

BARAGA HIGH SCHOOL
2026-2027
STUDENT
ATHLETE HANDBOOK



Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

Adopted by the Baraga Area Schools Board of Education on August 11, 2025.

Contact Us

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www.baragaschools.org

Location	Phone	Fax
Central Office	(906) 353-6664	(906) 353-6662
Philip LaTendresse Elementary	(906) 353-6664	(906) 353-6662
Junior / Senior High School	(906) 353-6664	(906) 353-6662

Administration

Superintendent	Mr. Timothy Marczak
Principal	Ms. Christina Gallup
Director of Business Operations	Mrs. Tracy LaPlante
Athletic Director	Mr. Timothy Routheux

Administrative Support Staff

Central Office Secretary / Transportation Coordinator	Mrs. Michele Velmer
High School Secretary	Mrs. Heather Morris
Elementary Secretary	Mrs. Lori Lindemann

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Baraga Area Schools' Interscholastic Athletic Program is to strive for excellence through athletic competition and give students the opportunity to develop, mentally, physically and socially. Interscholastic programs will include sports of a variety, compatible with the enrollment, equipment, facilities and finances in the school district. The Baraga Area Schools' Athletic program is formulated and continued for several reasons, among them being the desire to teach punctuality, reliability, self-discipline, cooperation, responsibility, independence, patience and the wholesome relationship between academics and athletics. The actual interscholastic competition helps establish good sportsmanship patterns for our students and cements good relationships with other schools. Athletics allow participants to broaden their experiences and increase the circle of their acquaintances, as well as to develop an appreciation for physical fitness while exposing individuals to careers in athletics and associated fields.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND FORMS

You must have a completed physical examination card on file in the athletic director's office, in order to be eligible to participate. This includes all practice time. The doctor of your choice gives these physical examinations. They are to be arranged outside of school time.

Athletes, whose participation is impaired because of injury, medical condition, etc., must have written permission from the doctor to participate in any sport.

5 FORMS THAT MUST BE FILLED OUT & HANDED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE PRACTICE BEGINS:

1. MHSAA Physical
2. Concussion Awareness
3. ImPact Release
4. Consent and Athletic Code Acknowledgement
5. Athletic Parent Code of Conduct

INSURANCE

Student-athletes MUST have medical insurance. If the student does not have insurance, it may be purchased from an insurance provider and proof must be given to the school.

ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE AND GAMES

The coach and athletic director will make the final decision regarding unexcused absences.

A parent may take their child from practice for an appointment; however, the contact with the coach must be made prior to the start of practice. If communication is not made prior to practice-missed time will be marked as unexcused. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach if practice is missed due to illness.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PRACTICE

The first absence will result in the student athlete missing ½ of the next contest.

The Second absence will result in the student athlete missing 1 contest.

The Third unexcused absence will result in the student athlete being removed from the team.

ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Any student-athlete who has an absence, not approved by the athletic director or high school office, for any hour throughout the day may not participate in the game or practice that day or evening.

ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

The eligibility rules and regulations are those set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Baraga Area Schools. Students participating in athletics must be aware of the following:

1. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics contests in the Baraga High School and Junior High School, a student-athlete must be passing at least six (6) academic subjects with a total of thirty (30) hours of classroom work per week/per semester. **(An ineligible student must continue to participate in practice, and will attend all contests and assist the team. They will not attend a contest if the team must leave school early.)**
 - a. **Current Academic Eligibility for Junior High School** - Formal eligibility will be determined every 2 weeks during their season starting with the first Friday after the first practice. If eligibility is run on a Friday, and the athlete is failing 2 out of 7 classes at this time, they would be ineligible the following Mon - Sunday. After this week they will become eligible once they are passing 6 of their 7 semester grades.
 - b. **Current Academic Eligibility for High School** - Formal eligibility will be determined at each progress report and at each report card. If eligibility is run on a Friday, and the athlete is failing 2 out of 7 classes at this time, they would be ineligible the following Mon - Sunday. After this week they will become eligible once they are passing 6 of their 7 semester grades.

c. Previous Academic Eligibility

- i. Any student-athlete failing **2 out of 7 classes** at the end of a semester will be ineligible for 33% of the sports season in the next semester. After 33% of the season has been completed, the student's grades will be checked to determine if they are now passing the required credits in the current semester to make them eligible. This will be checked weekly for the remainder of the semester.
- ii. Any student-athlete failing **3 out of 7 classes** at the end of a semester will be ineligible for 60 school days into the next semester. After 60 school days the grades will be checked to see if eligibility is now met.
- iii. To be eligible to participate spring athletes that fail 2 classes in the first semester, but do not participate in a winter sport, must be passing 6 out of 7 classes at the start of the spring season.

PLAYING TIME

Although winning is a desirable goal and something to strive for, it should not overshadow the educational purposes of athletics and the positive impact athletic activity can have on developing ethical, productive, and well-rounded citizens.

Since learning comes from doing, it is essential that coaches place participation by the maximum number of students as a top priority for their athletic teams. To that end, the following guidelines will apply:

1. **Junior High Level or Below** - All participants will have equal practice time. Each participant will have the opportunity to play some time every game. Playing time will be limited to those who have earned it by attending practice sessions regularly and obeying the rules of conduct.
2. **Ninth Grade / Junior Varsity / Varsity** - Equal practice time and the expectation of earned playing time to be determined for each game. Earned playing time is determined each week by the coach(es) based on the student's efforts to develop skill, maintain proper condition, demonstrate positive attitudes toward the game, practice, teamwork, fair play, and winning, and abide by the rules of conduct.

DRESS AND GROOMING

While representing your school at an athletic contest, **all student-athletes will wear clean, ironed dress pants, or skirts/dresses/shorts and dress shirts (collared for boys)**. The length of the skirt, dress, or shorts should follow school dress code. It should be at or near the knees. No spaghetti straps or holes in clothing will be permitted. Coaches may choose to use team wear (example: sweat suits) in place of this policy. If school dress code is not followed you will be asked to change.

Student-athletes who do not conform to this manner of dress will not participate nor will they make the trip with the team.

PROPER BEHAVIOR

Whether at home, on the road, or in or out of school, student-athletes are to represent themselves as well as the school. Student-athletes should refrain from swearing or putting themselves in compromising positions. If a student-athlete is found to be swearing or doing something not consistent with school policy he/she shall be disciplined by either/or the athletic director, coach, or principal.

The first instance of inappropriate behavior will constitute a warning. The second instance will result in a suspension from an athletic contest. The athletic committee or athletic director will determine the suspension length and reserve the right to adjust all suspensions. The suspension will start on the next athletic contest.

Student athletes are expected to follow school-wide expectations. Athletics is not an excuse for not getting academic work done. If you are taking Physical Education, and you are required to participate, it is expected you will.

-A student athlete who misses an assigned detention will result in the student athlete not participating in the next scheduled game or event.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

School owned practice or game uniforms or equipment SHALL NOT be worn for purposes other than games and/or practices, or when representing Baraga High School. Any misrepresentation of a uniform or jersey could be cause for forfeiture of the uniform or jersey.

At the conclusion of the sport season all equipment shall be washed, mended, and turned in at the times designated by the coach. No athletic awards will be recognized until all of these stipulations are fulfilled. Any lost or missing equipment shall be paid for at replacement value. **No athlete shall participate in any other sport, until reimbursement is made.**

BUS TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

1. Report to the bus ahead of time. The bus will leave at a designated time. If you are not there, the bus will leave without you.
2. On the way to the games you may talk with one another. Loud or boisterous behavior will not be tolerated. Do not open the windows without approval from the bus driver.
3. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times. Remember you are representing Baraga Area Schools and the people that live in our community.
4. Athletes will ride to the game on the bus. The only time you will be excused from riding the bus back from the game will be if your parents contacts the coach, in writing, requesting that the student-athlete ride home with them, or with another designated parent of a student-athlete.
5. Any violation of bus rules will subject the rider to loss of riding privileges AND/OR appropriate discipline agreed upon by the Athletic Director and Coaches.
6. **Returning from games coming from the north, the bus may stop at Arnheim and Sturgeon Road for parent pickup. This will be the only stop along the route home.**
7. **Returning from games coming from the west, the bus may stop at Pelkie road for parent pickup. This will be the only stop along the route home.**
8. If an athletic bus returns after 12:00 a.m. , students are excused from the first hour of classes the next day. For every additional hour after 12:00 a.m. they get an hour more excused the next day.

AWARDS

Student-athletes will be ineligible if they accept money, trophy or prize from any source for participating in athletics, which exceeds twenty-five (\$25) dollars in value. Athletes must check with the athletics director, coach, or principal prior to accepting any prize, money, or trophy.

Participants who successfully compete in the Baraga Area Schools' Athletic Program shall receive awards as listed below. To be eligible for these awards, participants must meet the requirements as set forth in the Athletic Code. All student athletes must attend the awards assembly to receive their awards. Prior arrangements with the Athletic Director must be made for an absent athlete to receive their awards. Awards will only be issued if the student signs up to receive them in the high school office.

SENIORS (VARSITY)

Senior Athlete Award (Give to 1 senior)
7 inch "B"
Sports plaque-three / four years same sport.

INJURIES

An injury is to be reported immediately to the coach. Prompt treatment can prevent infection and hastens recovery. All injuries requiring doctor's attention shall be reported by the coach in writing to the principal and athletic director.

If a parent believes their child's academics could be affected due to pain medication, or to an actual injury that occurred, it is the athlete's/parent's responsibility to discuss each situation with the principal and with each classroom teachers.

MAXIMUM NUMBER ON TEAM (BASKETBALL ONLY)

Varsity teams with a number greater than 15 will have tryouts; with the coaching staff determining the number they want to keep less than 15. With lower level teams we will do our best to get everyone involved.

STARTING A SEASON AFTER THE SCHEDULED START DATE

Typically is a coach's decision, however in case of discrepancies a committee may consist of the following, and can approve any late starts (Athletic director, Principal, The sports coach, the team captains, and another team coach).

TWO SPORT ATHLETE (SAME SEASON)

Any athlete that wishes to participate in two sports teams in the same season must pick a primary and a secondary sport. The primary sport will take precedence in all conflicting game and practice times. Athletes must let the Athletic Director and both coaches know of their primary choice before the first game. The Athletic Director may overturn the primary sport decision if it will affect a team's ability to complete.

PARENTS PROCEDURE IF ISSUES WITH THE COACH

FIRST PROCEDURE

You must talk to the coach before taking your concern any further.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: The issue of "Playing Time" may be discussed with the coach, however the administration will not discuss playing time nor overturn the coach's final decision.

Using the following criteria:

1. Do not confront a coach after a game.
2. You should arrange a meeting the next day, or Monday if it's a weekend game, by contacting the coach to set a time.
3. If after a face to face you feel your situation has not been resolved you should set up an appointment with the athletic director.
4. If you still feel the situation has not been resolved you may take your concern to the Principal.
5. If the situation has still not been resolved you may schedule a meeting with the Superintendent.
6. Finally, if having properly followed procedure and the situation has not been resolved you may take your concern to the Board of Education.

VIOLATIONS REPORTING

Anyone wishing to report a violation that is not being handled by the legal system may do so in writing, which must be signed and submitted with a legible and verifiable name, to the athletic director and/or principal. A member of the administration, coaching staff or other school personnel **must** report any violations of the athletic code.

Anonymous tips will not be considered.

CYBER IMAGE GUIDELINE

Any identifiable image, photo, or video that implies a student-athlete has been in the possession of alcohol or drugs, or that portrays actual use of illegal substances or out of character behavior or crime, shall be considered confirmation of a violation of the code of conduct. The athletic committee will convene to decide proof of authenticity.

It shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume and understand that persons may attempt to implicate a student-athlete by taking or manipulating such images in order to place the student in a situation where he or she might be in violation of the code of conduct. This is another rationale for demanding that student-athletes not place themselves in the presence of illegal alcohol or drug use.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

FELONY

Any student-athletes convicted of a felony will be suspended for the balance of the school year and receive permanent loss of eligibility.

ARRESTS

A student-athlete formally accused by officers of the courts, including but not limited to theft, vandalism, assault, arson, breaking and entering, or any felony could result in a short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or permanent loss of eligibility.

CONTROLLED/UNCONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

An arrest and/or conviction for the use of controlled OR uncontrolled substances shall result in a suspension for one calendar year (12 months). The student athlete will be suspended until an investigation is complete.

The use and/or possession of alcohol or tobacco or of a controlled or uncontrolled substance in any form (this includes paraphernalia of any type (vaping/e-cigs/huffing/ etc...)) shall result in a suspension as listed:

FIRST OFFENSE SENIOR/JUNIOR HIGH: Lose 20% of games that your sport is scheduled for example lose 4 of 20 games, 2 of 10, or 1 of 5 games. If there are not enough remaining games left it will continue to the next sport season.

SECOND OFFENSE: The school will double the first offense and counseling in an approved program at the student's/parent's expense will be recommended.

THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from all athletics for one calendar year (12 months), from the date of the third offense.

FOURTH OFFENSE: All high school athletes will no longer be eligible for high school athletics. .

The violation can occur anytime during the calendar year, (12 months) July 1 to June 30. When applicable, a suspension shall be carried over to a new school/athletic years/season.

The Athletic handbook guidelines become effective when a student enrolls in an athletic activity and continues throughout their athletic career at Baraga Area Schools.

NOTE:

- Parents will be notified by the athletic director, in writing, of any disciplinary action that may lead to probation and/or suspension.
- All game suspensions will carry into the next sport season, or the next year, if the violation occurs during a spring sport or summer.
- Violations build from year to year. For example: if a violation occurs in 9th grade and another in 10th grade,

the student-athlete will be carrying two violations.

- All athletic code violations will carry suspensions in both sports for athletes in two sports in the same season.
- In case of suspension, appeals may be granted through the athletic committee. The committee will consist of a majority of head coaches, the athletic director, High School Principal, and Superintendent. Decision of this group shall be final. Hearings before this group will be closed to all non-participants. The student-athlete shall be allowed to present evidence and/or witnesses on their behalf at the hearing. A tape recording of the hearing shall be made. A written notice of the hearing decision shall be made with an explanation of the final decision.