



*If you have questions, please contact:
Jay Bowen, Director of Athletics*

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Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School
Athletic Department Mission Statement and Philosophy

“Student-Athletes first, winning second.”

It is the vision of this athletic department to uphold, enhance and advance the Catholic mission of Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School. We believe athletics to be an integral part of a well-balanced life that incorporates mind, body and spirit. We realize, however, that athletics and the development of one’s body is just that, a part of a greater whole. It is our expectation that athletics at this school will in no way overshadow, take importance over, or undermine the other two aspects of a well-developed individual. In fact, it is our expectation that athletics at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School will help to develop well-rounded young men and women.

It is the assumption of this athletic department that under the right circumstances athletics can and will have a positive influence on an individual’s character. It is our focus to create and maintain the right circumstances for character to be developed by serving as role models for young athletes, encouraging sportsmanship and upholding a disciplinary system that has consequences for inappropriate conduct on and off the playing fields.

This athletic department will commit itself to an intense striving for perfection in everything it does. This department believes that even though perfection is not possible, pursuing it as if it were possible is a formula for success. This desire for victory is coupled with, but does not supersede, a commitment to the play spirit of sport, such that ethical standards will always take precedence over strategic gain whenever the two conflict. We recognize the seriousness of high school athletic competitions and all of the many implications involved in victory or defeat, with a firm understanding that in the end it is just a game.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Your membership on a Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School athletics team is considered a privilege, not a right. You are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty and integrity while abiding by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct at all times.

As a Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School student-athlete, you are among the most visible students on campus and in the community. This platform brings with it a whole set of privileges and responsibilities. **Every student-athlete is expected to abide by the school's rules and regulations and the policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).**

You have a responsibility as an enrolled student-athlete to adhere to team rules as provided by the head coach and the Athletic Department. These rules are important because they have the potential to affect your status as a student-athlete. Remember that by signing the handbook acknowledgement, you are bound by all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

REQUIRED ELIGIBILITY PAPERWORK/DOCUMENTS: All student-athletes must complete any and all paperwork required by the school, the Diocese of St. Petersburg and/or the FHSAA before being allowed to participate in BMCHS Athletics (this includes participation in voluntary workouts or conditioning programs). Forms are available on the BMCHS web-site and may also be picked up from the Athletic office. All forms must be turned in to the Athletic Department prior to the student participating in any form of athletic activity. Student-Athletes are responsible for ensuring they are cleared to participate by the Athletic Director and Head Athletic Trainer. A student-athlete will not be cleared for participation by the Athletic Director until all paperwork has been turned in.

PARTICIPATION FEES: In order to offset some of the costs to run the Athletic Department, student-athletes are responsible for a \$200.00 participation fee for each sport that he/she plays. If the student-athlete plays 2 sports athletic fee is \$350.00 and for 3 sports \$500. Football athletic fee is \$300.00. This money will go toward costs associated with transportation, equipment and operational supplies. Teams may also choose to purchase team gear, and this will be done as an additional cost organized by the coach. Participation packets are created at the discretion of the **head coach and the needs of the sport played.** **As this fee is in no way intended to create a "pay to play" atmosphere at the school, if any family is in extreme financial difficulties and unable to pay the fee, we will do our best to come up with alternate ways to cover it.** Special consideration will be given on a case by case basis. To qualify, see Jay Bowen, Director of Athletics.

THE PARTICIPATION FEES MUST BE PAID BY THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Fall Sports (September 1), Winter Sports (November 1st), and Spring Sports (February 1st). If a student's fees have not been paid by that date, they will not be able to continue participating until the fees are paid. If a student-athlete becomes ineligible, quits or is dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons the money is non-refundable. If a player becomes injured during the season and is unable to play, refunds will be handled on a case by case basis. All checks for the participation fees should be made payable to Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School or BMCHS. Any special payment arrangements must be cleared through Jay Bowen, Director of Athletics.

CHECKLIST FOR BEING CLEARED TO PARTICIPATE

When the student-athlete meets with the Athletic Department to be “Cleared to Participate” the following criteria will be examined. When all criteria are met, a student-athlete will be cleared to participate.

1. **FHSAA EL2 Physical Exam Form (signed and dated by doctor with clearance checked)**
2. **FHSAA EL3 Consent and Release Form (With insurance coverage listed)**
3. **FHSAA GA 4 High School Transfers only**
4. **FHSAA Certificates -3- (Heat Illness, Concussion, Cardiac Arrest)**
5. **Athletic Handbook and Anti-Bullying Pledge forms signed**
6. **Paid Athletic Fee (1 Sport \$200, 2 Sports \$350, 3 Sports \$500, Football \$300)**
Fall Sports due by September 1st.
Winter Sports due by November 21st.
Spring Sports due by February 20th.
7. **Academic Eligibility**
8. **Approved Student Conduct**

ATTENDANCE: Student-Athletes are expected to follow **ALL** rules as outlined in the BMCHS Student Handbook. In particular in regards to attendance, please note the following:

- You **must** be in school that day to participate in any athletic activities (practice or games)
- Exceptions are school allowed absences; field trips, retreats, school responsibilities, documented medical action or related issues.
- You **must** be in school by 9:25 am, again with the same exceptions as above (any medical action must have a note from the medical office)
- You may **not** leave school before the school day has ended, again with the same exceptions as above
- Students with excessive tardiness (excused or unexcused) may be forced to sit out from athletics **at the Athletic Director’s discretion in order to receive tutoring** or make up work for school.

Understand that your participation in athletics comes before social activities. This means that your participation in athletics will oftentimes mean sacrificing some sort of social engagement. **A firm and lasting commitment to attend all practices and games for the entire season (including games played on weekends and over school vacations) is expected from all athletes that choose to participate.** Failure to remain committed may result in dismissal from the team.

Hurricane student-athletes may participate in multiple sports per athletic season (fall, winter, and spring). If a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or chooses to leave a team for any reason, they will not be eligible to participate in the next season until final game of the original sport is concluded. Student-athletes in good standing can be allowed to attend practices for a second sport **during the “overlap period” only with consent** of the coaches of both teams, a grade check and approval of their parents and athletic director.

Hurricane student-athletes are expected to have exemplary performance and behavior in the classrooms. Again, your participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. It is a privilege given to those students who can handle the academic responsibilities that come before being an athlete. It is also given to those students that can conduct themselves like mature, responsible students in the classroom. Failure to meet academic requirements will result in dismissal from the team. Misconduct in the classrooms, depending on the severity of the misconduct, will have a number of different consequences ranging from sitting out for a portion of a game to being dismissed from the team. A good athlete will become a good student. A person that is lazy or foolish in the classroom will have a hard time finding long-term success in

athletics. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies and achieve acceptable grades. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to plan for any coursework or exams that may be due on a day that teams have early dismissals from class. Student-athletes should be making these arrangements with teachers **in advance** of the early dismissal day. Early dismissals for athletic events are not an excuse to miss exams or turn in coursework late, unless prior arrangements have been made.

BMCHS student-athletes are expected to display sportsmanship at all times on and off the playing fields. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner at any time before, during or after a game/practice under any circumstance will have a consequence ranging from missing a portion of a game to being dismissed from the team.

BMCHS student-athletes will refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, performance enhancing drugs, and any and all other drugs. Not only does your use of these substances hurt your body and its proper development, but it also affects your team because it keeps you from performing to the best of your abilities. Disciplinary action from the office will be taken for these infractions in addition to possible removal from the team.

BMCHS student-athletes will demonstrate a commitment to excellence. A Hurricane athlete will pursue perfection in everything that he/she does even though perfection is not possible. Hurricanes believe that pursuing perfection as if it were possible will result in excellence.

BMCHS student-athletes will not swear or make inappropriate gestures. Everything you do and say makes a statement about who you are as a person. It also makes a statement about Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School and its Athletic Department (**since you are a member of both the school and the athletic program you represent both entities**). **Make sure that you're making the** right statements with your words and actions.

BMCHS student-athletes who are injured will be required to attend all practices and games **unless there is a medical reason (physical therapy, doctor's check-up)** or other **"excused reason" prohibiting such attendance**. After any trip to a doctor, **A DOCTOR** must send a clearance note with you to the Athletic Trainer in order for you to be cleared to participate.

BMCHS student-athletes will uphold the highest security when it comes to social media, refraining from posting anything that can make their teammates, coaches, or school look bad to the larger world community. Cyberbullying, heckling, or inciting a war of words with another school or someone at **BMCHS** is absolutely not tolerated. Using social media in this fashion can lead to discipline from the school and/or suspension or removal from the team as warranted.

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

Coaches may have more specific or varied guidelines as far as discipline is concerned. As always, student-athletes and parents should communicate to the head coach when circumstances arise that may affect being at practices or games. If a coach is unaware, it is hard for them to be flexible. The following is a **general guideline** to which all coaches may adhere, although each coach can set their own policies:

MISSING PRACTICE

- Missing a practice for an unexcused reason (1st time) can result in sitting out for part or all of an athletic competition.
- Missing a second practice for an unexcused reason can result in sitting out for part or all of up to two athletic competitions.
- Missing a third practice for an unexcused reason will result in sitting out for all of up to three athletic competitions.
- Missing a fourth practice for an unexcused reason will result in up to a six-game suspension and possible dismissal from the team.

(Excused reasons include, but are not limited to, academic tutoring, family emergencies, spiritual obligations and illness. Unexcused reasons, include but are not limited to, serving a detention, having a lot of homework, social engagements.)

MISSING A GAME

- Missing a game for an unexcused reason (1st time) can result in a suspension from games OR removal from the team.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Inappropriate classroom behavior will not be tolerated.
- Reports by any teachers of inappropriate behavior will be handled by administration FIRST, and then will be forwarded to the coach, the discipline department, and the athletic director.
- Consequences for inappropriate classroom behavior include, but are not limited to, sitting out for a part of or an entire athletic competition, suspension from the team (no practices or competitions), or dismissal from the team. This is in addition to any administrative consequences.
- Serious disciplinary infractions, such as getting suspended or being ejected from an athletic competition, will result in sitting out of at least the next game/competition and possibly result in dismissal from the team. Any punishment handed down by the FHSAA for unsportsmanlike conduct will most likely be coupled with disciplinary action taken by the school as well. Any fines assessed to the school because of the behavior of a student-athlete will be the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her family.
- Receiving more than one suspension in an athletic season or more than one ejection as a student-athlete may result in penalties up to permanent dismissal from sports at Bishop McLaughlin.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- Cases of unsportsmanlike conduct will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Consequences will be decided by the Director of Athletics and the Head Coach of the athlete and will be in addition to any consequence mandated by the FHSAA.
- Consequences can include but are not limited to sitting out for a portion of a game, suspension from the team (no practices or competitions), or dismissal from the team.
- In the event that an offense of unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, the player/coach will be subject to paying any and all fines given by the FHSAA.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Student-Athletes must meet the academic requirements set forth by the State of Florida and the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA):

According to FHSAA rule 9.4.1:

A student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester. If student athlete has under a 2.0 grade point average to start the academic semester the student athlete will be placed on an Athletic Probation.

Bishop McLaughlin student-athletes must also have a semester GPA of at least a 2.0 and no Semester Failures in order to be eligible to participate.

Transfers

Student-athletes are immediately eligible (as long as they meet all other eligibility standards – including, but not limited to age, limit of eligibility, pre-participation physical exam, GPA, and consent and liability release) at the school in which he or she first attends each school year; the school in which the student makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in practice or tryouts before enrolling; or the school to which the student has transferred in accordance with s. 1006.20 (2) (a).

If the transfer occurs during the school year, the student may seek to immediately join an existing team if:

- A roster spot is available
- The student has the requisite skill and ability to participate in the sport according to the coach of the team
- The student has not participated in the same sport at another school during the same school year – unless the student meets one of the following exceptions:
 1. Dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders
 2. Relocation due to a foster care placement in a different school zone
 3. Move due to court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent
 4. Authorized for good cause in the district or charter school policy

“Good Cause” is dictated by the school based adequate or substantial grounds or reason to take a certain action, or to fail to take an action prescribed by law. Academic issues, family issues, and any other issues, outside of sports, will be reviewed to qualify for good cause.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Use of any drugs will result in immediate dismissal from the team and disciplinary action taken by **Administration**, up to and including expulsion. This includes the off-campus actions of students or student-athletes.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

It is important that student-athletes be recognized for their hard work and efforts when participating in the Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School athletic programs. At the conclusion of every season, coaches will conduct end of the season ceremonies/banquets for the purpose of recognizing these student-athletes in the presence of their teammates, families and friends. The athletic department has established awards that are distributed to qualifying athletes. The criteria for the disbursement of these awards are different from sport to sport and are listed in the “Specific Sport Requirements” section. Our purpose is to recognize as many athletes as possible, with the highest accolades that can be given to them. Any student who is suspended due to violation of FHSAA rules violations may be subject to additional BMCHS sanctions. Said players may also be ineligible for awards or recognition.

Awards Procedure

If a student athlete’s performance has met the established criteria and/or merits recognition, he/she may receive an award. A copy of the criteria is kept on file in the athletic office.

Awards

Freshmen Team:

Certificate of Participation

Junior Varsity Team:

Certificate of Participation

Varsity:

First year – Certificate of Participation, Letter*

Second year – Certificate of Participation, Sport Symbol

Third year – Certificate of Participation, Pin

Fourth year – Certificate of Participation, Pin

***Only one letter is issued per athlete. For example, if an athlete receives a varsity letter in a fall sport and achieves varsity status in a winter sport, he/she will not receive another letter. Student-athletes must complete the entire season to be considered for an award.**

End of the Year Awards

*The award winners are selected by the head coaches at a meeting arranged by the Director of Athletics at the end of the spring sports season. ** If coaches leave for any reason before the submission deadline The Director of Athletics will decide on the winner of the award.*

***Bishop McLaughlin Award* – Embodies BMCHS Athletics sportsmanship – male/female**

***Athlete of the Year* – Scholar Athlete with a Major athletic accomplishment and be in the upper 10% of his/her class – male/female**

SPECIAL CASES (Team Managers)

1. Be a part of the team as a manager for the entirety of the season (including traveling to road contests).



PARENT AND COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

The Parent-Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By listening to each other, we are better able to be aware and accept the actions of those around us and provide greater benefit to our young adults. As parents whose children are involved in our athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your **child's team**.

Parents should keep in mind that coaches are hired as Professionals. Coaches make decisions based on the determination of what is best for the team as a whole. **Our athletic department's philosophy is that at the high school level, sports are a competitive endeavor**, and that coaches are expected to give their team the best possible chance to win every game. **Playing time comes from being the team's best chance to win a game. Players can earn playing time** through winning a position in practices. **Coaches should keep in mind** that parents are the primary educators of their children and work with parents to help the child mature and grow.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. The philosophy of the BMCHS Athletic Department and the philosophy of the individual coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of practices and competitions.
4. Team requirements- fees, special equipment, etc.
5. Procedures we follow should your child be injured during participation.
6. Disciplinary action that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication a coach expects from you:

1. Student-Athletes in High School are responsible first for speaking to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of the practice or event.
3. Specific concerns that have to do with the safety or academic success of an athlete
4. Communication about any colleges or Universities that have interest in an athlete.
5. Offer to help with team events and fundraising.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Questions about what an athlete should be doing away from practices and games in order to improve.
2. Concerns about your athlete's behavior or health.
3. Concerns about scheduling or transportation.
4. Questions about your child's college search.

The Hurricane Athletic Department understands that it is sometimes very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you or your child may hope. **These decisions are left up to the judgement and discretion of the coach.**

Issues that should not be brought up with coaches:

1. Complaints about playing time, position choices for players.
2. Team strategy or play calling.
3. Other student-athletes.

The only appropriate way to discuss playing time is to have your son or daughter (the student-athlete) approach the coach and find out what needs to be done in order to warrant more playing time.

If you do have a concern to discuss with a coach:

(Please ***do not*** confront a coach before or after a practice or a game. Meetings of this nature are emotionally charged and do not promote resolution. Email or call the coach 24 hours after the game. **The appropriate steps are:**

1. **The student-athlete must meet with coach regarding concerns.**
2. If this meeting does not resolve the issue then the parent can contact your child's coach directly to set up a meeting time.
3. If meeting with the coach does not resolve the issue, please contact and meet with Director of Athletics. The meeting will include the coach (if necessary), and your child.
4. If the issue is still not resolved, then it will be forwarded to Ms. Zummo, who oversees all student activities. This meeting would include the coach (if necessary), Director of Athletics (if necessary), and your child.

ALL ATHLETIC CONCERNS MUST BE DIRECTED THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE PERSON.

PARENT/FAN SUPPORT AT GAMES

(This applies to both home and away contests. Regardless of where games are being played, our fans, student-athletes and coaches are representatives of Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School.)

Hurricane Fans: As is the case with being a member of a Hurricane sports team, cheering on our Hurricanes in the stands **MUST BE** appropriate and display ethical behavior. Our student-athletes and coaches strive to behave in sportsmanlike and Christian ways on and off the playing field. Support from the stands must model and mirror this commitment to upholding the integrity of the game and Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School.

Reasoning: Sport is, in a sense, a performing art. Therefore, while they don't require an audience, having spectators watch our teams and student-athletes compete is a natural occurrence. Furthermore, having support at games and competitions is a way to help student-athletes perform better. Having fan support at Hurricane Athletic games is not only allowed, it is encouraged!



General Guidelines:

- Cheer for our team. Encouragement and praise are the key - **keep it positive.**
- **Do not** cheer against the other team or harass the referees. This is disrespectful and it has no place in Hurricane Athletics.
- As guests at an opposing school, you are subject to not only **BMCHS** rules, but also the rules of the opposing school.
- As a fan at an FHSAA sanctioned contest, you are subject to the rules and regulations of the FHSAA (**including having to pay for any fines that may be incurred because of your behavior**).
- Respect and appreciate the efforts of all involved in the game. **Congratulate outstanding performances regardless of who performs them** – whether a Hurricane or an opponent.
- **Have fun.** Keep in mind that in the end, it is just a game.
- Promote a spirit of rivalry - **But think intense, not hostile.** The best rivalries are fueled by an intense respect for an opponent.
- **Understand that this is a school function, regardless of the time or place. You are subject to the BMCHS Code of Conduct and consequences.**

Failure to abide by any of the above guidelines may result in any of the following: dismissal from the game/event, disciplinary action such as an administrative detention and/or suspension (for students), or prohibition of attending any future games/events.

Our Hurricane Athletic Teams need your support!

But fan support should reflect our core values: Belief, Integrity, Service, Honor, Opportunity, and Passion. All of us should strive to act with kindness and compassion. Behaviors contrary to this have no place in high school sports, and especially not Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School Athletics.

General Parent Reminders

*Parents may take athletes from an away event provided the head coach has been notified and that the parent/guardian of that student-athlete is present. Coaches have no legal authority to allow or arrange transportation that has not been authorized by the parent. **DO NOT ASK.** Permission slips are available at the front office.*

Parents who have an issue or concern about Hurricane Athletics involving a BMCHS employee or an individual or party outside of the school should bring their concern to the attention of the Athletic Director. If the issue cannot be handled at that level, the Athletics Director will involve administration. Parents are not to contact schools or organizations in regards to sports at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School directly

Anti-Bullying Pledge: **I promise to stop what I am doing, think about what I am saying, and feel what others are feeling.**

Each student at Bishop McLaughlin High School has a responsibility to themselves and those around them. The mission of Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures the development of the whole person.

In keeping with our core values and civility policy, we believe that everybody should be valued and welcome. All students should enjoy our school equally, while on campus, at home, and on the Internet and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of color, race, gender, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, religion or nationality.

Bullying can be physical, as well as name calling, making fun of, laughing at, and excluding someone. Bullying can be emotional or social bullying. "Cyber bullying" is when a person is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another person using the Internet, digital technologies or mobile phones. Bullying and cyber bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable. The victim is never responsible for being a target of bullying or cyber bullying.

By signing this pledge, I agree to:

- Value student differences and treat others with respect.
- Not become involved in bullying or cyber bullying incidents or be a bully or cyberbully.
- Be aware of the school's policies and support system with regard to bullying/cyber bullying.
- Support students who have been or are subjected to bullying/cyber bullying.
- Talk to teachers and parents about concerns and issues regarding bullying/cyber bullying.
- Work with other students and faculty, to help the school deal with bullying/cyber bullying effectively.
- Encourage teachers to discuss bullying/cyberbullying issues in the classroom.
- Provide a good role model for younger students and support them if bullying/cyber bullying occurs.
- Participate fully and contribute to assemblies dealing with bullying/cyber bullying.
- I acknowledge that whether I am being a bullying/cyber bullying bully or see someone being bullied/cyber bullied, if I don't report or stop the bullying/cyber bullying, I am just as guilty.
-

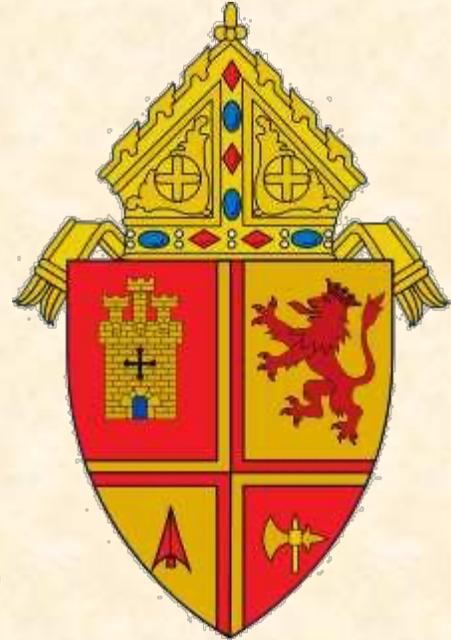
We, as athletes, agree to join together to eliminate bullying, harassment, & cyber bullying at our school.

Student

Parent

School Staff

Date



ATHLETICS HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2022-2023

I have read the Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School Athletic Handbook and agree to be governed by these policies, procedures, regulations, and appendices. I am fully aware of my responsibilities as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and the Student-Athlete handbook(s). I will strive to behave in manner consistent with our mission statement and principles:

Belief, Integrity, Service, Honor, Opportunity, and Passion.

Please sign and date below and return this form to your coach or the school office.

Student

Date

Parent

Date

Coach

Date

Athletics Director

Date

Revised 6/21/22