

## **Bishop England High School Athletic Handbook** **2017-2018 School Year**

Participation in athletics at Bishop England High School is a privilege offered to students that must be earned and maintained. Any student that engages in behavior that is judged by the administration to be detrimental to the reputation of Bishop England High School may be dismissed from the athletic program. The Bishop England High School Athletic Handbook cannot possibly cover every situation that may arise in our athletic department. The Athletic Handbook, along with the Bishop England Parent/Student Handbook, addresses the majority of issues that take place in athletics. In the event that guidance is not offered in the handbooks, the Bishop England High School Administration will dictate policy and procedure.

### **Membership**

Bishop England High School is a member of the South Carolina High School League. We adhere, at a minimum, to the policies and regulations set forth by SCHSL. The SCHSL handbook is available online at [www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org)

### **Athletic Teams Available At Bishop England High School:**

#### **Fall**

- Varsity Football/Junior Varsity Football
- Varsity Volleyball /Junior Varsity Volleyball
- Varsity Cross Country
- Varsity Tennis (Girls) /Junior Varsity Tennis (Girls)
- Varsity Swimming
- Varsity Golf (Girls)
- Pom Squad
- \*Varsity Cheerleading

\*Cheerleaders make a two-season commitment when they become members of the cheerleading team. They are expected to cheer at football and basketball games.

#### **Winter**

- Varsity Basketball (Boys & Girls)/Junior Varsity Basketball (Boys & Girls)
- Varsity Wrestling /Junior Varsity Wrestling
- Varsity Cheerleading

#### **Spring**

- Varsity Baseball /Junior Varsity Baseball
- Varsity Softball /Junior Varsity Softball
- Varsity Golf (Boys)
- Varsity Tennis (Boys)

- Varsity Soccer (Boys & Girls)/Junior Varsity Soccer (Boys & Girls)
- Varsity Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)
- Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

## **Absences**

1. A student-athlete who is absent from school will not be permitted to participate in athletic activities that day unless approved in advance by the Principal.
2. A student-athlete must be present for a minimum of four (4) academic periods in order to participate in that day's athletic activities.
3. Any student-athlete who leaves school due to illness may not return for any athletic activities that day.
4. Student-athletes missing classes due to athletics are responsible for all missed assignments.
5. Late games are not an excuse to arrive late for school the next day.

## **Attire**

1. Bishop England High School student-athletes will follow the dress codes and grooming policies established by Bishop England High School.
2. Student-athletes will not be permitted to be in team pictures if not appropriately groomed.
3. At no time are athletes permitted to practice or play without shirts.
4. Female athletes must wear shirts over their sports bras at all times.
5. The athletic director and school administration must approve all outerwear options if that outerwear is to be worn during school hours. BEHS sports apparel approved by the administration may be worn during school hours only by students in good standing with that team or organization.

## **Sportsmanship**

1. All athletes, coaches, parents, students and fans will be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times according to the guidelines established by the SCHSL athletic committee and the Bishop England High School Handbook.
2. Violations of the SCHSL Policy by coaches or student-athletes may result in fines, suspensions, or both.
3. If a coach or a student is ejected from a contest and the school is fined, the coach or the student will be responsible for paying the fine.
4. Any student or coach ejected from a game must meet with the Athletic Director before resuming participation. Serious infractions of policy/conduct may result in termination.
5. If a student is ejected from an athletic contest for poor sportsmanship twice in a season, that student may be dropped from the team for the remainder of the season.
6. Fans that are disruptive or disrespectful will be escorted from the premises and may also be banned from attending future contests.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

**Daily updates and general information** will be posted on the Bishop England High School website ([www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com)). Check it often to keep informed.

**Directions to opposing schools** may be found on the Bishop England High School website: ([www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com)).

### **Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for interscholastic activities, a student must be a resident of Charleston County or Daniel Island Proper, or be a newly enrolled student graduating from a Catholic partner school. Any student who does not meet these requirements must contact the Athletic Director. Additionally, a student must meet all South Carolina High School League academic requirements, including the following:

1. To be eligible in the first semester a student must have passed a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school. He or she must also have achieved an overall average of 70 and have passed at least five academic courses.
2. To be eligible during the second semester, a student must meet one of the following conditions:
  - a. If the student met first semester eligibility requirements then he or she must pass the equivalent of four ½ units during the first semester.
  - b. If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements, then he or she must pass the equivalent of five ½ units during the first semester.
3. Basketball players and wrestlers may complete their seasons even if they do not meet second semester requirements.
4. Once a student enters the ninth grade, he or she is eligible to participate in athletics only for the next four years, whether that student participates or not.

### **Discipline**

1. Each coach establishes rules and guidelines that govern his/her athletes and are approved by the Athletic Director and Principal. These guidelines are distributed to all players at the beginning of the season. These guidelines must be signed by both player and parent/guardian, indicating acceptance of the coach's stated policies.
2. In accordance with the BEHS guidelines for Disciplinary Probation, any athlete on Disciplinary Probation for the school is also on athletic probation for the duration of the probationary period.
3. Any student who is suspended by the BEHS Administration is ineligible to participate in any athletic activity for the suspension period and may be suspended for an additional 10% of the total number of regular season games (a minimum of one game) of any in-season sport.

## **Additional guidelines for athletics**

1. Athletic participation is restricted to those students currently enrolled at BEHS and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending Catholic partner schools.
2. If a student quits a sport or is dismissed from a team, he or she may not participate in another sport until that season (Fall, Winter, or Spring season) ends. In extenuating circumstances this policy may be waived by the Athletic Director.
3. The school attendance policies also apply to athletic participation.
4. Prior to initial participation in a sport, parents must complete an insurance form, submit a copy of the physical exam, and provide a copy of an original certified birth certificate from a government entity. Every student who wishes to participate on a school team must have a physical exam before beginning practice. Once a student has been cleared for participation, it is not necessary to get an additional exam within the same academic year.
5. Accident insurance for school-sponsored activities is provided for all students. Once during an academic year, athletes (including cheerleaders) are required to pay \$5.00 for catastrophic insurance. This coverage, mandated by the South Carolina High School League, does not serve in place of medical coverage, and carries a deductible of \$10,000 with coverage up to \$5,000,000.
6. Initiations, Hazing, Bullying, Harassing, etc. are NEVER permitted at Bishop England High School. Violations of this policy may lead to dismissal from teams and further disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Administration of the school.

**Forms** that are needed for athletics may be found on and downloaded from the Bishop England High School website: ([www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com)).

## **Injuries**

1. All injuries should be reported to the onsite certified athletic trainer.
2. Ability to participate after an injury will be determined by Bishop England High School's certified athletic trainer. Only written notification from a physician of the family's choosing can override this decision.
3. All students are covered by the Gerber Life Insurance Company as administered by Administrative Concepts, Inc. This plan of insurance is secondary to other health insurance. Insurance coverage is provided for injuries incurred during the hours and days when school is in session and while attending or participating in school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. Please see information at [www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com).

## **Physicals**

All student-athletes are required to have a completed physical examination and parent permission form on file with the athletic trainer. These forms can be downloaded from our school website at [www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com).

## **Practice Guidelines**

1. Start dates for all sports can be found on the SCHSL website at [www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org). Please refer to the Bishop England High School website ([www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com)) for individual team start dates, which may differ from SCHSL start dates.

2. During Holy Week, all practices, games, and scrimmages must end at 5pm on Holy Thursday. There will be no practices, games, or scrimmages on Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday.
3. Student-athletes participating with a team whose season is still in progress may not practice with the next season's team until the current season has officially ended. In extenuating circumstances this policy may be waived by the Athletic Director.

### **Procedure for Handling a Difficulty with a Coach**

Should a student or a parent be experiencing a difficulty with or have a complaint about a coach or a particular sport, the following steps should be followed in an effort to resolve the issue:

1. The student should speak directly with the coach about the difficulty.
2. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the parent should speak directly to the coach about the difficulty.
3. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student and/or the parent should request a meeting with the Athletic Director and the coach together.
4. The Athletic Director will facilitate that meeting in order to bring about a satisfactory resolution to the difficulty with all parties present.

### **Registered Students**

Only those students who are fully registered at Bishop England High School and meet SCHSL league guidelines are permitted to work out with Bishop England High School teams when school is not in session.

### **Special Notes**

1. Bishop England High School student-athletes can participate in one sport per season. In extenuating circumstances this policy may be waived by the Athletic Director.
2. In-season sports at Bishop England High School take precedence over all other sports that our student-athletes may be participating in.
4. Due to the overlap between sport seasons, it is virtually impossible to have all student-athletes available at the official start dates. Because of this, tryouts cannot be held with all potential team members present. Student-athletes will be afforded the opportunity to try out for sports teams when their current season concludes. Be advised that there is a possibility that a student-athlete may participate in a sport for several weeks before the final team is chosen.
5. Student-athletes are not permitted to communicate outside practice and game times with the coaching staff via cell phone, home phone, e-mail, text messaging or instant messaging. All communications outside practices and game times will be communicated through parents.

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

The athletic department fully endorses Bishop England High School's alcohol and drug policy. Violation of the school policy may result in athletic disciplinary action or loss of athletic eligibility.

## **Transportation**

1. All student-athletes are required to have on file with the athletic department the transportation waiver that may be downloaded from our website ([www.behs.com](http://www.behs.com)).
2. When a team travels to a sporting event on a bus, it is recommended that the student athletes also return on the bus.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

Student-athletes will be held financially responsible for any uniforms or equipment not returned to the school. Bishop England High School will hold grade reports and transcripts until all athletic equipment is turned in or until invoiced payment has been made in full.