



# CO-CURRICULAR POLICIES & CODE OF CONDUCT



Printed in coordination with the  
2025-2026 BASD Parent Student Handbook

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## **BESSEMER AREA SCHOOLS CO-CURRICULAR POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT 2025-2026 School Year**

High school activities were established with several things in mind. Character development, proper health habits, team spirit, individual and team morale, the development of leadership, and good citizenship are all part of making any program a success.

A participant is in the public eye all the time the individual's name appears in a program. The student should bring credit to him or her self, the school, and the team at all times. Therefore, participants in activities shall comply with all rules specified by the Board of Education, administration, athletic department, and coaches/advisors.

**According to rulings by the State Board of Education, local school districts have the right to set up regulations for their athletic programs. The following regulations shall be in effect for all Grade 7-12 Bessemer athletes, 24 hours a day, throughout the calendar year, beginning with their first participation in athletics.**

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM GOALS**

Component sports of the interscholastic athletic program shall:

- Afford all students the opportunity to improve through strenuous activities that are planned and supervised.
- Provide a controlled environment within which student/athletes will learn the significance of rules and regulations and to respect those who enforce them. Encourage participants to set goals and subsequently work to achieve them.
- Develop courage through the challenge of competition and performance. and teach loyalty to the school and group or team they represent.
- Develop in athletes the high ideals of sportsmanship, including fair play, poise, humility, pride and compassion in victory or defeat. Emphasize teamwork, team identity, and the role of each participant as a team member.
- Foster an appreciation of the role co-curricular activities may play in enhancing the quality of life.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL**

As a co-curricular participant there are important responsibilities you assume for your school. A.D. Johnston School cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you choose. By participating to the best of your ability and demonstrating good sportsmanship, you are making a positive contribution to the reputation of our school. You assume a leadership role when you represent our school. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude. The younger students in the Bessemer Schools are watching you. Set good examples for them. Because of your leadership role, you can contribute greatly to our school spirit and community pride. Presenting a respectful, dedicated behavior at all activities and events you will make A.D. Johnston School staff and its community members proud of you and your school.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The Bessemer Area School District supports the belief that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of students. It teaches lessons that often are not taught in the classroom. It also provides a means to better individual performance in classroom curriculum. Statistics on participation consistently demonstrate that participants in athletics have higher grade point average, attendance and retention rates, and lower dropout rates than non-participating counterparts. Athletic participation is a positive privilege with definite responsibilities.

We believe that developing a winning athletic program is important. However, it must be done without sacrificing the personal development of participants. Successful programs provide opportunities for physical, mental, social, and emotional growth. In addition, effective programs teach teamwork, work ethic, skill mastery, pride, and fair play. Such positive outcomes go far beyond one's win-loss record.

The interscholastic setting is critical in providing desirable learning experiences. Administrative expectations, direction, and support are vital in achieving clearly defined goals. Also required is adherence to the program purposes by coaches, student athletes, and parents/guardians.

Finally, supporting and cooperating with policies of the Bessemer Board of Education, the Michigan High School Athletic Association and league affiliations is necessary in order to maintain a worthwhile, productive interscholastic environment. An MHSAA handbook is available on their website.

The Bessemer Area School District is committed to a quality interscholastic athletic program that provides desirable learning experiences. The athletic program is dedicated to continuing development and re-evaluation in order to provide student athletes with opportunities to develop character, loyalty, and school spirit; to practice teamwork, hard work, discipline, sacrifice, leadership, and sportsmanship; and to gain a lifetime appreciation for sports and a healthy lifestyle.

# The Six Pillars of Character

From "Pursuing Victory with Honor", The Arizona Sport Summit Accord

## **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat, or steal. Be reliable—do what you say you will do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal—stand by your friends, family, and country.

## **RESPECT**

Treat others with respect; follow the "Golden Rule". Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, do not use bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten to hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Do what you are supposed to do. Persevere: keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self-control and self-discipline. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

## **FAIRNESS**

Play by the rules. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others. Don't blame others.

## **CARING**

Be kind. Show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

Do your share to make this school and community a better place. Cooperate. Stay informed. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.

The "Six Pillars" are a part of this guidebook with the intent that the principles and values they represent become a part of the framework of this organization, and are practiced by staff, players, parents, and fans that are associated with Bessemer Co-curricular activities.

## **COACHING STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS**

A coach has a role as leader and mentor to student athletes, and is an official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. In such important capacities, these standard behaviors should be practiced (including those clubs and athletic programs not sponsored by MHSAA):

1. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
2. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety precautions and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
3. Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and at other appropriate times.
4. Develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members.
5. Allow athletes to prove themselves once again each season.
6. Allow athletes time to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and community groups.
7. Give the highest degree of attention to athletes' physical well being.
8. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.
9. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials, providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.
10. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents; and counteract rumors and unfounded allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
11. Attend required meetings, stay abreast of MHSAA policies regarding the sport, and be familiar with MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations.
12. Present a clean professional image in terms of personal appearance, and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language, and conduct. Use of tobacco within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol any time before a contest on the day of the contest is not acceptable.

## PARENTAL STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

When the coaches, activity advisors, the students, and the parents are working together for the good of the team, a season is successful. Please help us provide the best possible environment for our students and athletes to have a quality experience. The coaches & advisors need to teach & coach, the students need to work hard and sacrifice for the good of the team, and parents need to support their children with attendance and encouragement. The following behaviors should be practiced by parents:

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all students, players, coaches and officials at every event.
2. Place the emotional and physical well being of the participants ahead of any personal desires to win. Encourage your student/ athlete to participate in training opportunities provided by the school.
3. Provide support for advisors, coaches and officials working with the participants to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
4. Promote a tobacco, alcohol, drug, and violence **free** environment for the participants and agree to assist by refraining from the use of these activities at all events.
5. Refrain from comments and actions that are intended to intimidate, anger, or embarrass others. Refrain from "coaching from the stands"
6. Support the participants in the appropriately designated areas for spectators; a position that doesn't interfere with the enjoyment of others.
7. Make youth events fun for the participants. Keep a positive outlook.
8. Expect that your child treat other participants, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
9. Promise to help your child enjoy the extra-curricular experience within your personal constraints by being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever you are capable of doing.
10. Encourage school spirit!

## **CO-CURRICULAR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Actions by coaches, student athletes, administrators, parents and the board of education are subject to the same standards and expectations as stated in board policy and the contractual agreement between the board and the teacher's association. The same expectations of teachers, as stated in these documents, are expected of coaches.

### **Co-Curricular Participants will:**

- Come prepared to work at every practice when physically able.
- Participate in the "Build a Better Athlete Program"
- Accept the team rules as established by the coach and the athletic department.
- Attempt to communicate all questions and concerns with the coach in a timely fashion.
- Display a respectful attitude towards teammates, coaches, officials, spectators, and opponents at all times.

### **Coaches will:**

- Abide by MHSAA coaching standards as stated in the MHSAA Handbook.
- Come prepared to practice daily.
- Make a strong effort to run a safe practice and competition area.
- Communicate important information (such as team expectations and important dates) to parents and administration.

### **Administrators will:**

- Communicate to parents the "conflict resolution process."
- Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."
- Review with coaches the expectations as stated in the team's guidelines.
- The Athletic Director will conduct a meeting in the off season with the coaches to discuss standards and procedures.

### **Parents will:**

- Be supportive of all team members and competitors.
- Support team guidelines and goals.
- Abide by the code of conduct for parents as found in the A.D.J. Co-curricular Handbook.
- Communicate concerns directly to the coach while respecting the 24 hour "cooling off period."

### **The Board of Education will:**

- Recognize athletes and programs for academic and athletic success.
- Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."
- Remain neutral by refusing all requests to become involved in a dispute and thereby allowing the chain of command to operate successfully.

## **CO-CURRICULAR CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS**

- All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur.
- A 24 hour "cooling off" period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.
- Complaints must be made within 5 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it.

### **Step 1: Start with the Source**

The student/athlete will speak directly to the coach or advisor. A cooling off period will be granted for all parties before resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach or advisor may request a parent to be present; however **the meeting should be conducted by the student.**

### **Step 2: Move to program head**

This step is necessary only if the issue is in regards a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the "source" is the head of the program, move to step three.

### **Step 3: Contact Athletic Director/Principal**

If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the Athletic Director/principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

### **Step 4: Contact Co-Curricular Council**

If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the Co-Curricular Council will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

### **Step 5: Notify the District Administrator**

At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the District Administrator. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the District Administrator has reviewed the documents he can make a ruling or conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.

**NOTE: If a student/athlete has been suspended from participation, they will remain ineligible during the course of this process.**

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACH/ADVISOR AND PARENTS**

The purpose of the interscholastic athletic program at A.D. Johnston Junior/Senior High School is to provide an arena in which students can learn and grow in meaningful ways that are not always possible in a classroom setting. Our ultimate success in achieving a positive experience will be measured by our ability to establish lines of communication.

Through good communication, people feel valued and understood, even if complete agreement is not always reached. We are all concerned about the education of our students. Part of the process of growing up is learning to handle your own difficult situations. If a conflict or misunderstanding between a student and a coach/advisor occurs, learning to resolve it is an important educational experience for the student. Parents should react slowly. Children tend to exaggerate at times, leave out part of the story, or present a skewed version of an incident. Taking responsibility for your part in a conflict is a learned skill. It requires maturity and honest self-reflection.

Students vent frustration at the dinner table expecting mom and dad to take their side of the issue. However, parents must realize that they were not present at practice to see how their child behaved, related to the coach/advisor, or to evaluate his or her skill and effort. Parents should always seek more information before drawing conclusions. The most productive long-term help a parent can give a child in awkward situations with a coach/advisor is to teach and model the skills of conflict resolution. Help your child resolve his or her own differences. When a student successfully deals with difficult interpersonal conflicts, he or she learns and grows. Parents are encouraged to help their athlete learn the valuable lessons that co-curricular activities can teach, even the "tough lessons" that may be difficult for everyone involved. Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of a child.

### **Communication Parents Can Expect from ADJ Athletic Personnel**

**Team Itinerary:** Parents need to know the location and times of all try-outs, practices, games, bus trips, meetings, banquets, team camps, conditioning sessions, et cetera, as well as directions to away contests.

**Team Rules:** Parents appreciate knowing not only the philosophy of the coach/advisor but also any team policies, including consequences that the coach/advisor established to supplement the code of conduct, rules and regulations.

**Criteria for Team Selection:** Coaches & advisors should develop and distribute written criteria for team selection, including objective criteria such as those measured against the stopwatch or skills completed, as well as subjective evaluations, such as attitude, effort, coach/advisor ability, grades or potential.

**Criteria for Earning an Award:** Coaches & advisors should determine and distribute written criteria to parents and students as soon as the team has been selected if the criteria is something more than simply completing the season as a member of the team.

**Injury:** Parents can expect to be immediately informed by the coach/advisor when an injury occurs that requires medical attention.

**Problem Behavior:** Coaches & advisors should call parents whenever a student exhibits atypical behavior that persists longer than 48 hours.

**Discipline:** The coach & advisor will inform parents within 24 hours of all discipline that results in the loss of contest participation or removal from the team. This contact will be done before the parent is to attend the contest whenever possible.

### **Communication Coaches & Advisors Appreciate from Parents:**

**Schedule Conflicts:** If you cannot reach the coach directly, it is then appropriate to notify the main office to get a message to the coach/ advisor. Please check with the coach/advisor regarding previously scheduled absences before trying out or joining a team.

**Emotional Stressors:** Coaches/ Advisors appreciate knowing about any unusual event in the life of a student that is causing the young person additional stress.

**Volunteers:** Coaches & advisors need help with so many aspects of managing the program (fundraisers, work projects, team dinners, awards banquet, et cetera) that they are always glad to hear from parents who have ideas and are willing to work for the team.

**Forthrightness:** Every coach & advisor wants to try to resolve a conflict before it is taken to the Athletic Director, Principal or other higher authority or before it is discussed "in the stands."

### **Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches & Advisors:**

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's physical health and welfare, academic progress, or violation of the code of conduct.

\*\* (Matters regarding other students are to be left to their respective parents)

### **Areas of Control that Belong to the Coach or Advisor:**

1. Tryout procedures, team placement, team size and selection criteria.
2. Position(s) played, lineups and playing time.
3. Game strategies; (i.e. offensive and defensive play calling or style of play).
4. Practice plans, drills and scrimmages.
5. Activities staff (upon approval of the administration).

### **How to Discuss an Appropriate Concern with the Coach/Advisor:**

Communication is the most vital aspect of heading off potential problems. Any concern a student or parent has must always be addressed by following the "Co-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process." The first step of this is to contact the source. Whenever possible the student should initiate, but whether the parent or the student begins the process there are some suggestions on how to handle this conversation.

**Student contacting the Source:** The student should talk directly with the coach or advisor, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. E-mail, voice mail, and letters are good methods for communicating information, but they are not as effective as personally communicating feelings and concerns.

**Parent Contacting the Source:** Contact the coach or advisor to talk directly, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game area. Making an appointment, sitting down and listening to both sides is far more productive in reaching a mutually satisfying resolution. Our coaches & advisors are expected and encouraged to meet with individual parents to discuss concerns that affect that parent's child. Our coaches and advisors are not expected to meet with groups of parents to discuss issues of concern. Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach or advisor before or after practice or a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach/advisor. Our coaches & advisors are NOT expected to endure yelling, verbal or physical abuse from parents. Make an appointment. Help teach your child the skills of mature conflict resolution.

### **Conducting a Meeting:**

1. Introduce yourself and vice versa. There is to be no yelling, verbal or physical abuse by either side.
2. When each person is speaking there is to be no interruption. Let each person complete his or her version of the situation before the other person speaks. When stating your concern be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. **Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.**
3. As you talk with the coach/advisor, or other authority, repeat back what you heard to clarify or to be sure you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Take notes.
4. Assist in generating options to resolve the conflict. Make sure there is fairness to the proposed solutions.
5. Before the session ends, have a plan that is clearly understood by all parties. A written document restating the final outcome, what happens if the situation reoccurs, and signatures indicating all involve understand the agreement. The plan should include a follow up to ensure compliance. Remember that each party has a stake in making the plan work. We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student-athlete in mind when concerns are discussed.

Therefore, we make every effort to assure that the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint. Parents, rightly so, tend to have single focus and advocate for their own child. Coaches & advisors, on the other hand, tend to have multi-focus and must safeguard the needs of every participant as well as the team as a whole. Parents, advisors and coaches, in order to communicate effectively, must respect the legitimate perspective of the other.

## ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### A. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All athletes must have a physical examination card on file in the Athletic Director's office. The physical card must be completely filled out and signed by the athlete and parent or guardian of the athlete. Physical cards must be on file before participant can practice.

Only one physical exam per year is required for those who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics. Physical exams may be administered no earlier than April 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding spring, prior to school starting in September.

A doctor's release must be submitted by any student returning to participation after an injury or extended illness. Injured athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and contests unless excused by their coach.

### B. CONSENT FORM

All coaches must coordinate this with their team before they begin their first practice. The completed and signed consent form must be given to the coach and must be on file before an athlete will be allowed to practice or participate in athletics. **The coaches must conduct a meeting where the athletic policy and team rules will be reviewed with the team members.**

### C. STATE RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

School work comes first at all times and participation in athletics and clubs is a privilege of those who observe that fact. Participation in athletics is dependent upon the scholastic record of the student. Eligibility is the responsibility of the student. Students must follow all the rules and regulations established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Bessemer Area Schools not covered below.

The following are required by MHSAA:

All students participating in athletics:

1. shall not be enrolled in more than 8 semesters in a four grade senior high.
2. must carry at least 66% of a full load or 5 of 7 hours of academic work each semester.
3. must have passed 66% of a full load or 5 of 7 classes of coursework in the previous semester and be passing in 5 of 7 classes during the current semester, including physical education.
4. must be under nineteen years of age. Nineteenth birthday must occur before September 1.
5. may not have been a member of any other organized team of the same sport during the season or any other time during his/her school years.

6. shall not have played for money, played under an assumed name, or with players who were playing for money.
7. must not accept any award exceeding \$25.00 in value.
8. must pass a physical examination and have approval of parents/guardian for the participation in the athletic program. A record of this must be on file with the athletic director.
9. must, in order to meet the Bessemer Area Schools eligibility requirements, have previously mentioned forms returned to the office at the designated times. No would-be athlete may practice or perform without first complying with the above eligibility requirements.

**D. BESSEMER AREA SCHOOLS ACADEMIC RULES OF ELIGIBILITY**

ALL MHSAA ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET AT ALL TIMES.

The Bessemer Area Schools Board of Education requires that a student:

**1. PREVIOUS GRADING PERIOD RECORD:**

**A. GPA Requirement:**

**Student-athletes must maintain a 1.7 grade point average.**

If, at the end of a grading period, a student falls below a 1.7 GPA, they will be placed on academic probation. The student will remain on academic probation for the remainder of the following grading period. If they are at or above a 1.7 GPA at the completion of the following grading period, they will be released from probation.

**B. Grade Requirement:**

**All student-athletes must pass all of their classes to be able to participate in co-curricular activities.**

**2. CURRENT GRADING PERIOD RECORD:**

**A. All student/athletes must be passing ALL subjects to be eligible for events.**

- i. All non-probationary student/athletes will have their grades checked every 3 weeks on Friday. If there is no school or a holiday, it will be the last scheduled day of that week. If a student is found to be failing **any** of their courses, they will immediately become ineligible for the following week, Monday-Sunday. Those students who are failing a course will have their grades checked weekly until passing.
- ii. The Athletic Director will be responsible to notify of all students or athletes that are ineligible.

To be ineligible means that a student may not participate in any contest, they must attend all practice sessions, and may not be excused from school to attend an event. While attending an event while ineligible the student-athlete must be dressed in street clothes and seated near the team.

- In accordance with MHSAA policy, students entering ninth grade for the first time are eligible immediately.
- Students with IEP's (Individual Education Plan) will have their eligibility standards determined at their IEP, as long as they meet MHSAA eligibility requirements.

### 3. **ACADEMIC PROBATION FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR:**

If an athlete is on "academic probation", they will have their grades checked weekly. If they are failing any class; they will be notified and become ineligible the following week, Monday-Sunday.

### E. **SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

When a student is suspended in or from school, or expelled from school, the student cannot participate in any practices, contests, or other activities.

### F. **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Co-curricular participants are expected to attend classes as prescribed by school policy and conduct themselves properly in all classes.

**If a student accrues more than 3 tardies within a class in a grading period, they will be deemed ineligible until they make up their detention time. If tardies continue, administration reserves the right to determine the athlete ineligible for an extended period of time.**

**If a student accrues more than 7 excused absences during a grading period, the administration reserves the right to determine the student ineligible due to excessive absences.**

**If a student accrues more than 1 unexcused absence in grading period, the administration reserves the right to determine the student ineligible due to attendance issues.**

School policy is that student-participants must attend classes the full day, both the day of and the day after, events and practices, except for the Monday after Friday games, unless excused by the building Principal or designee.

Athletes will be excused from class if it is necessary to leave for an athletic contest during the school day. The athlete must make arrangements ahead of time for make-up work with the teachers for classes missed.

The athlete dress code requirement on game day is at the discretion of the individual coach

## G. HAZING

Hazing by any school group, club, team or team member is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing is considered a form of harassment and will result in a suspension from the sport and school in compliance to school district harassment policy.

## TRAVEL

All co-curricular participants are to travel to and from events in vehicles arranged by the school. The only exceptions are when:

1. Student's parents speak directly to the coach following the game that they are taking responsibility for their son/daughter.
2. Parents provide a note to the school administrator, no later than the end of the school day of contest, to transfer responsibility for their son/daughter to another parent.
3. Under no circumstances may an athlete ride home with another student/friend.

No student or group of students is to be allowed to leave the coach's immediate supervision for any reason. Only students, coaches, advisors or those connected with the team are allowed to travel with the team.

**If the student does not travel back with the team or leaves the supervision of the coach/advisor while at the event, disciplinary action may be taken against the student at the discretion of the coach/advisor or Athletic Director.**

## STANDARD OF CONDUCT

A student who elects to participate in the activities program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. Being a member of these groups is a privilege and must be treated as such. An individual's conduct should reflect positively upon the team, group, family, school, community and all involved.

- 1 - In the arena of competition, behavior should reflect good sportsmanship.
- 2 - In the classroom, good citizenship, the highest individual academic effort and social responsibility should exemplify the conduct of a good athlete.
- 3 - Dropping out of a co-curricular activity is a serious matter. As a courtesy, the student and parents should discuss this decision with the Coach, Counselor or Activities Director before making a final decision.
- 4 - The student is responsible for equipment and facilities used in the performing of the activity
- 5 - A student should respect and adhere to the expectations of the individual coach/supervisor as outlined in the activities written guidelines.

6 - Athletes may transfer from one sport to another during a season when agreed upon by the player, both coaches and parents. If both coaches and players do not agree, appeals will be made to the Athletic Director.

**All rules of this section as well as other sections of the Student Co-Curricular Handbook are in effect from the beginning with their first day of participation in a co-curricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later. All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.**

The students are at all times representatives of the activities program of the School District and must not engage in conduct which is disreputable or unbecoming a student of the School District. Conduct which would constitute a violation of any law or ordinance and which involves an act of dishonesty or criminal intent will be subject to the penalties and disciplinary measures of the Code of Conduct. Out of school/classroom/extra-curricular behavior unbecoming of a student-athlete, can be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the athletic director or administrator.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are punishable by the disciplinary measures and penalties as follows:

**Suspension** - restricted from participation in the scheduled events and/or games of the activity for a specified duration. The student-athlete must attend practices.

**Removal** - removal from participation in any and all activities including practices for a specified period or permanently.

The Athletic Director, Coach, and/or Co-Curricular Council shall determine the degree of the penalty or disciplinary measure imposed on a case-by-case basis according to the seriousness and severity of the violation. The student's assigned High School Counselor will be consulted when appropriate.

The above training rules are the minimal standards, which are to be adhered to by students. But, any coach/advisor may implement her/his own training rules and regulations which go above and beyond the minimum standards previously stated with approval of the Athletic Director.

**NOTE: Anything not specifically addressed in this handbook is still enforceable by Athletic Director or designee.**

## **SUBSTANCE USE POLICY**

Since a well-trained body and mind is essential to an athlete, use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is strictly prohibited. Use of these substances not only affects the physical fitness of the user but also has a negative effect on the mental attitude of the student-athlete and his or her teammates. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of any of the following is prohibited:

- a. tobacco or tobacco products in any form, including vapor or E-cigarettes
- b. alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form

- c. illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal and/or state statute, and includes inhaling fumes of glue or other such inhalant substances
- d. steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs
- e. substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing, including "look alike" drugs.

It shall not be a violation of the Co-Curricular Code for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed physician for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to board policy. An athlete shall notify his or her coach if he or she is taking a prescription medicine, which could alter the athlete's behavior or affect the athlete's ability to participate in a physical activity.

**This substance use policy is in effect at all times both in and out of season and in the summer (24 hours per day, 12 months per year).**

Behavior in or out of school that would adversely reflect on the athletic department by any team member shall be referred to the Athletic Director (i.e., attendance at parties where alcohol or illegal drugs are present, shoplifting, school discipline). **Students are to refrain from being present at gatherings of students where they know or reasonably should know that any of the substances identified in "b" through "e" above are present.** Any student who voluntarily seeks substance (drug and/or alcohol) use treatment before a violation is reported and then facing possible code violations and subsequent penalties will not face any disciplinary measures for seeking treatment. The treatment program must be approved by the Athletic Director and/or District Administrator and will be at the cost of the family, not the District. Subsequent violations, however, will result in athletic code violations.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

Official police reports, court proceedings, notifications by the Prosecuting Attorney's office, parental notification, firsthand observations reported by staff or other adults, student self-reporting, and actions displayed on the internet are considered a source of evidence in determining a violation of the Activity Code of Conduct are the only sources of information to be investigated for allegations of Athletic Code violations. **All allegations must be presented to the Athletic Director in writing, signed, and dated.** In addition, photos, Twitter, Facebook, and any other types of electronic media can be used as evidence of a violation. Both students and parents should refrain from using this type of communication as a means of inappropriate behavior or negative comments regarding the school, school personnel/staff/coaches, and/or its students/athletes. If an athlete is accused of violating the athletic policy, the Athletic Director will inform the athlete of the alleged violation. The Athletic Director and/or District Administrator will present a notice of the alleged violation in writing to the student and his/her parents/guardians and shall also include the penalty to be imposed.

The Athletic Director or District Administrator will investigate the alleged violation with the student participant involved and law enforcement officials. If, as a result of the investigation, it is the Athletic Director's/District Administrator's judgment that reasonable grounds exist that the violation occurred, the applicable disciplinary procedure will be invoked. The student will be given an opportunity to explain and/or present any information on his/her behalf before discipline is imposed.

## ENFORCEMENT

### 1. First Violation

Athletes found to have violated the training provisions will be suspended from athletic participation for **25%** of the scheduled contests. This will run concurrently with the next sport season if the suspension is not completed.

It is expected that the athlete will complete the sport in which he or she was under suspension.

### 2. Second Violation

Athletes committing a second offense of the training provisions will be suspended for **50%** of athletic contests.

### 3. Third Violation

The third offense will result in suspension from participation in all athletics for one (1) calendar year. If the athlete completes an approved rehabilitation program for alcohol and/or drug abuse related offenses, the athlete can appeal the suspension and apply for reinstatement. The decision of reinstatement and conditions of the reinstatement will be at the discretion of the athletic council. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to propose the program to the Athletic Director for consideration. It is the responsibility for the family of the athlete to pay for any treatment programs.

### 4. Fourth Violation

The fourth violation will result in the student being suspended from participation in all arranged competition at AD Johnston Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of student's high school career.

NOTE: During probation, the Athletic Director shall have the right to immediately suspend the student from participation upon reasonable suspicion that a probation violation has occurred until a determination has been made whether a fourth violation has occurred.

NOTE: If a suspension cannot be completed in the present season, the suspension will be carried over to the student's next season. The amount of dates to be suspended will be determined by the Athletic Director and/or Principal. **If the athlete competes in multiple sports within the same season, they CANNOT serve their suspension concurrently. (Example: Student X competes in track and golf in the spring and they receive their first violation. They will be required to serve a 25% suspension for each of their sports participated within that season.)**

NOTE: Suspensions for Activity Code Violations assessed by other school districts will be carried over to AD Johnston for transferring students.

NOTE: The athlete must complete the season in order to count that season for suspension. If an athlete is participating in a sport at the time of the athletic violation, the athlete must continue to practice in that sport.

### **REINSTATEMENT:**

- A. Suspended students will be required to participate in practice activities while serving a suspension.
- B. A student violating substance rule for drugs and/or alcohol will be required to attend a substance abuse program approved by the school and arranged and funded at the student/parent's expense.
- C. Once a student has violated the activity code of conduct, he/she may not join an athletic team if 20% of the season has elapsed including practice time.
- D. If a student has been removed or suspended from a sport, they must make a request, in writing, to meet before the athletic council before they will be allowed to join another sport.

## **DUE PROCESS & APPEALS**

An athlete subject to discipline under the athletic policy and or team rules shall be given written notice of the charges and an opportunity to discuss the matter with the coach, athletic director, athletic council, or district administrator (in that order).

Violations of the athletic policy may be verified by:

1. Athlete or parent/guardian admission,
2. Law enforcement reports,
3. Court proceedings,
4. School Staff member or other adult reports detailing observed violations, and/or
5. Actions displayed on the internet are considered a source of evidence in determining a violation of the Activity Code of Conduct.

### **A. UNJUSTLY DISCIPLINED**

Any athlete who believes that he or she has been unjustly disciplined may appeal the decision to the Athletic Director within 3 (three) school days of the decision and the decision(s) must be communicated in writing within those three school days. **Athletes appealing decisions will NOT be eligible to participate in athletic events during the appeals process.**

## **B. ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

The Athletic Council consists of all head coaches, one staff member and the Athletic Director. At least 4 (four) coaches need to be present. The Athletic Director serves as a chairperson. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Athletic Director shall call a meeting of the athletic council within seven (7) days.

## **C. NOTIFICATION OF MEETING / VOTING BY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The athlete and parents/guardians shall be notified of the meeting in advance and shall be allowed to attend if desired. The athletic council will review the evidence of the charges and will either uphold, overrule, or amend the decision. The votes of the athletic council members shall be made part of public record. The athletic council will render a decision and provide written notice to the athlete and parents/guardians within three school days. Records of the meeting shall be maintained by the athletic director.

The athlete may further appeal to the District Administrator (DA) within three (3) school days of written notice of the Athletic Council's decision. The DA shall review and decide the matter within 3 school days of receiving the written appeal. The DA's decision shall be final.

Each appeal must be made within three (3) school days of the decision and the decision(s) must be communicated in writing within three (3) school days.

1. Athletes appealing decisions will not be eligible to participate in athletic events during the appeal process.
2. The Athletic Council members are only able to abstain on decisions that involve their immediate family (brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts or uncles, etc.)

**Decisions rendered in the appeal process may not be appealed to the Board of Education.**

## **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE & TESTING POLICY**

### **PUBLIC ACT 31 (1990) REQUIRES NOTICE THAT POSSESSION/USE OF STEROIDS IS A CRIME**

In 1990, the Michigan Legislature enacted Public Law 31 which requires athletic service providers - including both educational and recreational athletic facilities - to post notice that warns that any person who uses or knowingly possesses an androgenic anabolic steroid violates Michigan law and is punishable by imprisonment and fine.

### **PUBLIC ACT 187 (1999) PROHIBITS PROMOTION/DISTRIBUTION OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUPPLEMENTS**

Michigan public school employees and volunteers are prohibited by Public Law 187 from promoting or supplying dietary supplements which carry claims of enhanced athletic performance. *The Law covers androstenedione, creatine and any compound labeled as performance enhancing.*

**MHSAA BANNED DRUGS** The law requires all public school districts and academies to include in their local codes of conduct that possession or use of any National Collegiate Athletic Association banned drug is not permitted and shall subject the student to the same penalties that the school district has established for possession/use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs. (1) The board of a school district or

board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that its policies concerning a pupil's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics include use of a performance-enhancing substance by the pupil as a violation that will affect a pupil's eligibility, as determined by the board or board of directors. The governing body of a nonpublic school is encouraged to adopt an eligibility policy that meets the requirements of this section. (2) For the purposes of this section, the Department of Community Health shall develop, periodically update and make available to school districts, public school academies and nonpublic schools a list of performance-enhancing substances. The Department of Community Health shall base the list on the list of banned drugs contained in the Bylaws of the National Collegiate Athletic Association

The Board requires that each student and their parent or guardian in any of the District's interscholastic athletic programs agree that the student athlete participate in a random drug-testing program. The test or tests will be conducted by an independent contractor and paid for by the District. A list of banned drugs and performance-enhancing substances developed by the NCAA and adopted by the Michigan Department of Public Health are listed in the back of this handbook. Please note that the list may change during the year, and that updates may be found on the NCAA Website ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Also note that "illegal substance also refers to alcohol and tobacco products as they are against Michigan law for minors to possess or use. All test results will be given to the Athletic Director and the student, parent, or guardian.

If the student or parent or guardian asserts any privilege or withdraws the consent given in the Athletic Consent form, the athlete shall immediately be ineligible for further athletic participation. The testing lab will be instructed to test for one or more illegal drugs. Student participant samples will not be screened for the presence of any substance other than an illegal drug or for the existence of any physical condition other than drug intoxication.

A student athlete who tests positive for any illegal substances (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the School Board), shall become ineligible to participate in athletics for a period as given in the athletic code. A student athlete or parent/guardian may request a retest within 24 hours of the original test at their own expense. Students who are taking prescription medication may provide a copy of the prescription or a copy of a doctor's verification that provides evidence that the substance is for a condition where the drug or drug family is prescribed for a medical reason. This information must be provided to school personnel within 24 hours of the test. A student athlete who tests positive will be required to participate in a drug education program in addition to serving an athletic suspension as per the Athletic Code of Conduct.

All Athletic Department personnel are required, and other teaching or administrative staff are encouraged, to report to a student-athlete's respective head coach, administrator or athletic director specific facts or observable behaviors that indicate that a particular student-athlete may be violating the policies expressed in this program.

**A.D. Johnston High School's athletic program is an extension of its educational program and adheres to the philosophy and objectives prescribed by the Bessemer Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The contents of this Handbook help define the policies and procedures used within the Department of Athletics that are specific to participants and parents/guardians.**

## CO-CURRICULAR COUNCIL

The Athletic Council is comprised of the Athletic Director, District Administrator, the Varsity Head Coaches or Head Advisor and one at-large member:

The Athletic Council shall, at the request of the head coach or advisor, have the power to bar from participating in events any individual whose actions are detrimental to the reputation of the school. This option shall be based upon the individual's scholarship, sportsmanship, citizenship, and cooperativeness. Any individual thus barred must make a personal appearance before the Athletic Council before the student may again participate in athletics.

## POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

- A. **Informed Consent:** By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.

Also due to the nature of athletics, the possibility of the exchange of body fluids is present in sports. Regardless of how remote the possibility of transmission of diseases such as HIV/HBV is, all athletes should be aware of the inherent risks associated with athletic competition.

- B. **Risk taking:** Participation in athletics is a voluntary extra-curricular activity in which the student participates at the risk of injury. Athletic activities can be hazardous and participation in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student and parents.

## STUDENT INSURANCE

Parents or guardians of athletes are required to obtain adequate insurance coverage for their children in the event of injury. All students participating in athletic events must carry some type of health and accident insurance.

- A. The Bessemer Area Schools Board of Education **does not** assume liability for injuries suffered by students while participating in athletic activities. The responsibility for the expenses incurred in athletics for doctors, ambulance, or medical expenses for injury must be assumed by the parent or guardian.
- B. The athlete's family or the athlete's family's employer's insurance must provide coverage in the case of any injury suffered while participating in athletics in the Bessemer Area Schools system.
- C. The school district offers the opportunity for athletes to purchase reasonable priced insurance coverage from an independent carrier. Inquire with the high school's office.

## **PREGNANCIES**

If an athlete reports to her coach that she is pregnant or is known by a coach to be pregnant, the coach shall require a doctor's authorization before that athlete will be permitted to continue participation in that sport. Unless the pregnancy is called to the attention of the coach or an administrator - and the pregnancy is unknown and by exercise of reasonable observation could not be known by the coach, all responsibility for reporting such conditions rests with the student - athlete and/or her parents/guardians.

## **CHEERLEADERS**

The cheerleaders are part of the sports program, subject to the rules outlined in this policy and any additional rules defined by their advisor and approved by the principal. If found to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, cheerleaders concurrently participating on other athletic teams will begin serving their suspensions with the NEXT event in which they were scheduled to participate through the specified number of events, regardless of sport.

## **EQUIPMENT**

It is the athlete's responsibility to secure all equipment and to return all issued equipment at the conclusion of the season in a timely manner to their coach or pay the replacement costs for items not returned. An athlete will not receive athletic awards until all obligations are met. Lockers are provided for all athletes and must be cleaned out after the completion of each sport. After each sport has been completed, any locks left on lockers will be taken off and items left in lockers will be confiscated by the coaches or school personnel.

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

This co-curricular policy is in effect for students in Grades 7 & 8 also. The only exceptions to this policy are as follows: student athletes are not eligible for any of the awards stated in the policy. Any junior high violations are dropped at the beginning of the athlete's freshman year.

## **BOARD POWERS AND SUBSEQUENT POLICIES**

The Board of Education reserves the right to make the final decision in areas not specifically covered in the Code of Conduct. Amendments made or policies adopted subsequent to initial adoption shall be in force upon adoption and added to the Athletic Code of Conduct at its next printing.

**Amended & adopted by the Bessemer Area Schools Board of Education - July 25th, 2016**

***Adopted by Bessemer Area Schools Board of Education August 27, 2001***

## Appendix A: NCAA Banned Drug Classes

### MHSAA/NCAA Banned-Drug Classes

The NCAA list of banned-drug classes is subject to change by the NCAA Executive Committee. Contact NCAA education services or [www.ncaa.org/health-safety](http://www.ncaa.org/health-safety) for the current list. The term "related compounds" comprises substances that are included in the class by their pharmacological action and/or chemical structure. No substance belonging to the prohibited class may be used, regardless of whether it is specifically listed as an example.

Many nutritional/dietary supplements contain NCAA banned substances. In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not strictly regulate the supplement industry; therefore purity and safety of nutritional dietary supplements cannot be guaranteed. Impure supplements may lead to a positive NCAA drug test. The use of supplements is at the student-athlete's own risk. Student-athletes should contact their institution's team physician or athletic trainer for further information.

#### Banned Drugs

The following is a list of banned-drug classes, with examples of substances under each class:

##### (a) Stimulants:

amiphenazole  
amphetamine  
bemigride  
benzphetamine  
bromantan  
caffeine (guarana)  
chlorphentermine  
cocaine  
cropropamide  
crothetamide  
diethylpropion  
dimethylamphetamine  
doxapram  
ephedrine (ephedra,  
ma huang)  
fencamfamine  
ethylamphetamine

meclofenoxate  
methamphetamine

methylenedioxymethamphetamine  
(MDMA, ecstasy)  
methylphenidate  
nikethamide  
octopamine  
pemoline  
pentetrazol  
phendimetrazine  
phenmetrazine  
phentermine  
phenylpropanolamine (ppa)  
picrotoxine  
pipradol  
prolintane  
strychnine  
synephrine (citrus aurantium,  
ethamivan zhi shi, bitter orange)  
and related compounds.

The following stimulants are not  
banned:

phenylephrine  
pseudoephedrine

##### (b) Anabolic Agents:

anabolic steroids  
androstenediol  
androstenedione

methyltestosterone  
nandrolone

amino acid- creatine  
boldenone  
clostebol  
dehydrochlormethyl-  
testosterone  
dehydroepiandro-  
sterone (DHEA)  
dihydrotestosterone  
(DHT)  
dromostanolone  
epitrenbolone  
fluoxymesterone  
gestrinone  
mesterolone  
methandienone

norandrostenediol  
norandrostenedione  
norethandrolone  
oxandrolone  
  
oxymesterone  
oxymetholone  
stanozolol  
testosterone<sub>2</sub>  
tetrahydrogestrinone (THG)  
renbolone  
and related compounds  
other anabolic agents  
clenbuterol

**(c) Substances Banned for Specific Sports:**

alcohol	pindolol
atenolol	propranolol
metoprolol	timolol
nadolol	and related compounds

**(d) Diuretics and other Urine Manipulators:**

acetazolamide	hydrochlorothiazide
bendroflumethiazide	hydroflumethiazide
benzhiazide	methyclothiazide
bumetanide	metolazone
chlorothiazide	polythiazide
chlorthalidone	probenecid
ethacrynic acid	spironolactone (canrenone)
finasteride	probenecid
flumethiazide	triamterene
furosemide	trichlormethiazide
	and related compounds

**(e) Street Drugs:**

heroin	tetrahydrocannabinol
marijuana <sub>3</sub>	(THC) <sub>3</sub>

**(f) Peptide Hormones and Analogues :**

corticotrophin	(ACTH)
growth hormone (hGH, somatotrophin)	
human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG)	
insulin like growth factor (IGF-1)	
luteinizing hormone (LH)	
(all the respective releasing factors of the abovementioned substances also are banned.)	
erythropoietin (EPO)	sermorelin
darbepoetin	

**(g) Anti-Estrogens**

anastrozole

clomiphene

tamoxifen and related compounds

**(h) Definitions of positive depends on the following:**

<sup>1</sup>for caffeine—if the concentration in urine exceeds 15 micrograms/ml.

<sup>2</sup> for testosterone - an adverse analytical finding (positive result) based on any reliable analytical method (e.g., IRMS, GCMS, CIR) which shows that the testosterone is of exogenous origin, or if the ratio of the total concentration of testosterone to that of epitestosterone in the urine is greater than 6:1, unless there is evidence that this ratio is due to a physiological or pathological condition.

<sup>3</sup> for marijuana and THC—if the concentration in the urine of THC metabolite exceeds 15 nanograms/ml.

NOTE: For the purpose of this handbook, the use of all forms of tobacco, vapor cigarettes and alcohol products will be treated the same as the above listed substances.

Appendix B: Parental Consent Form

**ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, RISK OF INJURY, INSURANCE COVERAGE,  
TRAVEL PERMIT, & SPORTSMANSHIP AGREEMENT**

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

**Directions:** This form must be completed, signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the school before a student will be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics. Please read the information carefully and contact your school's athletic director or administration if you have any questions.

**Risk of Injury:** I am aware that playing or practicing in interscholastic sports can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury. These injuries could include the following injuries to my child as a result of his/her participation: bruises and cuts, muscle tears, sprains and strains, broken bones, closed head injuries, partial or full paralysis, death, other impairments to the body or mind. I acknowledge that the risk of injury will vary by type of activity and sport.

**Insurance Coverage:** I acknowledge that the school **DOES NOT** provide insurance coverage for athletes. The Bessemer Area Schools does provide supplemental insurance coverage at a cost to the parent. I understand that it is my child's responsibility to report accidents that occur in school sponsored and

supervised interscholastic sports to his/her coach immediately. I understand that it remains my responsibility to seek appropriate medical treatment and to pay for all medical expenses resulting from injuries incurred while my child participates in athletics.

**Travel:** I grant permission for my child to travel to and from authorized school athletic events or practices for the season by means of school bus, private car or walking (Note: private car is meant to be one driven by the coach or other authorized person).

**Sportsmanship:** The Bessemer Area School District Board of Education has adopted the following code of good sportsmanship for our athletes, coaches and spectators involved in interscholastic athletics.

### ***Mission***

The Bessemer Area School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all individuals associated with our athletic programs and contests conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

### **Guidelines**

The following actions on the part of players, coaches, parents and/or spectators will not be tolerated:

- Physically or verbally abusing any official, coach, player or spectator.
- Inciting participants or spectators to violent behavior.
- Using profanity, vulgarity, making derogatory or demeaning comments, or making obscene gestures (verbal or written).
- Mistreatment of the facilities or equipment.
- Throwing of objects onto the playing surface or at participants or spectators.
- Unauthorized entering of the field of play.
- Other acts of conduct deemed by the school personnel supervising the event as inappropriate.

### **Penalties**

Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may result in, but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning.
- Removal from the facilities.
- Barring an individual from attending future athletic events.
- Issuance of a no-trespassing order prohibiting an individual from entering school property or attending school functions.
- Contact law enforcement and possible criminal prosecution.

Additional penalties for unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of players, students, coaches and school personnel will be administered in accordance with established District policies.

I understand and agree to abide by the sportsmanship guidelines established by the school district. I realize that I (and my guests) will be subject to the penalties described if I (or my guests) engage in conduct that is deemed unsportsmanlike at any Bessemer Area School District athletic function.

**Illegal Substance Testing Program:** I understand and agree with the random illegal substance testing program as outlined in the Bessemer Area Schools Athletic Handbook.

**Participation Agreement:** I understand the potential risks of injury and agree the Bessemer Area School District and anyone associated with it will not be held responsible for any loss, injury or death related to my child's participation in the school athletic program except for injuries or damages caused by an authorized Bessemer Area School District agent resulting from the agent's gross negligence or intentional act as determined by a court of law.

I also recognize that it is my responsibility to support and obey the rules of the school, facility, team, and the coaching staff, and to conduct myself in a sportsmanlike manner at all school activities. If I choose not to comply with the rules of the school, facility, team, and/or the coaching staff, the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities may be revoked.

**Please sign and return this form to your coach.**

By signing this document, I \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian, indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to these standards set forth in order for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to be afforded the privilege of representing A.D. Johnston Junior/Senior High School as a student athlete or activity/club member. I am also aware that any violation on the part of my child, to any of these standards, shall result in the consequences contained within this policy. I further understand that my son/daughter must have a current physical on file at the Bessemer Area Schools before the first practice and before any participation in any contests or events.

Our signatures below indicate that we have read, understand and agree to the terms set forth in the Bessemer Area Schools Co-Curricular Handbook. We also agree to follow any additional rules not set forth in this handbook but established by each individual coach or advisor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (please sign and print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please sign and print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Coach or Co-Curricular Activities Advisor