



BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

BRYANT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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FORWARD

This material is presented to your son or daughter because he/she has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal growth.

We who are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through athletics feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the student's needs for self-expression, mental awareness, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct may mean exclusion from the squad. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility, and discipline. There is no place in school athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for vigorous competition. We are striving for excellence, and do not want our athletes to compromise with mediocrity.

When your son/daughter joined in one of our sports programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations. We will:

- (1) provide adequate equipment and facilities
- (2) provide equalized contests with skilled officials
- (3) provide equalized contests with skilled coaches
- (4) provide transportation adequately supervised
- (5) provide supplemental insurance coverage during team practice and competition

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We are taking this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics.

It is the role of the Department of Athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the community. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which are achieved only through communication with the parent.

ATHLETIC GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Our Goal—The student athlete shall become a positive influence in our society, not just a good athlete.

Our Specific Objectives

The student athlete shall learn teamwork. To work with others in a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. It is important to place the team's goals and objectives above personal desires.

1. To be successful. Our society is very competitive. We will not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. We can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. We will develop a desire to excel.
2. Sportsmanship. We will accept success and defeat like a true athlete, knowing we have done our best. We will treat others, as we would have others treat us. We will develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
3. To improve. Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, we must set goals and we must constantly try to reach those goals. We will try to better ourselves in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
4. Enjoy athletics. It is necessary for us to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics, and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

5. To develop desirable personal health habits. To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Responsibilities to Yourself

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and to develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences, your studies and your participation in other extracurricular activities.

Responsibilities to your School

Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Bryant cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you participate. By performing in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You're on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body and citizens of other communities judge our school by your leadership, conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to your school by your faithful exemplification of these objectives.

Responsibilities to Others

As a squad member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game "all out," you can keep your self-respect and your family can be proud of you.

The younger students in the Bryant Schools are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Remember that as an athlete you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following items have been completed.

1. Physical examination completed and cards on file in coach's office.
2. Maintain a 2.0 grade point average for the term prior to the sporting event.
3. The athlete must have on file a consent form signed by the parent for the drug test.
4. The athlete must have on file a form signed by the legal parent that the parents and the athlete have read the handbook and will abide by it.

CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE

An athlete is a student first. Therefore all athletes will follow all rules and regulations found in the student handbook. The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

ON THE FIELD: in the area of athletic competition, a real athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics, and learns fast that losing is part of the game. You should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

IN THE CLASSROOM. A good athlete is a good student. A person cannot be a classroom laggard and think he/she can be an outstanding athlete. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field or floor and will never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to insure acceptable grades.

In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not approved habits of behavior. A healthy athlete should have a good attendance record. Never cut classes or school.

ON THE CAMPUS. The way we act and look on campus is of great importance. Athletes should accept the responsibilities that come with being a leader. *All student handbook policies will be adhered to. Any discipline problem will be dealt with in accordance with the student handbook.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR TRYOUTS

Due to a limited number of uniforms it is necessary for students to try out for an athletic team before the student's schedule reflects an athletic period. A student must meet the following requirements before the student is allowed to try out for an athletic team:

1. Physical examination completed and cards on file in coach's office.
2. Maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average for the semester prior to the sporting event.
3. The athlete must have on file a consent form signed by the parent for the drug test.
4. The athlete must have on file a form signed by the legal parent that the parents and the athlete have read the handbook and will abide by it.
5. Student's behavior record will be evaluated and can eliminate an Athlete from the tryout activity.

A tryout does not guarantee an athlete a position on the team. The coaches of a particular sport conduct tryouts. The athlete trying out is evaluated on criteria set for the particular fundamentals of each sport. Athletes who are selected to an Athletic team are not guaranteed playing or performance time pertaining to interscholastic competition.

BRYANT ATHLETIC TEAM(S) TRYOUT POLICY

The Bryant Athletic Program will utilize "closed" tryouts during the selection of student athletes for participation in sports activities. Parents/supporters of tryout participants will not be permitted to view the tryouts in order to facilitate an impartial and objective assessment by the coaches/judges of a student's individual abilities and skills. The Head Coach is responsible for selection of team members.

GROOMING AND DRESS POLICY

A member of an athletic team is expected to be well groomed. *"He shows up best who shows off least."* Appearance, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made a choice to uphold certain STANDARDS expected of athletes in this community.

In order to further good sportsmanship; maintain good health habits; demonstrate respect for rules and authority; establish leadership, team pride and discipline; eliminate disruptive influences and disturbances in the classrooms, on the practice fields and gymnasiums or on trips, the following grooming and dress rules are suggested to team members:

- 1. Shower after each workout, using soap.**
- 2. Keep finger and toenails cut short. Keep all personal and athletic clothing clean.**
- 3. Rest is important. Attempt to get adequate rest before practice and games.**

An athlete must do all the above to expect the very best. Students have to decide if they want to be athletes. If you do wish to be an athlete “you have to pay the price” in order to be a competitor. A big part of this price is following a simple set of training rules, which the Department of Athletics believes to be appropriate and fair.

ATHLETIC DEAD WEEKS

The AAA has designated weeks 51 and 52 as a dead period where coaches and athletes may not have contact. The gyms/field house will be closed and locked during this two-week period.

SUPPLEMENTAL ATHLETIC INSURANCE COVERAGE

Bryant School District affords student athletes "supplemental" Insurance coverage for team practice and interscholastic competition times. Protocol regarding contact information, forms, etc. may be found on the Bryant Athletic website; www.bryantathletics.com under (LINKS). The "school representative" signature may be obtained from the Head Coach, Athletic Director or building Principal. Amount covered through the supplemental coverage will result by collaboration between family "Primary" Insurance carrier and the "Supplemental" Insurance carrier.

DRUG POLICY

Sale or Distribution of Legal or Illegal Drugs, Alcohol and/or Look-Alike Drugs; Purchase, Use, Possession, or Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol, Narcotics, Hallucinogens, and/or Illegal drugs:

Any student who sells or distributes drugs (legal or illegal), look-alike drugs (items represented as controlled substances), or alcoholic beverages at school or at any school-sponsored activity on or off campus will be disciplined under the "Management for Discipline Problems" section of the Secondary Student Handbook.

Purchase, Use, Possession of Rolling Paper, Roach Clips, Pipes, or Any Other Drug Paraphernalia: Under the Influence of Look-Alike Drugs.

Any student, who uses, possesses, purchases, or is under the influence of illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, alcohol, or hallucinates at school or at school sponsored activity on or off campus will be disciplined under the "Management for Discipline Problems" section of the Secondary Student Handbook.

*The law enforcement agency will be notified of any criminal activity with full cooperation from school officials.

Any athlete in possession of or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol away from school could be suspended from athletic. This will be at the coach's discretion.

1. Under the influence of a chemical substance is defined as being controlled by or affected by introducing a chemical substance, which causes a student to be visually exhibiting physical manifestations, abnormal physical behavior, diminished motor skills, etc. Elevated blood pressure, erratic heart rate, slow pupil reaction may be evaluated by a licensed medical professional.
2. Possession is defined as any chemical substance that is on or about your person or personal property.

The law enforcement agency will be notified of any criminal activity with full cooperation of school officials.

DRUG TESTING/CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY

The Bryant School District recognizes that chemical abuse or misuse is significant health problem for students, detrimentally affecting overall health, behavior, learning ability, reflexes, and the total development of each individual. Chemical abuse or misuse includes, but is not limited to, the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and the abuse or misuse of legal drugs and medications.

Purpose of a Chemical Abuse Policy:

1. To allow the student participants involved in all activities representing Bryant schools to know that we are concerned about their total well being. We are not interested in prosecuting the students, but instead we are interested in helping the student who has a problem.
2. To emphasize concerns for the health of students in areas of safety while participating in activities and the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on their health.
3. To confirm and support state laws, which restrain the use of such mood-altering chemicals.
4. To assist students representing Bryant Schools who are abusing or misusing chemical substances.
5. To assist students representing Bryant Schools who desire to resist peer pressure that directs them toward the abuse or misuse of chemical substances.
6. To establish standard of conduct for students representing Bryant Schools who are considered leaders and standard bearers among their peers.
7. To work with the parents to assist in keeping their children free from mood-altering chemicals.
8. To assist students who should be referred for assistance or evaluation regarding their use of mood- altering chemicals.
9. To deter chemical abuse or misuse by all students through the use of random drug testing.

Scope:

The reasonable suspicion provisions of this Policy apply to all students representing Bryant Schools in the 7th grade through 12th grades. The random testing provisions of the Policy apply to all students representing Bryant Schools. Bryant School representatives include all students who represent Bryant Schools during or after the school day. These representatives must obtain a consent form from their custodial parent/legal guardian as a condition of participation.

General Provisions:

1. Illegal Drugs-Illegal drugs are defined as drugs, or the synthetic or generic equivalent or derivative of drugs, which are illegal under federal, state or local laws including, but not limited to, marijuana, heroin, hashish, cocaine, hallucinogens, depressants, and stimulants not prescribed for any other drug- like substance, the use, possession or sale of which is unlawful. Illegal drugs include steroids and its derivatives or related substances, which are not used in a manner prescribed for the student by a physician.
2. Alcohol- is defined as ethyl alcohol or any beverage containing ethyl alcohol.
3. Prescribed Medications-Prescribed medication is defined as any drug or medication prescribed by a physician for uses authorized by the physician.

Reasonable Suspicion Provisions:

1. General -The use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol by a student on property under the control of the District or prior to entering property controlled by the District or at a District-sponsored event where the illegal drug or alcohol has the possibility of impairing the student is a violation of the student handbook rule 5. The presence of an illegal drug or its metabolites or alcohol in a student's body is NOT considered possession.
 - A student in possession, purchasing or buying, or under the influence of a chemical substance will be dealt with according to the management for student discipline section of the student handbook.
 - Under the influence of a chemical substance is defined as being controlled by or affected by a chemical substance, which causes a student to be visually exhibiting physical manifestations, abnormal physical behavior, diminished motor skills, etc. Elevated blood pressure, erratic heart rate, slow pupil reaction, etc., may be evaluated by a licensed medical professional.
2. Reasonable Suspicion - Reasonable Suspicion is defined as a reasonable suspicion by an administrator or other District employee that a student has used, possessed, or sold illegal drugs on District property or has used illegal drugs off a District property but is on District property or at a District-sponsored event while under the influence of the illegal drugs; or that a student has used or possessed alcohol off of District property but is on District property or at a District-sponsored event while under the influence of alcohol; or that a student is abusing or misusing prescription medications on District property; or has misused a prescription medication off District property but is on District property or at a District- sponsored event while under the influence of the prescribed medication.

Examples of reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to:

- Eyewitness evidence by a District official, administrator, or employee;
- Eyewitness evidence of another person plus additional evidence;
- Individualized suspicion possessed by an employee of the District, which is based upon a reasonable suspicion and/or reasonably reliable evidence.

3. Under the influence of a chemical substance is defined as being controlled by or affected by a chemical substance, which causes a student to exhibit physical manifestations, abnormal physical behavior, diminished motor skills, etc. Elevated blood pressure, erratic heart rate, slow pupil reaction, etc. may be evaluated by a licensed medical professional. In the possession of a chemical substance is defined as having any chemical substance on or about your person or personal property.

Random Testing Provisions:

- The use or possession of illegal drugs during school activities or prior to school activities where the illegal drug has the possibility of impairing the participant is a violation of this policy.
- Any student undergoing medical treatment prescribed by a physician that includes the use of any drug or medication capable of affecting the student's mental or physical capabilities must notify the appropriate coach/sponsor. If there is any doubt concerning the effects of the drug or medication, the appropriate coach/sponsor should be notified.
- A student's failure to notify the appropriate coach/sponsor that the student is undergoing medical treatment, which includes the use of any drug or medication capable of affecting the student's mental and physical abilities, is a violation of this policy. The penalty for this violation shall be the same as an initial positive test result under the random testing provisions.

Procedure:

- Type of Testing-Urinalysis is the method utilized to test for the presence of chemicals in the body.
- Selection Process-When students are participating in school activities, including practice and scheduled events, they will be subject to a drug test chosen either by random selection or because of reasonable suspicion (which is defined in section 786.4). The students will supply their coach/sponsor with a student identification number when they become a member of the group. The student identification number will be sent to Arkansas Medical Laboratory representing the group in which the student is a member. The laboratory will generate a random selection of the ID numbers according to the percentage that the school requires for that period of testing. There will be a 5% selection of numbers with a minimum of ten (10) testing sessions. If a student is absent on the day of the test or is unable to provide a specimen it will be his/her responsibility to give a urine sample to the designated location within 48 hours of the original test date. If a student's number has been randomly selected three times during the random selection process, then the next number of the coaches/sponsors list will be asked to give a urine sample.
- Refusal to Submit to Testing-Any participant who refuses to submit to a drug test or participates in the falsification of a submitted specimen shall not be allowed to participate in any school activity for one (1) calendar year. Participation in falsification of information will further result in a three (3) day suspension, per handbook policy listed under "Management for Discipline Problems," #24.
- Use of Positive Tests-Upon receipt of a positive test result, a student may request a retest at his/her expense. The student must request the retest within 24 hours of the receipt of the positive result. The retest must be performed from the original sample by another SAMHSA certified laboratory. If the results are confirmed as positive, the student will be placed on probation for 20 school days. The student will not be allowed to participate until he/she receives a negative test for chemicals.
- If the result of the laboratory retest is positive, the student shall be considered to have had a positive result. IF THE LABORATORY TEST IS NEGATIVE FOR THE SUSPECTED SUBSTANCE OR SUBSTANCES, THE STUDENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE HAD A NEGATIVE RESULT.
 1. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the student and the student's custodial parents/legal guardians.

2. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall schedule a conference with the student's custodial parents/legal guardians to explain the results.
 3. The student must get a drug and alcohol assessment by a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor (which is contracted by the district) within the 20 school day probationary period or the probationary period will be extended until the assessment is completed. The assessment will involve an interview with the student and the parents. During the interview the counselor will look at history of chemical use as well as other signs and symptoms to determine the next step.
 4. The student will be placed on probation for twenty school days. The word probation means that a student is not permitted to practice and is not allowed to represent the school in public competition or performances, travel with the activity group, or to accompany the activity group in any fashion at a public event. After twenty-one school days the student will be tested again at the student's own expense and a written copy of the results will be given to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If this test is negative, probation will be lifted. If the twenty-one day retest is positive, the student will not be allowed to continue in school activities one (1) calendar year. He or she cannot participate in any activity representing the Bryant Schools. To regain eligibility for participation purposes for the next calendar year, a student must have a negative chemical screening test. This must be administered by the doctor's office at the student's expense.
 5. For those students who test positive, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the appropriate coach/sponsor that the student shall be on probation for twenty-one school days. Exception: Steroids or similar chemicals that could take more than twenty school days to leave a student's system. In this case a doctor's written opinion is requested is at the student's expense.
 6. This policy is for all students representing Bryant Schools entering into 7th-12th grade.
- Analysis of Urine Specimens- All testing of urine specimen will be done in compliance with applicable current federal guidelines as written by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health Services. All testing will be performed at a SAMHSA certified laboratory. Testing will include immunoassay screening with confirmation of all presumptive positives by gas chromatography mass spectrometry. All samples must also undergo validity testing.
 - All test results from the laboratory shall be communicated to the Superintendent or his/her designee. To insure proper testing procedures, United States Department of Health and Human Services Standards as defined by NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) certified laboratories would be followed. All Chemical Screening Tests will be done at Arkansas Medical Laboratory.
 - Consent-All students who desire to participate in activities will be required to sign a form consenting to the testing. The form must be co-signed by the student's custodial parent/legal guardian. No student shall be allowed to participate in any activity until both student and custodial parent/legal guardian have signed the consent form and returned to the principal's office.
 - Cost of Chemical Testing-The district will pay the random selection testing. Any second test or test requested by the parent will be at the parent's own expense.

TOBACCO: *the use or possession of tobacco will be dealt with according to the student handbook.*

MISSING SCHOOL

An athlete shall not participate in athletics on the day he/she has been absent from any class without just reason and approval from the Principal's Office. If an athlete is too ill to attend class, he/she is too ill to participate in athletics. An athlete must work to his/her academic potential in all academic subjects as established by the guidance department. He/she must also display good school citizenship at all times. Disciplinary action taken by the principal's office may be supplemented by additional disciplinary action by the Athletic Department.

VIOLATIONS

The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to preserve rules that reasonably pertain to the health and safety of students. The welfare of the student is our major consideration.

Any athlete who is arrested and charged with a felony, regardless of whether the alleged offense occurred on or off school grounds, will be indefinitely suspended from all athletic activities pending disposition of the charge(s). In order to be reinstated to athletic activities, the athlete's parent or guardian (or the athlete if the athlete is over eighteen (18) years of age) must provide an official, final disposition of the charge(s) to the Director of Athletics.

If an athlete is convicted of a criminal act that is a felony, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1. 1st offense: The athlete will be dismissed from athletics for one calendar year.
2. 2nd offense: The athlete will be dismissed from athletics for the remainder of his/her scholastic career.

If an athlete is arrested and charged with a misdemeanor, or is convicted of a misdemeanor, regardless of whether the offense occurred on or off school grounds, the athlete's head coach may, at his or her discretion, suspend the athlete from any or all athletic activities indefinitely or for a definite period of time. In order to be reinstated to athletic activities, the athlete's parent or guardian (or the athlete if the athlete is over eighteen (18) years of age) must provide an official, final disposition of the charge(s) to the Director of Athletics.

The procedures for suspension, indefinite suspension and dismissal from a team, found on page (10) ten of this handbook, will apply to any indefinite suspension or dismissal of an athlete under this section.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. *Dropping or Transferring Sports*

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. There is not a place in athletics for quitters. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Take a while to talk it over with your immediate school coach.
- B. Report your situation to the Athletic Director.
- C. Check in all equipment issued to you.

If an athlete wishes to change sports during a season, he/she must receive approval of both head coaches concerned as well as the Athletic Director. Failure to follow this procedure in dropping a sport can result in loss of all athletic privileges. An Athlete may not participate in competition "with the receiving" sport until the previous sport "regular" season is completed.

2. *Equipment*

School equipment checked out by the student athlete is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation.

3. *Missing Practice*

An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practices. Missing practice or a game without having a reason will be dealt with severely. Sudden illness or an emergency would be a good reason for missing a practice or game.

4. Transportation

All athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless approved by the head coach and Athletic Director prior to beginning of trip.

Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of their coach when attending away games.

All regular school bus rules will be followed, including: food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment.

5. College Recruitment Policy

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college or university official. The athlete should inform his/her head coach of the contact as soon as possible.

6. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a possible conflict of obligations.

The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are found to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict arises.

When conflicts arise the sponsors will get together and work out a solution so the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, then the principal will have to make the decision based on the following:

- A. The relative importance of each event.
- B. The importance of each event to the student.
- C. The relative contribution the student can make.
- D. How long each event has been scheduled.
- E. Parental preference.

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, the faculty sponsor will not penalize him in any way. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation a school activity has, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

7. Procedures for Suspension, Indefinite Suspension and Dismissal from a Team

Before an athlete is dismissed from an athletic team the following procedures will be followed:

1. Indefinite suspension of an athlete will involve a parent conference, which will include the head coach, parent and athlete. The head coach will inform the Principal and Athletic Director about the athlete's behavior and why the athlete is being placed on indefinite suspension.
2. Dismissal from an athletic team will involve a parent conference, which will include the athlete and head coach. A copy of written documentation will be given to the parent, Athletic Director and building Principal explaining terms of dismissal.
3. Suspension of an athlete will involve a parent conference about the athlete's behavior and why the athlete is being suspended from the team and for how many games the athlete is suspended. The athlete will practice during this time with additional physical activities after practice.
4. ***The coach reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in athletics, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules.***
5. Any parent who requests to appeal a coach's decision may do so by contacting the Athletic Director at 501-653-5151.

BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Social Networking Guidelines

Social Networking Websites & Apps

Student-athletes should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, and/or the Bryant Public Schools. This includes any activities conducted online. As a student-athlete participating in interscholastic sports and activities for the Bryant Public Schools, you are a representative of the school's team and always in the public eye. Potential employers, colleges, scholarship committees now search these sites to screen candidates and applications. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate on social networking websites and apps.

Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online - even if you limit access to your site.

You should not post information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, or your school. This includes information about team activities and teammates.

Do not post information or material that is sensitive in nature that is not public information such as schedules, travel itineraries, game plans, etc.

You are personally liable for any copyright violations committed, such as posting photographs, audio, or video that is not your personal property. This includes any trademarks.

You are personally liable for any violations of other students or student-athletes' privacy rights, especially those that fall under federal privacy laws (FERPA or HIPPA) or that violate Bryant Public Schools Athletic Department Code of Conduct or Code of Conduct for Computer Use.

You should not post your home address, social security number, student ID number, phone number(s), birth date, or other personal information such as your whereabouts or plans. By doing so, you compromise your personal safety.

The malicious use of online social networks and apps such as derogatory language about any member of the BPS community, demeaning statements about or threats to any third party, and incriminating photos or statements depicting hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, illegal drug use or other inappropriate behavior will be subject to disciplinary action by the head coach and/or building or district administration if they gain knowledge of such violations. Sanctions may include written notification requiring the unacceptable content be removed, temporary suspension from the team, or dismissal from the team. Additional sanctions may also include regular school discipline according to the BPS Student Handbook.

This information will be included with the BPS Athletic Code of Conduct that all students and parents agree to in order to participate in athletics.

The following information comes directly from the Arkansas Activities Association Handbook regarding student eligibility:

Rule 11. Summer Athletic Camps. Camp - a site where three or more students or school teams meet for the purpose of receiving instruction in basic skills in a sport.

Student participation in athletic camps is permitted following the end of the school year through Week #5. (See Page 56, AAA Calendar of Numbered Weeks):

GENERAL:

1. No school time shall be lost for travel or participation.
2. There shall be no competition between the camps either during or after the camp(s).
3. Students shall not violate the amateur rule as to receiving pay for coaching.

FOOTBALL:

1. Helmets, shoulder pads and upper body padding (arms, forearm, rib, etc.) may be worn in football camps. No padding shall be worn below the waist. Use of sleds or tackling machines is also prohibited.
2. 7-on-7 passing jamborees or camps shall require participation of three or more schools.
3. The school is responsible for informing its students of the summer camp regulations and monitoring the activities of the camp.
4. A violation of these regulations may subject the school to a penalty for the sport involved throughout the following season and may cause a student to be ineligible for up to one year.

Rule 12. All-Star Contests

A. AHSCA All-Star Game. The Arkansas Activities Association sanctions an All-Star Football Game and All-Star Boys' and Girls' Basketball Games and All Star Girls Volleyball Game. The AHSCA Executive Committee is authorized to plan the details and mechanics for the All-Star Games and the coaching clinic subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the AAA.

B. Coach and Administrator Participation. No athletic director, coach, teacher, or administrator of an Arkansas Activities Association member school, nor athletic official who is registered with the Arkansas Officials Association, shall at any time assist with the coaching, management, direction, election of players, promotion, or officiating of any All-Star or similar contest in football, basketball or volleyball in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of a player, who, during the previous school year, was a member of a member high school football, basketball, or volleyball team with the exception of the All-Star games sponsored by the Arkansas High School Coaches Association.

C. Student All-Star Participation

1. A student who is a member of a school team may not become a member of an all-star football, basketball or volleyball team, in season, without losing his eligibility in that sport for up to one year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the all-star team.
2. Following completion of high school eligibility in a sport, and prior to graduation from high school, a student may not participate in an all-star contest that is not specifically approved by the AAA or participate in more than two all-star football, basketball or volleyball contests.

NOTE: Violation of any of the above regulations may cause a student to be ineligible for the AAA-sanctioned AHSCA All-Star Game(s).

Rule 13. Sunday Interscholastic Contests. There shall be no interscholastic athletic contests on Sunday.

Rule 14. Approved Scouting and Filming or Videotaping

A. When hosting regularly scheduled competitive events member schools shall grant Admission to at least two scouting representatives from other member schools who are scheduled to compete with either of the participating schools at a later date. No filming or videotaping by a third party member school shall be allowed unless both competing schools grant permission.

B. Filming/Videotaping: Each school, when engaging in regular events, shall have the right to make films or videotapes for educational or historical purposes, and such films or tapes may be shared with other member schools for scouting purposes. The host school may also permit the use of non- commercial cameras and video recorders to record events for families and friends of participants.

Rule 15. Broadcast and Television Rights

A. For regularly scheduled local interscholastic events the host school only shall have the right to grant permission for public broadcast by radio or television.

B. Conference, Region, or State Events: The AAA shall have the rights and authority for controlling the scouting, filming , videotaping or broadcasting, either by radio or television, at all elimination events leading to a state championship endorsed or sponsored by the association, except those games approved by the AAA bylaws to be played as regularly scheduled events.

ARTICLE III - ELIGIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

Participation in competitive interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. The eligibility rules of this association are designed to promote the educational values derived from participation in interscholastic activities, prevent exploitation of youth by special interest groups and to ensure that interscholastic activities shall remain an integral part of the educational program.

Students wishing to participate in interscholastic activities shall have the opportunity to become eligible for these activities when they meet ALL eligibility rules. They will remain eligible for the opportunity to participate provided they do not: (1) exceed any limitations, (2) fail to meet any minimums, or (3) violate any other rules of the association. They may, however, regain their opportunity to participate at a later date by correcting any deficiencies, which caused the ineligibility. *NOTE: Students who exceed the junior high age rule or junior high semester rule limitations shall have the opportunity to be eligible for senior high activities.*

NOTE: Students who exceed the senior high age rule or the senior high semester rule limitations shall have no further opportunity to be eligible.

Eligibility rules apply to students in grades 7-12 inclusive; specific rules for junior high schools apply to students in grades 7-9 inclusive; specific rules for senior high schools apply to students in grades 9- 12 inclusive. In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, personal pronouns refer to either gender.

Rule 1. RESIDENCE:

A. A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics shall be in the public school district of the parent's residence. Refer to other residence and transfer rules for limitations and situations. The AAA recognizes only one residence for eligibility. A change in residence consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.

B. A student may meet the residence requirement at another AAA member school after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment).

C. A student shall also meet the residence requirement if the student receives a legal transfer from one public school to another (release and acceptance respectively by the boards of both schools). Transfers must take place prior to Labor Day.

D. Member schools accredited by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association shall be required to have student eligibility boundaries which will be limited to the county in which the school resides and/or a 25-mile radius of the school. Students who live outside the boundaries may participate in all AAA sanctioned athletic events as long as they have been enrolled in the nonpublic school before Labor Day of the 10th grade year. Those enrolling after Labor Day of their 10th grade year may not participate in interscholastic athletics for 365 days from the first day of their enrollment.

LEGAL ATTENDANCE:

A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics with respect to the residence rule may be in the public school that the student is legally attending at the beginning of the fall semester, provided attendance is not for athletic purposes. Refer to other residence and transfer rules for additional limitations and situations.

NON-SCHOOL COACH:

A student transferring, moving or, for any reason, attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is the school coach, or is anyone assisting in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team, is presumed to be attending for athletic purposes, if the student participated in athletics the previous year.

TRANSFERS:

A. Students changing schools under the Freedom of Choice law, transferring other than legal transfers (both boards agreeing) or any circumstances other than residence rules 1 through 3 above is assumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if the student participated in athletics the previous year.

B. A student changing schools, for any reason, who has been a member of an athletic team, may not participate in the same sport at the receiving school during the same defined sport season. To gain eligibility through the legal attendance rule, the non-school coach rule or the transfer rule, the following criteria must be met:

A Changing Schools/Athletic Participation (CSAP) document stating that the student was not recruited and did not change schools for athletic purposes must be signed by:

- The superintendent or designated administrator of the previous school.
- The superintendent or designated administrator of the new school.
- The parent(s) or legal guardian(s), witnessed by the new (receiving) school's administrator or a notary public.

C. A student transferring from a contiguous state shall have CSAP forms signed as stated above.

D. A student who transfers back to the public school district of his parent's residence within the first eleven days of the fall or the spring semester of that district shall become eligible after attending one day of classes.

Rule 2. TRANSFERS:

A. **FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS.** A foreign student in a recognized exchange program must meet all eligibility rules except the residence requirements, which shall be waived the first year of school attendance in the U.S. Recognized exchange programs are those listed by the CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel).

NOTE: Such student will be eligible for only one school year. Eligibility requirements include: bona fide student, dropout, semester, age, amateur, tryout and scholarship rules.

B. **LEGAL ADOPTION.** A student, legally adopted and attending school in the district in which his adoptive parents reside, meets the residence requirement.

C. **PARENTAL CUSTODY.** A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated meets the residence requirement in the district in which the parent having primary custody resides.

NOTE: A legal separation is one requiring court action.

NOTE: In the case of joint custody, the student is eligible in the district of the parent with whom the student is living at the beginning of the school year.

- D. Boarding School. A student residing at a boarding school meets the residence requirement when enrolling in school on or before the first day of classes in 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th grade.
- E. Training Schools. A student attending the training schools operated by the State of Arkansas or privately operated schools recognized by state courts or social services as serving the same purpose as a training school meets the residence requirement, on his initial enrollment in the public school assigned by these institutions.

F. School Board Actions Recognized

1. When a school district board of education with multiple middle or junior high or senior high schools makes specific assignments or defines attendance zones, the student meets the residence requirement at the school specified by the assignment or in the school zone of his parents' residence.

NOTE: A student transferring between schools after Labor Day under the AAA transfer rules shall become eligible at the beginning of the next school year as is the case of Majority to Minority and Magnet School transfers.

2. When a school's board of education discontinues a private school a student meets the resident requirement in the district of his parent's residence or at another private school in the area.

- G. PROVIDING INCORRECT DOMICILE INFORMATION. If a parent or guardian, either knowingly or unknowingly, provides incorrect information concerning student's domicile, the association may declare the student ineligible for athletic competition with any AAA member school for a period of up to 365 days from the date of the action on ineligibility.

H. FROM PUBLIC TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOL

1. A student transferring from a public to a nonpublic school may meet the residence requirement at a nonpublic school when he has completed the seventh, the eighth or ninth grade and upon enrolling in the eighth, ninth, or tenth grade respectively, provided the transfer is not for athletic purposes. CSAP forms are not applicable to 11th and 12th grade students in such transfers.

**CSAP procedures as listed on page 30 of the AAA Handbook must be met if the student participated in athletics the previous year.*

2. A student transferring from a public to a nonpublic boarding school, whose enrollment consists of fifty percent or more boarding students, shall be eligible when he enrolls in that school before the first day of the fall term.
3. A student transferring from a public to nonpublic school may meet the residence requirement if there is a corresponding change of the parents' residence. A change in residence consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.

I. FROM NONPUBLIC TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOL

1. A student transferring from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school may meet the residence requirement at the second nonpublic school if he/she has completed the seventh, eighth or ninth grade and upon enrolling in the eighth, ninth or tenth grade respectively, provided the transfer is not for athletic purposes. CSAP forms are not applicable to 11th and 12th grade students in such transfers.

**CSAP procedures as listed on page 30 of the AAA Handbook must be met if the student participated in athletics the previous year.*

2. A student transferring from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school may meet the residence requirement if there is a corresponding change of the parents' residence. A change in residence consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.

NOTE: All students transferring to nonpublic schools become eligible under Rule 1A after attending the nonpublic school for one year, except that students entering the seventh grade at the beginning of the school year are eligible immediately.

- J. FROM NON-MEMBER TO MEMBER SCHOOL. A student attending a non-member school (including a home-schooled student) who returns to the public school district of his parents' residence shall become eligible immediately after attending one day of classes. A student meets the residence requirement upon transferring to a nonpublic member school if the student has attended one full year at the non-member school and if the transfer occurs prior to Labor Day of that school year.

NOTE: FOR ALL TRANSFER SITUATIONS. All transfers must occur prior to Labor Day of that school year except those from non-member schools to the school district of the parents' residence and returning to the public school district of the parents' residence in the first 11 days of either semester.

Rule 3. Recruitment.

A. Recruitment of an athlete by anyone is expressly prohibited by the Arkansas Activities Association. A student transferring or attempting to transfer from one school to another due to recruitment or inducement may be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of up to one full year (365 days) from the date of transfer or attempted transfer.

B. A student who is a prospective athlete shall not be offered or accept any inducement, such as free or reduced tuition, employment, books, or any other benefit, other than that which is provided to all students. In addition, nonpublic schools should establish a plan, filed with the AAA office and followed, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. A statement of philosophy and policy concerning the reduction or waiver of tuition of any other benefit.
2. A procedure used to determine the qualification for waiver or reduction. The Princeton School Scholarship Service or its equivalent should be used for determining the amount of waiver or reduction for such students.
3. A description of how the waiving or reducing is equally available and applied to students in similar circumstances; and
4. The payment of tuition by someone other than a student's immediate family or an established program must be approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

C. In addition, nonpublic member schools providing financial assistance programs for athletes shall present to the Executive Director of the AAA by October 1 of each year, a statement signed by the school's authorized representative with the following information:

- The total number of students enrolled
- The number of students receiving aid
- The number of students participating in athletics
- The number of students participating in athletics who are receiving aid

(The Princeton School Scholarship Service is the organization that determines need-based aid for families when students are applying to colleges for financial aid. It is an unbiased third party.)

Rationale - Recruiting an athlete is a serious offense as it creates an unfair advantage.

Rule 4. Bona Fide Student. A student participating in interscholastic activities must be a bona fide student of the school; a bona fide student is one who has not graduated from a high school and who is enrolled in and attending regularly at least four academic courses in the high school. These courses shall be from those identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation.

The Arkansas Activities Association in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Education makes an exception to the bona fide student rule for students in the Arkansas School for Math and Science. Because the ASMS is an ADE accredited school, is a boarding school located in the Hot Springs School District and is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association, students from ASMS may participate at Hot Springs High School in those sports or activities not offered by the Arkansas School for Math and Science.

Rationale - It is important that each athlete be a full time member of the student body.

NOTE: Enrollment in academic classes in a college does not affect eligibility as long as the student is a bona fide student of a high school.

NOTE: A local school may make an exception for a student in the last semester of the senior year provided the student is enrolled in and attending regularly at least one academic course and is meeting all requirements for graduation.

Rule 5. Dropouts. A student dropping out of school, suspended with no credit or expelled from school at any time during the school year must return to school and meet the scholarship requirements for one full semester.

Rationale - An athlete must re-establish his eligibility after dropping out by attending one semester before regaining eligibility.

Rule 6. Semesters.

A. Junior High - A student repeating either the seventh or eighth grade for any reason shall not have the opportunity for eligibility during the complete year that is repeated.

B. Senior High - A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student's first enrollment in the ninth grade (or earlier as defined in Rule 7. Age Note).

Editor's Note: A ninth grade student may compete for the junior high or for the senior high, in the same member school district with separate campuses, with permission from the involved principals. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students) If a ninth grade student competes for the junior high, the student may then compete for the senior high after the completion of that junior high sport season except for Class 7A as stated in the rule noted above. A ninth grade student may not compete for the senior high and then return and compete for the junior high in the same sport. Semesters are applied toward the limitations regardless of the following: if the school doesn't offer a sport; if the student doesn't participate; if a student isn't eligible or, if the student's earlier enrollment was in a different school system.

NOTE: The fifth and sixth semesters (normally the 9th grade) are applied toward both the junior and senior high limitations. This is due to the rule allowing the school's administration to permit a 9th grade student to participate at either level. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Rule 1 of Section 7 - Classification of Students).

A 7th or 8th grade student who is ineligible for junior high athletics due only to the age rule may be eligible to participate in senior high. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Rule 3 of Section 7 - Classification of Students).

Rationale - A student is limited to a total of 12 semesters of opportunity for eligibility upon entering the seventh grade. The final eight semesters shall be consecutive.

Rule 7. Age.

A. Junior High. A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before September 1.

NOTE: In the year a student in junior high school becomes too old for junior high participation the student may be allowed to participate for the senior high, if all other eligibility rules are met.

B. Senior High. A senior high student is not eligible for interscholastic participation if the student's 19th birthday is on or before September 1.

Rationale - The age rule and the semester rule are both attempts to equalize competition among athletes in AAA member schools as well as to encourage athletes to graduate with their class.

Rule 8. Amateur.

A. The amateur rule for eligibility in interscholastic athletics requires the student to engage in sports solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, or social benefit derived from participation in sports and to who sport is nothing more than an avocation.

B. The junior high or senior high student who violates the amateur rule in any of the AAA-sponsored sports may lose eligibility in that sport for up to one full year (365 days).

C. Violations. A student may not:

1. Compete under an assumed name.
2. Accept monetary awards or compensation. This includes: cash, gift certificates, expenses for a trip or any other of this type award.
3. Accept gifts or awards exceeding \$100.00 in value unless the gifts or awards are given under the auspices of the school; however, the student may receive awards of equipment in golf, tennis and road races as permitted in the amateur rules of the USGA, the USTA, and USATF.

4. Receive remuneration for coaching, instructing, or preparing any person for competition; except, he may receive from an organization offering instruction in sport skills to youth, monetary compensation on an hourly basis or as a salary for teaching basic skills.

5. A student who has participated interscholastically may not permit his name, picture, or person to be used to advertise, recommend, or promote a firm or a product.

NOTE: An athlete may be named a player of the week or game and be presented a certificate or plaque provided there is no advertising connected with the picture or announcement.

NOTE: A team picture may appear on a calendar or poster. This indicates support for the school.

6. Compete with or against a professional except in:

a. Pro-Am golf meets; when the scores of the professional and the amateur are not combined for a team score;

b. Semi-professional baseball games; however, the student must compete within the definition of amateurism.

7. Appear in a competition before or during a professional event except as approved by the Arkansas Activities Association.

NOTE: Since it is impossible to cover all instances of possible violations to the amateur rule, it is suggested that the Executive Director be consulted in any questionable case.

Rule 9. Tryouts.

A. A student may not play with a college or a professional team without losing eligibility for up to one year in the sport played.

B. A student may not try out for a college or professional team during the school year without losing eligibility for up to one year in that sport.

NOTE: A tryout consists of athletic demonstrations relative to a specific sport in the presence of a coach, scout, or official representing an institution or club.

Rule 10. Scholarship. (Academics)

A. Junior high. (1) A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements. (2) A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester. (3) The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools. (4) Ninth grade students must meet the senior high academic eligibility by the end of second semester in order to be eligible to participate the fall of their tenth grade year.

B. Senior high. A student who does not meet the Arkansas Department of Education's requirement of a 2.00 GPA or has not met the proficiency standard defined by the State Board of Education on the state criterion-referenced tests or achieved at or above the fiftieth percentile on the basic battery on the norm-referenced test may continue to participate by meeting the following requirements:

1. The student must have passed four academic courses in the previous semester. Any of these four courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher learning recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.

2. The student must be enrolled in and attending a supplemental instruction program approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, or a supplemental instruction program meeting ADE guidelines as approved by AAA.

3. The student must have no unexcused absences for the current semester or its equivalent.

4. The student must have no school disciplinary action for the current semester. The school may define school disciplinary action but, as a minimum, the policy shall state that a student has been disciplined when being placed on suspension where the student is out of school for a period of time.

5. The student must have no known criminal convictions.

Academic Course: An academic course is one for which class time is scheduled and which can be credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation; which is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in

the course, and which has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.

NOTE: P.E. may be considered an academic course for one full credit within the 21 minimum credits. The first time a P.E. grade appears on the transcript in grades 9-12 is when it will be considered an academic course.

C. Alternate course credit. A student may satisfy the requirement by successfully completing a course(s) failed or courses(s) needed or an equivalent course(s) in a summer term(s) or a correspondence course(s) approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for granting credit for graduation requirements. Such credit shall be applied to the previous semester.

NOTE: When the same course is repeated, the former grade may be replaced. When a substitute course is completed, the grade shall be added to the courses for the previous semester and the GPA recomputed.

D. Special Education (Handicapped). A student must have earned passing grades in four academic courses of the I.E.P. for the previous semester. In junior high three of the four courses must be in the core curriculum areas (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies).

E. Changing eligibility status. A student may regain or lose academic eligibility the first day of classes in a new semester. Eligibility shall be determined twice per year, once at the beginning of the fall semester (August/September) and once at mid-term (December/January).

Rationale - An athlete must first be a student and must meet certain minimum academic requirements.

Rule 11. INELIGIBLE IN ANOTHER STATE

A. A student who is ineligible in any sport under the rules of the state association in the state of the student's residence will upon transfer to any AAA member school be ineligible for interscholastic competition.

B. If Arkansas's rules are less restrictive than the rules of the state where the student has been attending, the student may become eligible to participate in interscholastic competition in Arkansas upon the approval of the Executive Director.

Rationale - To prevent parents from shopping for a school in Arkansas when their child is ineligible in their home state.

Rule 12. PARTICIPATION ON NON-SCHOOL TEAMS

A. Team Sports.

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic team and who has engaged in interscholastic competition may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with, or be a member of a non-school athletic team in the same sport, *in season*, without losing eligibility for up to a full year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the non-school team.

2. This limitation shall apply to the team sports of football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, and soccer. However, a member of an interscholastic baseball, softball or soccer team may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play. This exception for baseball, softball and soccer shall not apply in weeks the school team is involved in AAA-sponsored championship tournaments.

3. Participation on a non-school athletic team in the same sport *in season* shall define *in season* as the AAA established beginning date until the end of the state tournament in that sport for students in grades 10-12 and students in grade 9 who have participated interscholastically with the senior varsity team in the sports of football, volleyball, and basketball.

4. Students in grades 7-8 and students in grade 9 who have not participated interscholastically on a senior varsity team shall have the *end of season* defined as when their school's team is finished in each sport.

5. A member of an interscholastic spirit team may not compete on a non-school team during the interscholastic spirit season.

B. Non-School Teams

1. During the school year, a school coach may not coach his or her school team in any out-of-season games.

2. Players from school teams may play in out-of-season leagues or games outside the season, but may not be school sponsored in anyway. These non-school teams may not use school equipment or uniforms. School transportation and facilities may only be used in accordance with school board policies as they relate to other non-school groups using facilities or transportation.

3. A school team is defined as a team composed solely of players from one member school within a district or attendance zone, in the case of multiple junior or senior high schools within a district.
4. The definition of a non-school team includes one or more of the following:
 - a. A team affiliated with and scheduled for participation in an organized league.
 - b. A team participating against a team that meets criterion (1.) above.
 - c. A team identified by a name or a uniform, and which participates in contests independent from league affiliation.

NOTE: Practice is an activity involving the players of only one school's team.

Rule 13. NATIONAL TEAM, OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT FEDERATION.

A. An exception to A1. above may be granted for participation:

1. With a national team (and the actual, direct tryouts for such), which is defined as one selected by the national governing body (NGB) of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts, for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent their respective nations, although it is not necessary that there be team scoring by nation; or
2. In an Olympic development program, which is defined as a training program or competition:
 - a. Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC); or b. Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body (NGB) on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship competition and the direct qualifications for such); or
 3. Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in the sport involved;
4. Provided in 1, 2, and 3 above:
 - a. Participation, if during the school year, is approved by the student's school administration, and the Arkansas Activities Association is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days prior to the date of the program; and
 - b. The student makes prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments, and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student's absence occurs; and
 - c. The student misses no AAA-sponsored athletic event involving a team in that sport.

Rationale – *The purpose of this rule is to prevent students from being adversely affected by conflicts in coaching philosophies during the school season and to prevent the health and well being of athletes from being negatively affected by over-participation.*

B. Participation in Individual Non-School Activities.

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic program as a participant in a sport and who has engaged in interscholastic competition in that sport may enter non-school competition as an individual during or outside of the school season for that sport. These individual sports include: cross country, track, gymnastics, tennis, golf, swimming, wrestling, and bowling.
2. If a participant is school-sponsored, the activity must be sanctioned under Article II, Section 8, Rule 6, Sanction (Approval) of Events.

Rationale - *Athletes may participate on an individual basis without harm to a team since they compete by themselves. This provides opportunities for individuals to participate in a normally limited season.*

Rule 14. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student must present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice.

Rationale - *The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition.*

Rule 15. HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY. Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a hardship waiver.

A. Residence Exceptions

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of residence.

2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.
3. The student's parents are out-of-state residents and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal residence (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent(s) employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged residence with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with residence in the school district or a spouse who had an established residence in the district one year prior to the marriage.
7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the residence rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents.

***NOTE 1:** The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.*

***NOTE 2:** The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.*

B. Exception To Other Eligibility Requirements

1. **School Attendance Prevented.** There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. **Non-Recommended Courses.** The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the Arkansas Department of Education regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in nonrecommended courses.

SECTION 2. NON-ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENT. (Same as athletic Rule 4.)

Rule 2. SCHOLARSHIP. (Same as athletic Rule 10.)

Rule 3. SEMESTERS. (Same as athletic Rule 6.)

Rule 4. AGE. (Senior High same as athletic Rule 7, Junior High none.)

Rule 5. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. A student involved in a vocational education youth organization need only be a bona fide student of a school and meet the scholarship rule. The student may not participate in an interscholastic event on or after the twenty-first birthday.

Rule 6. HARDSHIP CASES. (Same as athletic Rule 15.)

SECTION 3. NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAMS

Rule 1. ELIGIBILITY. A student participating as a member of a school's non-competitive cheer or dance team must meet eligibility requirements for interscholastic non-athletic competitive activities.

Exception: The semester rule for students in a 7-12 school shall be a total of twelve semesters.

Rule 2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student tries out for or participates as a member of the school's noncompetitive cheer or dance team, the student shall be required to present to the coach a physical examination verification prior to beginning an organized practice or workshop for tryouts which shall be valid for one calendar year.

Rule 3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A. Only a school's cheer team members are authorized to participate on the sidelines, floor, or field during an athletic contest except when dance/pom teams are authorized by the school administration.

B. An individual who is designated as a part of the spirit team to stand or perform with the team on the sidelines, floor, or field during an athletic contest or spirit competition (ex: mascot) must meet all eligibility requirements of cheer and dance team members.

Rule 4. CHEER TEAM LIMITATION AT REGIONAL/STATE EVENTS. No more than twelve members of a school's cheer team shall be permitted on the sidelines (floor) during play at regional and state basketball tournaments. The complete team may perform at full time-outs and between quarters and games.

Rule 5. OFFICIAL RULES BOOK AND SAFETY

REQUIREMENTS. The official rules book for participation or competition is the current NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

Rule 6. NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAM COACHES

A. Full time faculty members, certified or non-certified, employed by the school for a minimum of three periods a day shall be assigned the responsibility for the noncompetitive cheer and/or dance program(s) of the school, or

B. A Registered Volunteer who is designated by the school to be responsible for a school spirit team(s) must meet the requirements of Act 1012 of the 1997 Arkansas General Assembly. These requirements include:

1. Cannot receive any financial compensation for services
2. Must provide to the school a current health certificate (TB skin test) and documentation of a criminal background check (finger printing) prior to coaching
3. Must participate in a minimum of six hours of education related to the coach's duties and responsibilities.
4. Must be listed in the activities section of the school's "Intention to Participate in the Registered Volunteers Program" form that must be submitted annually to the AAA office.
5. Must submit a Registered Volunteer enrollment form to the AAA office in any year that they serve in that capacity.

C. Attendance at a spirit rules meeting is required annually by a coach from each member school for each program conducted by the school (cheer and/or dance). Nonattendance shall cause the school to incur penalties for each program not represented as stated in Bylaws, Art. IV, Sec. 3, Rule 3.

D. Each cheerleading coach must be currently safety certified by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators. A school's safety certified cheer coach must be present at any practice, game, or performance where any members of the team will be learning, practicing, or performing partner stunts or tumbling.

E. The AACCA safety certification remains in effect for each certified individual for a period of four consecutive years, and a coach can recertify by repeating the course.

F. All cheerleading participants in AAA member schools shall be grounded until their coach has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Certification course.

G. In case of a violation, the cheer team will not only be grounded but shall incur a \$50 fine for a team stunting without a certified supervising coach. For further violations penalties may be assessed against the school as provided in the AAA Handbook.

SECTION 4. OTHER SPIRIT GROUPS

Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENTS

(Same as athletic Rule 4.) *NOTE: Members of other spirit groups shall remain in the designated spectator areas during an athletic contest. This does not include pregame, halftime, or postgame activities authorized by the school administration.*

Rule 2. OFFICIAL RULES BOOK AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. (Same as Cheer or Dance Teams, Rule 5.)

Lettering Policy of the Bryant Athletic Department

Senior High Athletes

Every first year letter person will be "eligible" to receive a letter with the emblem of their sport. A second year letter person will be eligible to receive a letter with the emblem of the sport and two slashes. And a third year letter person will be eligible to receive a letter with the emblem of the sport and three slashes. (Any additional items to be put on the awards will be purchased by the athlete.

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball (Sports that have quarters or innings)

The athlete must participate in 40% of the time that is available for play. For example if the basketball team played 20 games at 4 quarters per game the available time is 80 quarters. Multiply $80 \times .40 = 32$ quarters the athlete must be in a varsity game to letter.

Track/Swimming

You must score 12 points during regular season or place in the district Meet or qualify for state.

Tennis/ Golf/ Wrestling

You must participate in 40% of the matches available.

Cross Country

Runners must obtain a 40% finishing average through the completion of all scheduled races, or compete in the State Cross Country championship.

**The above information deals with varsity athletics.
There is not a lettering policy for junior varsity.**

