principal.
4. Personal visit with the Superintendent.

An appeal by the student and/or parent of suspension, expulsion, or probation from athletics shall be considered by the appropriate school personnel, not on the basis of individual judgement(s), but on the basis of:

1. Variation from printed policy, administrative procedures, regulations, or rules and standards for membership, and participation in athletics;

2. Failure to establish reasonable documentation that the student's conduct/behavior has violated the standards for suspension or expulsion from athletics;
3. Failure to give the student/parent due process (notice of the facts being alleged) about the conduct/ behavior and opportunity to refute the charges.

X. DROPPING A SPORT

There will be times when some athletes find it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. Whatever the reason, an athlete must follow the steps listed below:

1. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
2. The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete, and coach, or any combination thereof, may be required, and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.
3. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class.
4. All equipment must be turned in clean. The athlete must pay for any equipment not returned prior to returning to competition status.
5. If an athlete wants to return to a sport, he/she should consult the appropriate coach. The decision as to whether the athlete will be allowed to return to that sport shall be the decision of the individual coach and the athletic director.
6. If the athlete decides to quit one sport and join another, the athlete must receive permission from the coach of the sport he/she is leaving in order to join the other sport. If the coach does not give permission, the athlete must wait until the first sport has completed its season before joining the new sport.

XI. AWARDS AND LETTERING

Awards to District students shall be made at all District schools in compliance with UIL regulations.

LETTERING

The Following provisions for letter jackets shall apply:

ATHLETIC LETTER JACKET

An Athletic Letter Jacket shall not be issued prior to a student's junior year even if the student qualifies before the junior year.

Criteria for a major award shall require that a student has:

1. Been on the varsity team a majority of the season and participated in the sport all season.
2. Completed two years at the District high school.
3. Been recommended by the head coach of the sport.

EXCEPTIONS

A committee chaired by the high school principal including the athletic director, band director, and two literary sponsors may make exceptions to required criteria for students who move out of the District.

Minutes of the committee actions shall be filed in the office of the high school principal.

XII. ATHLETIC PASSES

It shall be the policy of the Brazos ISD Athletic program to issue Player Passes to those athletes participating in each sport which requires an admission charge. The following stipulations shall apply to the passes:

1. Only the player whose name appears on the pass may use it. Free admission is allowed only when the pass is presented. Without the pass, the athlete must pay the standard student admission charge.
2. Identification may be required.
3. Use of the pass may be revoked if an unauthorized person uses the pass or the holder of the pass displays unsportsmanlike conduct at any contest.
4. Passes will be issued to admit athletes to Brazos ISD home athletic events only.
5. If any athlete drops from a sport, the coach of that athlete must take up the player pass as a part of the issued equipment.

XIII. PROCEDURES WHEN ILL OR INJURED

Your health is of concern to every member of your team. In the event you feel ill and your condition does not improve within two days, see a doctor as soon as possible and inform your Athletic Trainer. An injury that could possibly hamper your ability to participate must be reported to the Athletic Trainer as soon as possible. Specific instructions regarding treatment by the Athletic Trainer will be given to you at the start of your season. If the Athletic Trainer sends you to the doctor, be sure that you bring back WRITTEN instructions from the doctor as to your care. If you feel that you need to see the doctor about an injury, make sure that you check with the Athletic Trainer since they have been licensed to provide proper care for you and may be able to provide you with information regarding your injury and the type of doctor you should see. Going to the doctor for an athletic injury without informing the Athletic Trainer is discouraged. Parent notes will not be accepted as a reason to miss practice. If an athlete is too ill or injured to practice then he/she must report to the Athletic Trainer or bring a written note from the doctor specifying the illness/injury and the number of days the athlete is to miss.

Whenever you are injured or have an illness of a minor nature, you may be required to dress out (but not participate) and stay with your group during the workout. You learn from each practice session, whether you are actually working out or simply observing. Following an injury, the athlete should immediately report it to the Athletic Trainer in attendance. Even minor injuries can become serious; therefore, all injuries should be reported to the Athletic Trainer so that they may be checked and evaluated. When injured or when considered injured, each athlete is required to receive treatment every day until released by the Athletic Trainer. Athletic periods will not be used for treatments of injuries or for the evaluation of injuries except under special circumstances. Treatment periods are before school, after school, or as designated by the Athletic Trainer. If an injury should become more serious while the athlete is away from school, the athlete, or his/her parents should call the Athletic Trainer, and/or get in touch with their family physician.

When the services of a physician are obtained, the athlete must bring a note with written instructions from the physician describing the athlete's condition, or injury, and recommendation for activity. This may be done by obtaining a form from the Athletic Trainer. If athletes desire to talk to the Athletic Trainer for any reason, they are welcomed and encouraged to do so. A time should be arranged that will not interfere with the work schedule listed above. Cooperation with these policies will ensure that each athlete has the same opportunity to compete with the least chance for re-injury.

XIV. ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM RULES

1. Cleats, spikes, pads and other equipment are not permitted in the athletic training room.
2. After practice, shower and dry off before coming into the athletic training room.
3. Do not dress, undress, or change clothes in the athletic training room.
4. All athletes must be clothed in gym shorts and t-shirts for treatment.
5. The athletic training room is not a “lounge”.
6. ASK!! Nothing is to be taken without permission.
7. Horse play and foul language will not be tolerated.
8. Drinks, food and gum are not permitted in the athletic training room.
9. Help keep the athletic training room clean.
10. Return all wraps, braces and pads.
11. Shoes, books, purses, coats and other items are to be placed outside by the door.
12. Any other rules will be determined by each campus Athletic Trainer.

XVII. RESOURCES

Please contact the appropriate district/school personnel when questions and concerns arise regarding athletics.

Listed below are athletic personnel and their area of responsibility:

Ned Barrier Athletic Director

(979) 478-6025 Work

Brazos High School 979 478-6000

Ned Barrier	Athletic Director / Head Football
Deena Kolafa	Girls Athletic Coordinator / Head Tennis / Assistant Volleyball
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Brazos Independent School District
P.O. Box 819
Wallis, Texas 77485
(979) 478-6025
www.brazosisd.net

2016-17 Brazos ISD

Student Athlete Behavior Contract

Athlete's Name: _____

As student athletes, you are bound by a stricter moral and behavioral code than non-student-athletes. As such, you will be responsible for conducting yourself in a manner above and beyond non student-athletes. If you choose to accept this responsibility, you and your guardian must sign this contract, and in doing so, you agree to abide by the consequences set forth below:

Every member of the Brazos Athletic Program has a duty to represent himself/herself, the team and the school in the best manner possible. This applies to your behavior both in school and out of school. You are expected to avoid situations where you might be accused of wrong-doing. Being in the "wrong place at the wrong time" is not an excuse if you chose to be there in the first place.

In-school discipline problems resulting in ISS, Saturday School or Suspension may result in dismissal from the athletic program. The following violations may also result in suspension or dismissal from the Brazos Athletic Program:

1. Using illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time.
2. Allowing yourself to be in a situation, in school or away from school, where you are accused of/arrested for an illegal activity.
3. Missing practice (unless excused by the Coach).
4. Skipping class or school.
5. Poor sportsmanship
6. Harassment (verbal/physical/sexual/etc...) of another student or team member.
7. Any act (either in school or away from school) which in the opinion of the coaching and/or school administration, reflects in a negative manner on the Brazos Athletic Program.
8. Electronic communication (text, Facebook, Twitter, etc...) should be positive and should never negatively reflect on other teammates or coaching staff. If it is not positive don't post it.

By signing below, you affirm that you have read this and fully understand the rules set forth by this Contract. You are also stating that you understand that violations of the Brazos Athletic Program behavior policies could result in your being dismissed from the athletic program.

Player's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____