

BATTLE GROUND

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Parent Athletic Handbook

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Battle Ground Middle School Athletic Parent Handbook

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Athletic Department Information

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Battle Ground Middle School

Mission Statement

The Mission of Battle Ground Middle School is to provide an environment in which all students are encouraged to reach their academic, artistic, social and physical potential. The staff shares with the parents and community the commitment to prepare the students for their roles in an ever-changing democratic society.

Battle Ground Middle School Athletic Program Philosophy

Battle Ground Middle School recognizes that interested students should have the opportunity to develop their potential as athletes in activities appropriate to their level of ability. It is the goal of our school to provide such opportunity as a further means of developing the intellectual, emotional, and social maturity of our students, while at the same time teaching the importance and worth of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Athletics offer a special opportunity for students to perform within the framework of a team situation, to develop a sense of fair play, sound fundamentals, cooperation, finesse, teamwork, competitive spirit, good sportsmanship and a pride in themselves and their school. It should be understood that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right.

Battle Ground Middle School athletics also provide a unifying influence upon our student body and between our school and community. Finally, as is true in all aspects of education at Battle Ground Middle School, our athletic program is committed to the pursuit of excellence, acknowledging that the quest itself is the most significant aspect of achievement.



SPORTSMANSHIP

A Total Team Effort

Participants

- Treat opponents with respect. Shake hands after contests. Do not embarrass, demean, taunt or intimidate your opponent with ridiculing motions, finger pointing or trash talking
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community: display positive public actions at all times.
- Live up to the high standard of sportsmanship established by the coach.

Parents – Other Fans

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support middle school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally offensive.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Recognize players' performance with applause, regardless of team.
- Do not blame the loss of the game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Do not use profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Show concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding fans to display only sportsmanlike behavior and respect all fans, coaches and participants.
- Treat competition as just a game.
- Be a fan, not a fanatic.

Title: Teaching Kids to Be Good Sports

Author: Burnett, Darrell J.

Publisher: www.internationalsport.com/nsd

"Sports do not build character. They reveal it." - Heywood Hale Brown

Youth Sports: The Last Vestige of Sportsmanship

We're living in an age where the preservation of traditional values can no longer be taken for granted. It seems we need to have reminders (books, movies, newspaper articles, etc.) to maintain our awareness of the importance of preserving the basic human values which are essential to the survival of a community.

It's no different in the world of sports. The traditional value of sportsmanship is being challenged from all sides: professional, college, high school, and even in youth sports. There are some who say sportsmanship is becoming a lost art and that unless we remind ourselves of the essentials of sportsmanship and strive to maintain the basics of sportsmanship it will gradually fade as other values have done in our society.

In the midst of all this, it seems doubly important that we recommit ourselves to guiding our youth, reminding them what sportsmanship is all about, rewarding them for showing good sportsmanship and showing, by our example, that sportsmanship is still alive and valued in youth sports today.

Here's a 10-item checklist for kids to follow as they try to develop a habit of good sportsmanship.

1. I abide by the rules of the game.

Part of good sportsmanship is knowing the rules of the game and playing by them. If a player decides to play a given sport, it is the responsibility of that player to learn not only how to play but how to play according to the rules which have been established and standardized to allow competitive games to be played in an orderly fashion. The more a player knows the rules the more that player can enjoy the sport.

2. I try to avoid arguments.

Part of good sportsmanship is anger management. Arguing with officials, coaches or opponents is often simply a misguided effort at "letting off steam" in the heat of competition. A good sport knows that anger can get in the way of a good performance. A good sport knows how to walk away from an argument and to stay focused on the game at hand.

3. I share in the responsibilities of the team.

Good sportsmanship implies that the player on a team is a team player. In other words, the player understands that his or her behavior reflects on the team in general. Moreover, a team player does not condone unsportsmanlike conduct from teammates and reminds players that they all share in the responsibility of promoting good sportsmanship.

4. I give everyone a chance to play according to the rules.

In youth recreational sports the more talented players, if they are good sports, will look out for and encourage the less talented players on the team, cooperating with coaching plans to let everybody play. Unfortunately, some coaches may become so preoccupied with winning at all costs that they never play some players, regardless of the time and effort they put in at daily practices, even when the score warrants clearing the bench.

5. I always play fair.

Honesty and integrity should be an integral part of sports. A player with good sportsmanship does not want a hollow victory which comes as a result of cheating ("dirty" fouls, ineligible players, performance enhancing drugs, etc.)

6. I follow the directions of the coach.

A player with good sportsmanship listens to and follows the directions of the coach, realizing that each player's decisions affect the rest of the team. If a player has disagreements with the coach, the player discusses the disagreements privately in a civil manner, away from the public eye.

7. I respect the other team's effort.

Whether the other team plays better, or whether they play worse, the player with good sportsmanship does not use the occasion to put the other team down. In the field of competition respect for opponents is central to good sportsmanship. If an opponent out-performs a player that player accepts it, learns from it, offers no excuses and moves on. If a player out-performs an opponent, that player enjoys the victory, but does not gloat, does not belittle, and does not minimize the opponent's effort.

8. I offer encouragement to teammates.

A sign of good sportsmanship is a player who praises teammates when they do well and who comforts and encourages them when they make mistakes. Criticizing teammates in the heat of battle simply distracts from the focus of working together and gives the advantage to the opponent who develops a sense of confidence when seeing signs of weakness or a lack of unity in the midst of the competition.

9. I accept the judgment calls of the game officials.

Part of the human condition is making mistakes. Arguing with an official over a judgment call simply wastes energy. The player with good sportsmanship knows that errors may be made, but the player also knows that a game is made up of all the plays and calls from the beginning to the end of the game, not just the call in dispute. The player with good sportsmanship may be upset, but that player also has learned to focus his/her energies back on the game and on doing the best he/she can do for the rest of the game.

10. I end the game smoothly.

When the game is over, pouting, threatening, cajoling have no place in the life of the players with good sportsmanship, who emphasize the joy of participating, regardless of outcome. They're not devoid of emotions but they know that their efforts to end the competition smoothly, without antagonistic emotional display, will help ensure that the games will continue in the future.

On a final note, a word of caution. We can't be so naive as to think that by teaching and valuing sportsmanship in our youth we will ensure that they will take these values with them into their young adult and adult sports lives. However, if we don't expose them to the essentials of sportsmanship, and if we don't guide them in developing a sense of good sportsmanship, we can all but guarantee that they will fall prey to the young adult and adult world of sports and athletics, with its continued tendency to minimize sportsmanship, and maximize winning as the only real value in competitive athletics.

Sportsmanship is the ability to:
win without gloating
lose without complaining
treat your opponent with respect.

Sportsmanship Tips

If you make a mistake, don't pout or make excuses.

Learn from it, and be ready to continue to play.

If a teammate makes a mistake, offer encouragement, not criticism.

If you win, don't rub it in.

If you lose, don't make excuses.

Sportsmanship Checklist for Kids

1. I abide by the rules of the game.
2. I try to avoid arguments.
3. I share in the responsibilities of the team.
4. I give everyone a chance to play according to the rules.
5. I always play fair.
6. I follow the directions of the coach.
7. I respect the other team's effort.
8. I offer encouragement to my teammates.
9. I accept the judgment calls of the game officials.
10. I end the game smoothly.

Participation Fee

All Battle Ground Middle School athletes are required to pay a participation fee once per season. This fee will help cover the cost of workers at athletic events, officials, and equipment. The participation fee does not cover the cost for sweats, warm-ups, and/or sport specific needs. Therefore, additional charges may be warranted for individual sports.

Awards Night

Season Celebrations will be held at the end of each interscholastic sport season. Students will be recognized for their participation in these sports and honored for their accomplishments. The celebrations are excellent ways to bring seasons to an end. The celebrations are not considered to be “formal” events for the athletes, but we encourage athletes to look their finest. The coaches will determine a time and location for the award ceremonies.

Team Pictures

Battle Ground Middle School will invite Personal Touch to take pictures of the athletic teams for the yearbook. Athletes will have the option to purchase an individual package from Personal Touch. The Battle Ground Athletic Department neither encourages nor discourages the purchase of the packages. All athletes will be in the team photo for the yearbook.

Concession Stand

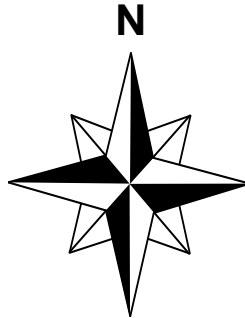
Each year we ask the parents to help serve in the concession stand. Parent and community volunteers are an essential aspect for the survival of the athletic department and its tight budget. At the beginning of each season the Tribe concession liaison will send home a concession stand volunteer list. Each parent will be placed on the list with a corresponding date to work the concession stand. It is our intentions to not place any one parent in the concession stand for more than two events. You will never be asked to serve while your child is participating. If you cannot work on your scheduled night, please try to switch with another parent. If you cannot find someone to switch with, please consult the Tribe representative. Your efforts and understanding in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Travel Directions to Away Contests

- Wea Ridge Take 9th South to 350 South. Take a left and go to 18th Street and turn South (right). Go about a mile and school will be on right.
- Benton Central Take 52 North past the first Oxford exit. Go about three miles and the school will be on the right.
- Central Catholic Take 9th South. School is located on the corner of 9th Street and Teal Road.
- Delphi (Basketball, Volleyball & Wrestling Directions) Take 25 North to Delphi. Go four blocks east and then two blocks north of the courthouse stoplight. The gym is called Monroe Street Gym.
- Delphi (Football and Track Directions) Take 25 North to Delphi. Go to the 2nd stoplight and turn right onto SR 421/39. Go approximately 1 mile to yellow flashing light and turn right onto Armory Road. The school is on the left.
- East Tipp Take 25 North from Lafayette and turn right (east) at 300 North (Aretz Airport) and continue approximately four miles.
- Harrison HS (Klondike Football, East Tipp & Battleground Track) Take 43 North to 600 South. Turn left (West)
- Klondike Take 52 North from West Lafayette to Klondike Road and turn left. The school is on the left.
- Southwestern Turn left (South) on HWY 231. Take it to the flashing yellow light (800 South). Turn right and head west to the second school building on the right.
- Tecumseh Take 18th North to Tecumseh Middle School (located on the corner of 18th & Teal).
- Twin Lakes (Roosevelt Middle School) Take 25 North to 421 North to Monticello. RMS is on the corner of 6th and U.S. 24.
- Wainwright Take 52 south to County Road 700 South. Turn left (east) on 700 south and go about 1/2 mile. The school is on the right.
- West Lafayette (Football, Basketball, Volleyball, and Wrestling Directions.) Turn left onto 350 S. Turn right onto US 231 N. Turn left on In-26 E/W State Street. Turn right onto N. Grant Street. School will be on your left.
- West Lafayette (Track Directions.) Take 18th street south to Union (turn left) and head over the river. Turn right at the first stoplight (Salisbury) Stay on Salisbury and go past 52 north. The sports complex is at the intersection of Cumberland and Salisbury.

Battle Ground Middle School

Statement of Expectations & Responsibilities



THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE INGREDIENT TO SUCCESS IN ATHLETICS OR LIFE IS DISCIPLINE.

Student-athletes who represent Battle Ground Middle School must hold themselves to a high standard of personal behavior. As representatives of our school and community, student athletes shall know and uphold the rules and expectations outlined in this document.

Student Behavior – All athletes shall conduct themselves as good school and community citizens. Failure to do so may result in complete or partial suspension from the team.

Attendance

- Student athletes must attend all practices. Coaches should be notified if you cannot make a practice session. Two unexcused absences from practice may result in dismissal from the team.
- A student will not be allowed to participate in any student activity on the day that the student is absent from school unless the absence is the result of the student's participation in a school-sponsored activity.
- Valid reasons for tardiness to practice and/or contest must be presented to and approved by your coach. (Detentions are not a valid reason).
- Detentions and In-School Suspension may result in loss of playing time and may lead to team dismissal.
- Athletes who receive an out of school suspension will become ineligible for all practices and games until the student has both completed the suspension date(s) and has returned to his/her regularly scheduled class. A second offense may result in team dismissal.

Behavior

- Student athletes are expected to conform to the proper dress code set forth by the team coach on game day.
- Student athletes must travel to and from contests on the team bus unless otherwise specified by the team coach.

- Student athletes are encouraged to promote their sport and participation of athletics in general. A positive attitude and approach from peers can encourage others to participate who normally would not.
- Any student athlete who participates in a fight during team activities will be dismissed immediately from the team for a period to be determined by the team coach.
- Verbal and/or physical abuse of officials, coaches, opponents or spectators by student athletic will result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from the team.
- Athletes restricted from playing due to an unexcused absence shall dress and sit on the bench as a team member the day of the game.
- Athletes will not wear any type of cleats in the school building.
- Responsible behavior is expected by athletes at all times, especially in the locker room and on the bus. Athletes are not to show disrespect for school property.
- A student must be a good school citizen and a worthy representative of Battle Ground Middle School. Repeated infractions of school rules, poor attendance, or other evidence of poor citizenship, as determined by the building principal, will render a student ineligible.
- Horseplay in the locker room and on the team bus will not be tolerated and could result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
- Report all injuries to the coaches. Your coaches can address any problems that might come up.
- Athletes are not allowed in the locker room without adult supervision.

Training Rules and Policies

THE FOLLOWING TRAINING RULES APPLY TO ALL INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR ENROLLMENT IN BATTLE GROUND MIDDLE SCHOOL, INCLUDING SUMMER VACATION PERIODS. AN INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPANT IS DEFINED AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO TAKES PART IN AN ATHLETIC OR NON-ATHLETIC INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY OR EVENT.

AS AN INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPANT OF BATTLE GROUND MS
I WILL NOT:

- ✓ smoke or use tobacco in any form (i.e. smokeless tobacco)
- ✓ consume, possess or distribute alcoholic beverages
- ✓ **CONSUME, POSSESS OR DISTRIBUTE ILLEGAL DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING ANY SUBSTANCES THAT WE BELIEVE OR TELL OTHERS ARE ILLEGAL DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES.**
- ✓ be charged with violating any criminal code or any law or ordinance of any jurisdiction
- ✓ Consume or offer to any other person any substance which I say or believe will improve or alter my performance (this does not apply to any medication prescribed by a physician, or any other substance, such as aspirin, approved by the coach or sponsor in advance.)
- ✓ Engage in any conduct, which is intended to cause damage to school property or to the property of school personnel, or be disruptive to school activities.
- ✓ participate or observe in the hazing and/or initiation of any person (this violation will fall under penalty number 8)

TRAINING RULES - MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR THE ABOVE VIOLATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **First Offense:**
Suspension from 30% of regular season contests (fractions will be rounded up. For tournaments, each day equals one contest). If the entire suspension is not served in a single interscholastic activity, the remainder of the suspension will be served in the next interscholastic activity.
2. **Returning to No Offense Status:**
Following the first offense, if a student completes one calendar year with no additional violations, the student may return to a no offense status. The opportunity to return to a no offense status will only be granted to a student one time during their middle school career.
3. **Second Offense:**
Suspension for 50% of all interscholastic activities. The suspension period will begin on the day of the suspension.
4. **Third Offense:**
Suspension from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the student's middle school career.
5. **Reinstatement:**
Following the third offense, if the student completes one calendar year without any additional violations, they may apply in writing at the discretion of the principal and athletic director, the consideration regarding the seriousness of the prior offenses shall determine whether or not to reinstate the participant to a second offense status. If any prior violation was dangerous to other persons or property, including but not limited to hazing and/or initiation, or seriously disruptive to any school activity, then the student shall not be reinstated. If a fourth offense occurs prior to reinstatement, then reinstatement is not available.
6. **Fourth Offense:**
If a fourth offense occurs prior to reinstatement, termination of privilege to participate in any activity covered by this policy occurs without opportunity for reinstatement.
7. **Out of Season Violations:**
Out of season violations will apply to the next activity the student participates in. If a student is participating in numerous activities during a season, the penalties will be assessed to all activities.
8. **Penalties for Serious or Disruptive Offenses:**
The limited penalties for the first and second offenses may be by-passed if the student's conduct was dangerous to other persons or property, or seriously disruptive to any school activity. In case of such an offense, the penalty may be, at the discretion of the principal and athletic director, suspension from all activities covered by this policy for the remainder of the student's career.

Athletic Letters

- 1st completed season – athletic letter
- 2nd – 9th completed seasons – athletic pins

Athletic Eligibility

For the purposes of determining athletic eligibility, grade verifications will be conducted on the predetermined dates listed below. Students must have a passing grade in all subjects. If, during grading verification, a student is not passing all classes, he/she will be ruled ineligible. During the 1st two-week period of ineligible status, athletes may still attend practices but not participate in contests. Athletes can attend contests but must dress in street clothes. Managers who are ineligible may not attend athletic contests. Students will be able to earn an eligible status only during the next scheduled verification check. If a student is ruled ineligible for a second time during any one sport, he/she will be removed from the roster and must turn in his/her equipment.

Any student participating in an after school athletic event will be included in this verification during the season of his/her participation. Events that shall be included, but not limited to, are football, volleyball, golf, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, track, tennis, intramurals, dance, and cheerleading.

Verification sheets will be updated the Monday after the Friday grading period by 12:00 PM. The eligibility period will include a two-week time period including weekends. Students failing a class on the verification sheet will be notified on Mondays. A form letter will be sent home via mail.

All student athletes must have a completed IHSAA Physical Examination Form on file in the school prior to participation in any form of extra curricular sport activity.

The school principal reserves the right to declare any student ineligible to participate for disorderly or unregulated behavior that exceeds reasonable limits.

If a student is unable to participate in Physical Education class during the school day, then that student will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular athletic practices or contests that evening.

A student must be at school by 10:00 AM to participate in extracurricular athletic practices or contest that evening, unless a medical excuse is presented to the office.