

**Mission**

The mission of the Bleckley County Athletic Department is to provide athletic programs that support the education process of student -athletes and help nurture their development as a responsible person. The athletic programs will teach an attitude of discipline, sportsmanship, and integrity. We will provide a competitive athletic program which complements and supports a challenging academic program by teaching student-athlete's perseverance, leadership, and teamwork.

**Bleckley County Schools Athletic Philosophy**

The purpose of Bleckley County's athletic program is to promote the education and development of students through athletic participation. Our school system is committed to high standards and the principles of athletics serve as an essential part of the total educational program offered by the Bleckley County School System.

Bleckley County Athletic programs will provide an experience that fosters an emotional, physical, and intellectual foundation for growth and well-being. Student-athletes will demonstrate compassion, responsibility, and dedication to their team and teammates as they act with integrity, honor, and an understanding of their role in the school and community. Spirit, loyalty, confidence, self-esteem and enjoyment of the sport are visible components of a positive experience.

The Bleckley County Athletic Department is committed to providing opportunities that enhance the experiences of student-athletes in their specific sports. The department believes that participation in athletics produces lessons that will be used in life as well as in competition. Interscholastic athletics promote an awareness of the positive impact of hard work, the value of developing measurable skills, the importance of attention to detail, and the ability to persevere through adversity.

Bleckley County Athletics strives for excellence in all that it does. Athletic teams are a reflection of the overall quality of the school system, and a commitment to excellence is expected at all levels of the athletic program. Our student-athletes will be motivated toward success in the classroom as well as in their chosen sports. Bleckley County strives to build competitive athletic programs that act as an enduring source of pride for the student body, student-athlete, alumni, and members of the Bleckley County community.

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES**

1. Encouragement
2. Trust
3. Teamwork
4. Enthusiasm
5. Respect

**Coaches**

Our coaches are the most significant components of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. They have the responsibility to model proper behaviors and attitudes at all times.

In order to be an effective coach and role model, our coaches must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, be able to make adjustments during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the athletic director and school administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they have to mold young lives.

**Parents**

Parents of student athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve their greatest potential and the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and encourage coaches and teammates at all times.

**Student-Athletes**

Our student-athletes should be diligent in preparation, give 100% at all times, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, show humility, and aggressively pursue excellence regardless of the score, opponent, time, referee, or situation. The ultimate and final responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the student-athlete, for it is the student-athlete who is accountable to their parents, coach, and the team.

**SPORT OFFERINGS**

**BLECKLEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

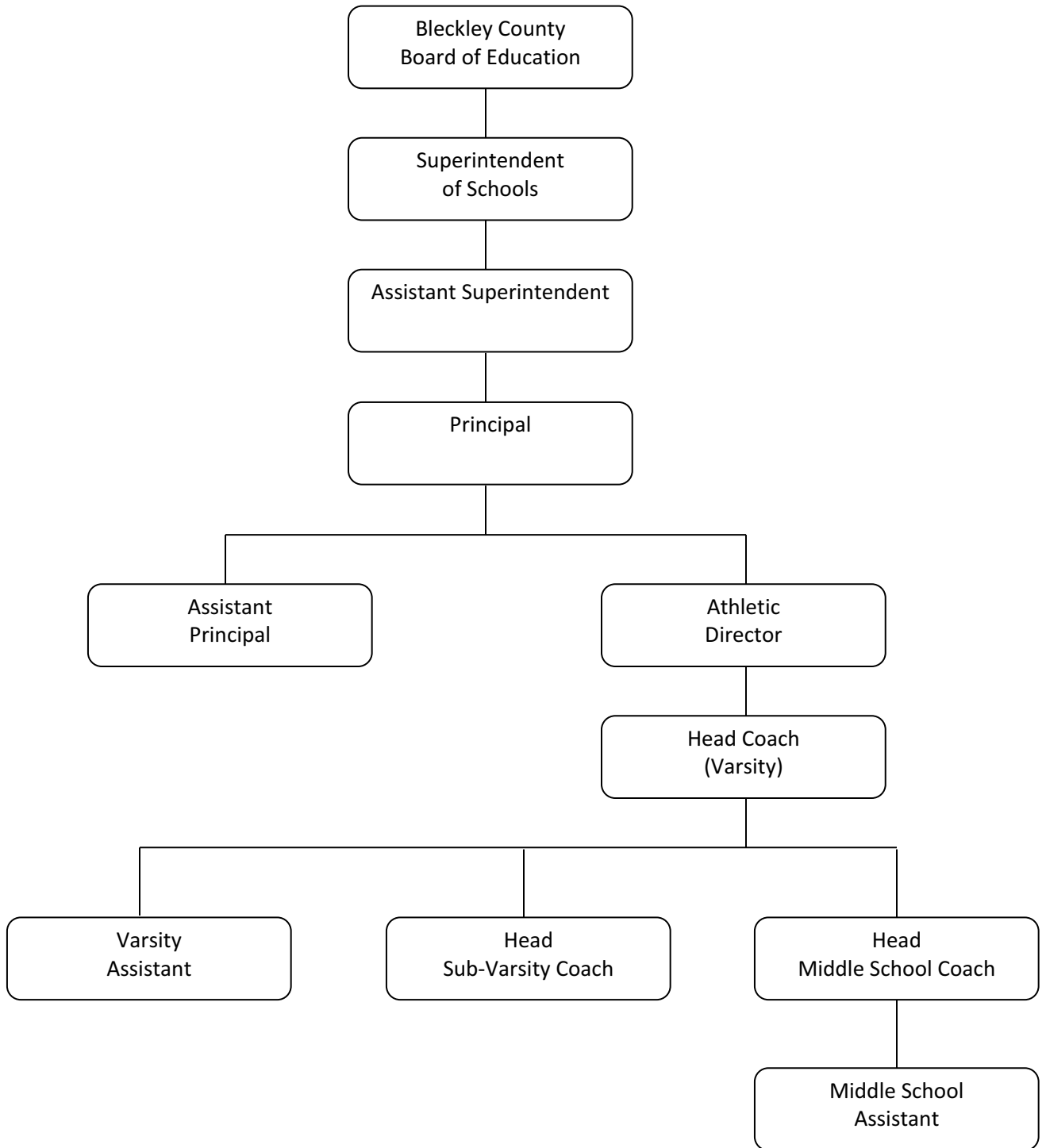
<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Cheerleading	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Cross Country (Boys/Girls)	Girls Basketball	Golf (Boys/Girls)
Football	Basketball Cheer	Tennis (Boys/Girls)
Softball		Track (Boys/Girls)
		Soccer (Boys/Girls)

**BLECKLEY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Cheerleading	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Cross Country (Boys/Girls)	Girls Basketball	Track (Boys/Girls)
Football	Basketball Cheer	Soccer (Boys/Girls)
Softball		Golf (Boys/Girls)

**Bleckley County Schools**

**Athletic Flow Chart**



**Bleckley County High School**

School Office	478-934-6258		
Matt Gibbs, Principal	478-934-6258	ext.2100	
Von Lassiter, Athletic Director <a href="mailto:vlassiter@bleckley.k12.ga.us">vlassiter@bleckley.k12.ga.us</a>	478-934-6258	ext. 2600	Cell: 478-256-9441
Trey Belflower, Facilities <a href="mailto:tbelflower@bleckley.k12.ga.us">tbelflower@bleckley.k12.ga.us</a>	478-934-2821		
Mike Brannon, Athletic Trainer <a href="mailto:mbrannon@bleckley.k12.ga.us">mbrannon@bleckley.k12.ga.us</a>	478-994-2812	ext. 1015	Cell: 478-394-2339

**Bleckley County Middle School**

School Office	478-934-7270		
Carla Thrower	478-934-7270		
Ray Hardin, Athletic Director <a href="mailto:rhardin@bleckley.k12.ga.us">rhardin@bleckley.k12.ga.us</a>	478-934-7270		

**Transportation**

Office	478-934-2821		
Stan Thompson, Driver Coordinator	478-230-4616		
Robert Fordham	478-230-6234		

**Local Media**

Bleckley Progress	478-230-6556 (Dave Whitaker)		
Macon Telegraph Sports	478-744-4227 (Sports Desk)		
13 WMAZ	478-752-1313 (Main Desk)		
Score Atlanta	404-256-1572		

**Coaches Directory**

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
Baseball	Brad Davis bdavis@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-697-4044
Basketball – Boys	Garrett Collins gcollins@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-230-8264
Basketball – Girls	Jenny Sue Manning jmanning@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-298-1612
Cheerleading	Heather Davis hdavis@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-231-9666
Cross Country	Shelly Cranford scanford@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-230-1006
Football	Von Lassiter vlassiter@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-256-9441
Golf	Dave Wiegert dwiegert@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-308-2047
Soccer – Boys	Jimmy Williams jwilliams@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-278-0042
Soccer – Girls	Wesley Odom wodom@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-954-8688
Softball	Teresa Gray tgray@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-230-1892
Tennis	Brad Sanders bsanders@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-298-3350
Track – Boys/Girls	Randy Thompson rthompson@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-308-9028 +
Director of Sports Performance/ Assistant Athletic Director	Stacy Nobles snobles@bleckley.k12.ga.us	478-278-1012

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### **Athletic Awards Banquet**

- Prepare for and conduct the athletic award banquet in your sport.
- Coaches are responsible for ordering awards, planning, and conducting the banquet.
- Booster Clubs are requested to sponsor banquets for their particular sport.
- Coaches are responsible for inviting the local media, administrators, school board members, support personnel, etc.
- Coaches should inform the Athletic Director of banquet dates and times. Athletic awards such as certificates, pins, etc. can be picked up from the Athletic Director.
- Every student athlete (including managers) should be recognized verbally and with a certificate of participation. If an athlete receives a letter, it is not necessary to present the certificate.
- Athletes must be present at the banquet in order to receive an award. Absences must be approved by the Athletic Director and Head Coach prior to the day of the banquet.
- Middle school athletes will not be given letters. They will be given certificates of participation.

### **Athletic Trainer**

- The Bleckley County School System employs a part time Athletic Trainer.
- All injuries should be reported to the Athletic Trainer.
- All treatment schedules will be set up by the Athletic Trainer.
- Coaches should keep the Athletic Trainer updated on all sport schedules. If a cancellation occurs, the Athletic Trainer should be notified by a coach.

### **Booster Clubs**

- A Booster Club is a support organization and should not be involved in the policies and procedures of the school or athletic department.
- The formation of booster clubs must be approved by the Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent.
- The booster club shall have a Constitution with by-laws and procedures established.
- The head coach is required to attend all booster club meetings. If the head coach is unable to attend, then an assistant coach must be assigned to attend meetings.
- All funds raised to support a program should be placed in a booster club account. If no booster club account exists, the funds can be placed in an athletic account with approval of the Athletic Director.
- Booster club members are not allowed to charge anything to a Bleckley County Schools accounts.

### **Budget**

- All sports will be in charge of their budget.
- All coaches are expected to stay within their budget.
- Additional resources should be generated through booster club, fundraising, etc.
- Booster club bills can be paid through the school account.

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## **Cancellations**

- It is necessary at times to cancel games and practices at the last minute due to inclement weather.
- Head Coaches should notify the Athletic Director of any potential cancellations.
- If it is a home contest, the Athletic Director and Head Coach will make the cancellation call.
- If it is an away event, the opponent school Athletic Director or Coach will make the cancellation call. As soon as there is a cancellation, student-athletes should be updated.
- The cancellation will be announced immediately from the school office.

### **Inclement Weather**

- Lightening and Severe Storms: The Athletic Director in consultation with the Head Coach will make decisions based on the GHSA guidelines for student-athlete safety.
- All outdoor sports must have lightening detectors available for practices and games.

## **Coaches Expectations**

- All coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- The code of conduct defined by the Georgia Professional Standards will be used as the basis for defining acceptable professional behavior for coaches.
- Any fine levied by the GHSA is the responsibility of the coach.
- Conduct in the community is expected to be professional.
- All coaches must work together to perform their duties and responsibilities.
- Problems or concerns should be addressed in a professional and timely manner.
- Consistent application of team rules should be used in every sport.
- The head coach should meet with assistant coaches to ensure that everyone is aware of the rules to be used with the team.
- Head coaches are responsible for communicating with middle school coaches about rules, discipline issues, and academic requirements expected from the middle school program.

### **Head Coach Job Description**

- Serve as liaison between the coaching staff and the Athletic Director.
- Thorough knowledge of the Rules and By-Laws of the Georgia High School Association, the Region, and the Bleckley County School District.
- Understands the proper administrative chain of command and refers all requests or grievances through proper channels. Is aware of all public/staff/departmental meetings that require attendance.
- Establishes the fundamental philosophy, skills and techniques to be taught by the staff. Conducts staff meetings to ensure staff awareness of the overall program.
- Trains and informs staff and encourages professional growth by promoting clinic attendance.
- Delegates specific duties, supervises implementation, and at season's end analyzes staff effectiveness and evaluates all assistants.
- Maintains discipline, mediates grievances, and works to increase morale.

- Schedules contests, officials, and handles all needs and requirements for all games, tournaments, and special sports events.
- Assists in the necessary preparation for scheduled home sports contests or practices.
- Maintains playing surfaces and keeps area clean.
- Makes sure ticket gate workers are present and reports to AD or admin if not.
- Serve as game administrator for sub varsity competitions and collects gate money and concession money from workers.
- Coordinates facility needs/repairs with Athletic Director.
- Recommends policy, method or procedural changes to the Athletic Director.
- Monitors the grades and conduct of student-athletes.
- Provides assistance, guidance, and safeguards for each participant by being present at all practices, games, while traveling, and when returning from off-campus events.
- Directs student managers, assistants and statisticians.
- Determines discipline, delineates procedures concerning due process when the enforcement of discipline is necessary, and contacts parents when a student is suspended, dropped or becomes ineligible.
- Participates in the budgeting process with the Athletic Director by submitting needs for the next season. This includes staying within the designated budget appropriations.
- Selects equipment and uniforms within budget appropriations.
- Is accountable for all equipment in the program and submits notification to the Athletic Director for any equipment lost, damaged, not returned or returned after the due date.
- Arranges for issuing, storing, reconditioning of equipment, and submits annual inventory.
- Properly marks and identifies all equipment before issuing or storing.
- Secures all doors, lights, window and locks and stores all equipment before leaving building or area. Supervises locker room area before and after practice.
- Instills in each player a respect for equipment and school property its care and proper use.
- Responsible for maintaining good public relations with news media, parents, officials, volunteers and fans.
- Statistics required by local media, league representatives and other affiliates will also be the responsibility of the head coach. These duties may be delegated.
- Responsible for arranging for substitutes because of athletic events with the Principal's secretary or the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
- Understands that all drivers must meet district requirements to transport student-athletes.
- Performs other duties which may be assigned by the Athletic Director or Principal.
- Keeps all heat, concussion, insurance and consent files current and filed for each student-athlete.
- Oversees athletic signings. Have principal and AD approval. No athletes not involved with a Bleckley County Sport may sign thru the athletic department.
- Complete Rules Clinics each year and make sure assistants do as well. Personal money will be used to pay fines for not completing rules clinics.

#### **Assistant Coaches' Job Description**

- Thorough knowledge of the Rules and By-Laws of the Georgia High School Association, the Region, and the Bleckley County School District.
- Understands the proper administrative chain of command and refers all requests or grievances through proper channels.
- Maintains discipline and works to increase morale and cooperation within the school sports program.
- Assists in the necessary preparation to hold scheduled sports events or practices.



- Coordinates facility needs/repairs with the Head Coach.
- Provides proper safeguards for maintenance and protection of assigned equipment.
- Provides assistance, guidance and safeguards for each participant by being present at all practices and games. Also traveling to and from away games.
- Is accountable to the Head Coach for all equipment. Assists with issuing and collecting of equipment and submits to the Head Coach an annual inventory.
- Recommends to the Head Coach budgetary items for next year in their area of the program.
- Secures all doors, lights, windows, and locks and stores all equipment before leaving areas. Supervises locker room area before and after practice.
- Instills in each player a respect for equipment, school property, and their proper use.
- Assists the Head Coach in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Instructs team members as to changes in the rules and teaches fundamentals of the sport as outlined by the Head Coach.
- Works within the basic framework and philosophy of the Head Coach of the sport.
- Attends all staff meetings and carries out scouting assignments as outlined by the Head Coach.
- Never criticizes, admonishes or argues with the Head Coach or any staff members within ears or eyes of players and parents.
- Strives to improve skills by attending clinics and using resources made available by the Head Coach.
- Responsible for arranging with the Head Coach for substitutes because of athletic events. The Athletic Director may be contacted in an emergency.
- Understands that drivers must meet district requirements to transport student-athletes.
- Performs other duties that are consistent with the nature of the position and that may be requested by the Head Coach.
- Complete Rules clinics each year. Personal money will be used to pay fines for not completing.

### **Colleagues**

- Coaches should maintain good professional relationships with administrators, fellow coaches, and faculty.
- Criticism of an administrator, another coach, or teacher is inappropriate and unprofessional.
- Coaches are expected to support other extracurricular programs and other sports' teams at all levels.

### **Community Coaches**

- Community Coaches may be used with approval from the Athletic Director.
- Community Coaches must:
  - Not serve as head coach at the varsity level
  - Take and pass all GHSA classes and tests before coaching.
  - Be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal prior to be presented to the Board of Education for approval.
  - Have certified personnel with them at all activities and events.
  - Not be a part of any outside travel teams, AAU, etc.
  - Be approved by the Bleckley County Board of Education.
  - Abide by all Bleckley County School and Athletic policies.

### Completing a Season / Dismissal

- Any athlete who drops out or quits a sport without the approval of the coach and Athletic Director may not compete in another sport until the end of the season of the sport from which they quit.
- Dismissed Players:
  - An athlete who is dismissed from a program may return to that sport with the approval of the coach. The coach must report the dismissal to the Athletic Director.
  - An athlete who is dismissed for breaking rules will not affect the student from trying out for another team after the season is over from the dismissed team.
  - Dismissal from two sports in one year requires that a student-athlete meet with the coach from the dismissed team to get approval to try out the following year. The Athletic Director must also meet with the student-athlete and approve their return to the athletic program the following year.
  - Only the head coach of a team may dismiss a player.

### Concussion Policy

In compliance with the GHSA, Bleckley County Athletics has developed a concussion policy. Each coach must understand and follow the concussion policy. The concussion policy is included in the forms given out with physicals. A copy must be given to student-athletes and parents, and both must sign to acknowledge they have read and are aware of the policy.

### Discipline Policy and Procedures

It is a privilege to represent our school by participating in athletics. This is a tremendous responsibility, one that our student-athletes should recognize at all times. All student-athletes shall adhere to the Code of Conduct as detailed in the Athletic Handbook. Any violation or misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### Code of Conduct

Bleckley County School System administrators and coaches of student activities believe that students who are selected for the privilege of membership on athletic and extracurricular groups should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the Bleckley County School System. Students who fail to abide by the Code of Conduct are subject to disciplinary action. As representatives of the Bleckley County School System, students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior during the season or out of season, in uniform or out of uniform, on campus or off campus.

- Student-athletes must meet the academic eligibility requirements of the GHSA to participate.
- Student-athletes must abide by all school policies and regulations.
- A student-athlete who has out-of-school suspension will be suspended from being present at any practice or game for the duration of the out-of-school suspension. A student-athlete

who has in-school suspension will be suspended from being present at any games for the duration of the suspension.

- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, non-prescribed controlled substance, or paraphernalia will not be tolerated. The violator will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Student-athletes must be in attendance for half of the school day to practice or play.
- Coaches have the ability to establish additional rules for the sport they coach. All student-athletes are expected to follow these rules and guidelines.
- A student-athlete who quits a sport/activity or is dismissed from a team will not be allowed to participate in another sport/activity until the previous season is completed.
- Student-athletes are required to return equipment and uniforms issued by the school. Failure to do so will result in financial restitution.
- Student-athletes are under the jurisdiction of the Bleckley County School System, GHSA, and The State of Georgia standards, rules, policies, and procedures.
- Student-athletes are expected to show sportsmanship at all times and positively represent the Bleckley County School System.

### Dress Code

- School: Athletes must follow the dress code as described in the student handbook.
- Athletic Event: When a uniform is provided by the Athletic Department, the athlete must wear that uniform during participation in the event. The Head Coach may further specify what constitutes appropriate dress.
- Bus Trips: If an athletic uniform is not worn on bus trips, athletes must dress in accordance to the school dress code. The Head Coach may also make additional dress requirements.

### Eligibility

- The Bleckley County Schools athletic programs follow eligibility requirements established by the GHSA and described in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws. (<http://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-constitution-and-laws>)
- The head coach should monitor the grades of their players during the season and off-season and establish ways to help the student succeed academically.
- No student is allowed to be a manager in any sport unless they meet eligibility requirements.
- Any student attending the Success Academy is ineligible.
- Students are to be informed privately by the coach if they are ineligible and are being removed from the team.
- All eligibility lists should be turned into the athletic director. The list must be turned in by grade and in alphabetical order.
- A student must be academically eligible to participate, practice, or try-out for an athletic team.
- A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation.
- Students must **accumulate Carnegie units towards** graduation according to the following criteria:
  - **First-year students** (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester **first-year students** must have **passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** the previous semester in order to participate.

- **Second-year students** must have **accumulated five (5)** total Carnegie **units** in the first year, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.
- **Third-year students** must have **accumulated eleven (11)** Carnegie **units** in the first and second years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.
- **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated seventeen (17)** Carnegie **units** in the first three years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.
- Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the Fall semester shall be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport.
- Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school.
- A maximum of two (2) Carnegie unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes.
- Students participating in junior varsity or "B" team competition must meet all scholastic requirements.

### Equipment

- Head coaches are responsible for the care and maintenance of equipment.
- Records of equipment issue and return must be kept.
- Lost equipment must be found or replaced by the student-athlete. Coaches must hold the student-athlete accountable for the equipment issued.
- It will be requested that either the equipment be returned or paid for immediately.
- All uniform or apparel purchases must be approved by the head varsity coach of the sport and the Athletic Director.
- Uniform Collection - Use the following guidelines when a student is delinquent in returning their equipment and uniform:
  - Contact and remind the student at school and document when the notification took place.
  - Contact parent/guardian and document the date, time, and person to whom you spoke.
  - Withhold athletic letter and awards.
  - Notify parent/guardian by letter/email. Retain a copy of the letter/email.
  - Add the student's name to obligation list at the end of the school year. Everything must be returned in good condition or paid for at replacement value.
  - If a student is required to purchase a uniform or equipment and it is ordered, the student cannot participate until the money is paid.

### Facilities

- Secure all unsupervised areas such as locker room, coach's office, weight room, equipment room. Student-athletes should not be allowed in these areas without a coach.

- Supervise student-athletes at all times. Failure to properly supervise student-athletes is a negligent act by the coaches involved. If a student-athlete is injured as a result of negligence, it can lead to serious liability issues.
- Permission to use Bleckley County athletic facilities must be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.
- All playing surface should be kept cut and/or clean at all times.
- Facility upgrades must be approved by the Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent.

### **Fundraising**

- All team fundraising projects must be presented to and approved by the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education.
- Forms are available on the school website.
- The fundraising project must be approved before the team is allowed to begin the fundraiser.

### **Grievance Procedures**

- No grievance between a coach and a parent should be discussed after a contest or practice.
- If a grievance occurs:
  - A meeting shall be requested.
  - Parents should call the school to set up an appointment.
  - If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up.
  - If there was not a satisfactory resolution, parents should call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
  - If a resolution has still not been reached, the matter should be presented to the principal by placing all concerns in writing.
- Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
  - The treatment of a student-athlete mentally and physically.
  - Ways to help a student-athlete improve.
  - Concerns about a student-athlete's behavior.
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
  - Playing time.
  - Team strategy.
  - Play calling.
  - Other student-athletes.

### **Guidelines for Discipline of Student-Athletes**

- Coaches need to provide student-athletes and their parents with thorough information concerning team rules, expectations, and consequences. This information should be reviewed during the team's orientation meeting.

- All rules and policies must be on file with the Athletic Director.
- Coaches should handle all team discipline unless the situation warrants the involvement of the Athletic Director, Principal, or school resource officer.
- A student-athlete should not be allowed to dispense punishment to another student-athlete.

### **Hazing**

Hazing in any form is neither tolerated nor consistent with any educational or athletic goal within the Bleckley County School System. Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining an athletic team that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or Bleckley County Schools policies or regulations is considered hazing. Hazing in any form will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions. There may be other disciplinary consequences as well administered by the Coach, Athletic Department, High School Principal, and/or Superintendent.

### **Heat and Humidity Policy**

- All athletic teams are expected to follow the Heat and Humidity Policy established by the Georgia High School Association. The GHSA policy is included in the Forms section of the Athletic Packet sent home with physicals.

### **Injuries**

- Any injury that might require certified medical attention should be reported to the Athletic Director and Athletic Trainer.

### **Insurance**

- All Bleckley County athletes are expected to have private insurance or purchase school insurance.

### **Letter Jacket Policy**

- An athlete earns a letter by participating in an entire varsity season of a particular sport.
- Each coach must give the Athletic Director a detailed explanation of what it takes to letter in their particular sport.
- Each coach must give the Athletic Director a list of student-athletes who letter in their particular sport.
- Each program will purchase Region and State Patches for each athlete lettering.
- A student is not eligible to purchase a jacket until they complete 2 years of participation in the sport or are a senior completing an entire year. Freshman can never receive a jacket.

### Locker Room

- Great care should be taken of all facilities, equipment and resources that are provided.
- A coach must be present in the locker room immediately prior to, during (if appropriate) and after all athletic practices and contests.
- Coaches are responsible for keeping the locker room clean and orderly.

### Logo and Colors

- The official athletic logo of Bleckley County is the interlocking block BC.
- The official colors for the athletic program are Purple Gold, and White.
- Coaches who wish to use anything different should get approval from the Athletic Director.

### Multi-Sport Policy

To fully accomplish the mission statement of Bleckley County Athletics, coaches and athletic administrators must encourage all of our student athletes to participate in multiple sports. A multi-sport athlete has two to three times the opportunity to develop friendships, character, competitive experience, and team concepts than a single sport athlete.

If a student-athlete approaches a coach or athletic administrator about their thoughts on being a multi-sport athlete, it is our job to carefully give the student-athlete an objective evaluation of their options. Never should a coach discourage participation in other sports.

**Off-Season Practice Policies** - When a student athlete makes a commitment to participate in a team sport, they are making a commitment to the team to be at their peak performance at all times during the season. The student athlete is also facing the challenge of maintaining their academics at the highest level possible. Therefore, it is vital that coaches communicate and come to some agreement that is in the best interest of our student-athletes.

**Specialization** – Specialization by student-athletes should be discouraged by all coaches. Coaches should work together to encourage students to participate in as many sports as appropriate. Any resemblance of “harassment” of a student-athlete to participate in one sport above another is forbidden.

### Off-Season Development

- All student-athletes are encouraged to participate in a strength and conditioning program throughout the year. Classes are offered for this during the school day. Athletes will lift every day in and out of season and monitored by our strength and conditioning coordinator. DO NOT ask for players to “not lift”.
- At any given point in time, only one coach in a sport may work with up to four athletes in skill-building drills.
- Student-athletes should be encouraged to participate in multiple sports.

**Parent Conferences**

- There are numerous sensitive issues that can cause conflict between coaches and parents.
- If a conflict occurs, please set up a parent meeting.
- If necessary, the Athletic Director can be included in meetings with parents.
- Coaches and parents share a common interest. Doing what is best for the student-athlete.
- Avoid extreme statements, judgmental statements, accusations, and undermining of the athletic program.
- Avoid discussing other student-athletes.

**Parent Communication**

- Hold a parent orientation meeting prior to the season.
- During the meeting discuss:
  - Role of the student-athlete and parent.
  - Expectations of the student-athlete and parent.
  - Goals for the season.
  - Forms that student-athletes and parents must sign.
  - Practice times and length.
  - How injuries should be handled.
  - Conflict resolution procedures.

**Physical Exams**

- Every student-athlete who participates in athletics is required to have an annual physical exam.
- Physicals are offered through the Athletic Department, in conjunction with local doctors, during the spring at a cost of \$10.

**Practice**

- For each sport, the beginning and ending dates are prescribed by the GHSA. All Bleckley County Athletics will abide by these regulations.
- Practice during the school week will not begin before students are released at the end of the school day.
- Practice involving alumni, intramural, outside teams, or outside the season designated by the GHSA is illegal.
- At any given point in time, only one coach in a sport may work with up to four athletes in skill-building drills.

**Public Relations**



- The Head Coach is responsible for public relations for their team including publicity through the media.
- Timely reporting of scores and information to local media is expected.
- All sports are expected to provide updated information for the school website.
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are optional. However, social media is a great way to promote our athletic programs.

### **Purchases**

- All purchases must be approved by the Principal.
- All purchases require a purchase order before the order is placed.
- The head coach is the only person with authority to make purchases.
- Assistant coaches cannot make purchases.

### **Scheduling**

- The Head Coach in each sport is responsible for making their schedule. The Athletic Director must approve the schedule before it is finalized.
- Contracts must be completed in football, basketball, baseball, and softball.
- Copies of completed schedules should be submitted to the Athletic Director and school administration as soon as possible. Middle school schedules should be submitted to the Athletic Director and Middle School Athletic Director.
- Spring Break scheduling:
  - Should be kept to a minimum.
  - Games can be scheduled if required by the region.
  - Coach must attempt to give players four days off.
  - Coach's responsibility to give players information about schedule during spring break.
  - No middle school games should be scheduled during spring break.

### **School Attendance**

- A student-athlete must be counted present at school to practice or participate in athletics on any school day. If a student-athlete misses more than a half day of school, they cannot participate in athletics that day.
- Under special circumstances, the student-athlete may appeal to the principal and Athletic Director for permission to participate in athletics.

### **Sports Performance**

- All strength and conditioning programs should be coordinated through the Director of Sports Performance.
- All student-athletes should be encouraged to participate in strength and conditioning activities. A proper program helps with athletic development as well as injury prevention.
- Strength and conditioning is vital to our athletic goals and achievements.

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## Sport Transitions

- Coaches should not infringe on other coaches' seasons.
- It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to be familiar with beginning and ending dates of each sport to avoid conflicts.
- Coaches should support student-athlete participation in other sports.
- Any student-athlete who drops out or quits a sport without the approval of the coach and Athletic Director may not compete in another sport until the end of the season of the sport from which they quit.
- Coaches should also consider the student-athlete participating in multiple sports. A short break (two to three days) is reasonable between two seasons.

## Supervision

- Coaches should supervise student-athletes at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the locker room, the weight room, buses, practice and competition areas. Student-athletes should not be in these areas without proper supervision.
- Under no circumstances should student-athletes be unsupervised.
- Coaches should be the first to arrive and the last to leave all practices and games.
- A coach should remain with student-athletes until every student-athlete has departed from the school property or is accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- Individuals are not to be given permission to use athletic facilities unless a coach is present.

## Teaching

Each coach is a teacher first. Teaching obligations are from 7:35 am – 3:15 pm. That obligation is to the administration and the instructional program of the school. Coaches must meet certification expectations, attend all faculty meetings and staff development activities unless excused by the principal.

## Transportation

- The Head Coach of each sport must make arrangements with the transportation department for transportation to athletic events. The request needs to be made 10 days prior to the trip to insure proper transportation.
- All student-athletes must travel to and from athletic contests with the coach. Buses will be used for all trips. No athlete should be allowed to drive or ride with others.
- If parents give the coach a written permission and speak to the coach directly after the contest, the student can be given permission to ride home with the parent/guardian.
- Student-athletes can only ride home from athletic contests with their parent/guardian.

## Tryouts

- A student-athlete must be enrolled in the school system to try out.

- A student-athlete will not be allowed to tryout and will not be given a make-up date while suspended from school.
- A student-athlete must be eligible during the semester of tryouts.

### **Athletic Signings**

- The head coach is responsible for advertising the signing, set up of the signing, and running the signing. Coordinate with the principal's secretary for snacks and drinks.
- There will be only 3 signing sessions per year designated by the principal and athletic director.