

# **BEMUS POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MAPLE GROVE JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL Interscholastic Athletics Handbook**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Student-Athletes:

Welcome to the Maple Grove High School Athletic program. This handbook has been prepared to be used as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to define responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as the guidelines for participation in our interscholastic athletics program.

Upon entering the seventh grade, students are exposed to many new opportunities and challenges. An important part of the educational experience at this level is the co-curricular programs available to all students, in particular, the interscholastic athletic program. Nationwide studies have shown that students involved in extra-curricular activities such as sports, achieve better grades, manage their time more effectively, have less discipline problems and stay in school.

I am very pleased that you have shown an interest in this phase of our school program. It is my belief that participation in athletics is a privilege and honor that provides an opportunity for developing life-long skills not always available in the academic classroom. Our goal at Maple Grove is to provide a “first class” experience that promotes team and individual growth in a safe and healthy environment.

Participation in our athletic program is a privilege granted to students who maintain scholarship and citizenship in school and community. There is a great deal of responsibility and commitment attached to participation in interscholastic athletics on the part of the student-athlete and his/her family. This handbook will acquaint you with the specific policies/rules and obligations that are necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic athletics.

The Bemus Point Central School Interscholastic Athletic program is governed by the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education’s basic code for extra-class athletic activities. In addition, Maple Grove High School is a member of the New York Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section VI and competes in Division 3 of the Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association (CCAA).

Once again, welcome and please strive to make **SPORTSMANSHIP** an integral part of your experience. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Maple Grove High School Interscholastic Athletic program. I look forward to working with you to ensure that you take advantage of the tremendous opportunities participation in athletics can provide. **GO DRAGONS!**

Sincerely  
Kathy Burnett, Athletics Director  
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[kburnett@bemusptcsd.org](mailto:kburnett@bemusptcsd.org)

For all MGHS schedules go to:  
[www.arbiterlive.com](http://www.arbiterlive.com)

## MAPLE GROVE JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics

The Bemus Point Central School District believes that a dynamic program of student activities is important to the educational development of all students. Therefore, interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total education process. Athletics should be a broadening experience in which harmony of mind-body functions is created through striving for physical and mental excellence. A well-coordinated program is vitally important to the morale of the school and our community.

Young people learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. Athletics serve as a miniature model of life in that they provide opportunities for students with regard to responsibility, fair play, cooperation, concern for others, leadership, respect for authority, good citizenship, loyalty and tolerance.

It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for victory. However, the number of victories is only one criterion when determining success. Developing the will to win and attaining maximum potential are the ultimate goals. To this end, the coaching staff must teach student-athletics to prepare their minds and bodies in order to reach maximum potential and then to be modest in victory and steadfast in defeat.

It is also important to note, that at no time will our program place the educational academic curriculum secondary in emphasis to interscholastic athletics.

**There's a reason student comes first in the word student-athlete:  
Education comes before sports.**

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

### **Our Goal:**

The experience of participation in athletic contests and activities should reflect the total educational goals of our district.

### **Our Specific Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the place which interscholastic sports and activities occupy in the American culture and by developing sound educational attitudes toward them.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to enjoy them from the point of views of good sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit and loyalty of students by providing a common meeting ground and enthusiasm which is shared by all.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics.
5. To provide the opportunity for a student to learn to handle winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves and members of their team.
6. To learn to develop through hard work and dedication a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem in all participants.

**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(NYSPHSAA)**

**CODE OF ETHICS**

**IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS:**

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and host.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individuals players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, fan or community.

**PHILOSOPHY BY SPORT LEVEL**

**MODIFIED (GRADE 7 & 8) or (GRADE 7, 8 & 9)**

This program is available to all students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. One is ineligible when the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday is attained, however, if a student attains the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday during a sport season, he/she may complete that sport season. Sport activities offered are determined by existence of leagues, student interest, relationship to the high school program and board approval. At this level the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent and healthy competition. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than what is found in intramural or recreation programs, but not as involved as those found in varsity and junior varsity interscholastic competition. An attempt will be made to give all team members meaningful contest participation over the course of a season.

**JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)**

This program is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Team membership varies according to the structure of each sport, but sophomores and freshman occupy the majority of the roster positions. In certain situations, juniors who are expected to make contributions at the varsity level will be considered for JV participation. Also, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have satisfied all Athletic Placement Process requirements may be included. At this level increased emphasis is placed upon elements and strategies of team play, physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills and socio-emotional development. The JV program works toward achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for victory. The outcome of

the contest becomes a consideration at this level. An attempt will be made to play all participants, however, equal playing time is never guaranteed nor is it required. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at the junior varsity and freshman level.

### **Varsity**

The varsity level of interscholastic athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Normally, seniors and juniors make up the majority of the roster, however, gifted sophomores and sometimes freshman may be included. It is also possible for a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader, who has met the Athletic Placement Process requirements to be included on a varsity roster. This occurs more in sports commonly classified as “individual” (track, swimming, golf, etc.). Team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation and mental attitude are very important aspects of competition at this level. While contest participation over the course of the season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed. It is vital that each team member have a role and know its importance. Preparing to win and striving for victory in each contest are worthy goals of a varsity level team. The varsity coach is the leader of his/her sport program and is responsible for communication and system development among each level.

### **Risk Factor in Sports**

Participation by a student in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity, be it a “contact” or a “non-contact” sport. Furthermore, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardian assume the risks for injuries to occur.

## **BEMUS POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Introductory Statement**

The purpose of these rules is to help an interscholastic athletic participant become a better citizen by seeking to demonstrate proper behavior and a good attitude at all times. The following rules and regulations have been established by the athletic department and are supported by our administration and Board of Education. These rules are designed to instill pride, discipline and team spirit in the individual to enable the individual to achieve maximum physical and/or mental performance in athletics. The individual is required to make a commitment to the community, school, team, coach and him/herself by adhering to the established rules and regulations, a condition that must be fulfilled for satisfactory participation in any sport. Obeying the rules is a matter of honor to each individual who makes this commitment. Enforcement of the rules and adjudication of any violations is the responsibility of the coach, athletic director and administration.

### **Responsibilities of a Maple Grove Athlete**

Being a member of a Maple Grove athletic team is a privilege and honor. To many athletes, it is the fulfillment of an early ambition. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be attained. A solid athletic tradition has been developed by the hard work of many people over the years. As a member of an athletic squad at Maple Grove you have inherited this great tradition. Your actions will reflect not

only on those who you are associated with now, but those who have contributed so much to our school in the past.

Many of our student-athletes have gone on to participate at the collegiate level. Also, many have achieved MGHS, league, section and state honors. Because of this fine tradition, a challenge is set for you to work hard and make sure that your actions reflect the standards that are set up by the athletic department. **FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS, ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES MUST REALIZE THAT MORE IS EXPECTED OF THEM THAN OF OTHER STUDENTS IN OUR SCHOOL.** As an athlete at MGHS you will be expected to make many sacrifices. In today's society you will be asked to make sacrifices that will benefit yourself, your team and your school. Never before has the pressure of peer groups been so strong. In the long run, by saying "NO" to these pressures, you and your family will be proud of the sacrifices and dedication that you have put forth to be a member of our athletic teams. If you take this opportunity to make yourself a better individual, it will be truly a gratifying educational experience. The highs and lows of athletic competition are achieved through hard work, dedication and discipline and are rewarded with the development of fond memories and personal achievements.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF**

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden you and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to strive for the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your studies and your participation in other school activities, as well as in athletics, prepare you for life as an adult.

*~In and out of school...CHARACTER COUNTS~*

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL**

Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Maple Grove cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability and displaying good sportsmanship, you are contributing to the reputation of the school.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS**

You have a responsibility to your parents/guardians to always do the best you can. When participating in athletics, we sometimes feel that we have failed if we have not won. By trying the best that you can and following all rules set up by your squad, you can feel justifiably proud of yourself no matter what the win/loss record dictates. Younger students look up to you and it is your responsibility to set a good example for them. They will copy a lot of things that you do just to be a member of your group. They need attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR**

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

1. Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times, be they officials, spectators or other athletes.
2. Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.

3. Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
5. Remember that improper behavior while in uniform, in school or in our community, reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your school and your community.
6. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
7. Accept victory with grace/modesty and accept defeat with dignity/class.
8. Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and performance enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

## **BEMUS POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDELINES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Each athlete will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules and regulations set forth by the New York State Commissioner of Education and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Bemus Point Central School District Board of Education. Each student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians will be required to sign and submit to the respective coach a “Administrative Role-Athletic Rules of Conduct” authorization form. A student-athlete will not be permitted to participate until this requirement is completed.

### **HEALTH AND MEDICAL**

1. **WARNING: Participation in athletics does involve some risks. Physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity. By volunteering to participate in a school sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardians acknowledge the potential risk for physical injury to occur.**
2. Sports physicals are scheduled at various times during the school year. Every student-athlete must pass a physical exam and be approved by the school district physician prior to practice or participation in any interscholastic sport. The student is responsible for reporting for the physical examination at the scheduled time. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must complete Athletic Placement Process prior to tryouts for a JV or Varsity sport.
3. The athlete is to report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach. The athlete must see the school nurse on the next school day after the injury occurred. The coach must contact the school nurse within 4 hours of injury and must complete an incident report to be filed with the school nurse.
4. If a student-athlete has a physician attended injury or is absent from attendance in school or at practice sessions due to illness for five or more consecutive days, he/she must have the approval of the school physician, or a medical release from the attending physician, before participating in practice, scrimmage or a game. This release must be filed with our school nurse. If a student-athlete goes to an emergency room for care, he/she must obtain a written release statement from the attending physician before leaving the hospital.
5. **Medical expenses resulting from any athletic injury must first be submitted to the parents/guardians insurance carrier. Any remaining balance may**

**then be submitted to the school district's insurance carrier by processing a claim form that can be obtained from the school medical office. The school district's insurance provides only supplemental coverage according to a schedule of benefits.**

6. A Maple Grove High School healthy sport candidate consent form is required for each sport season of participation.
7. If a student-athlete is in the school nurses office for more than one (1) period due to illness or is sent home due to illness he/she cannot practice or participate in any interscholastic sport on that given day.
8. If a student-athlete misses more than 4 periods (11:00 am  $\pm$ ) they will not be able to practice or participate in any interscholastic sporting event on that given day.

#### **MONITORING OF STUDENT GRADES AND ATTENDANCE**

- The grades of students in middle school and high school will be monitored on a weekly basis.
- If students in grades 7-10 have a grade below 70% they will receive an Academic Assistance card, from the principal, at the beginning of the week.
- The students will be responsible for staying after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work with their teacher(s) to improve their grades.
- Students in grades 7-8 will be required to have their academic assistance card signed and returned to a designated person every Friday by noon.
- If a student in grades 7-8 fails to return their signed academic assistance card they will receive a warning. If a student continues to fail to turn in their card, they will receive an office detention.
- Students in grades 7-12 who fail to take academic responsibility may jeopardize their ability to participate in extracurricular activities.
- The principal will inform students at the beginning of the week if they are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. (See ineligibility procedures on the schools website.)
- Principals will monitor student attendance and develop a plan if it is affecting a student's academic progress. (See attendance policy and procedures on the schools website.)

#### **CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE**

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many area of life, in particular, on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Take pride in yourself, your team and your school. You should always project a positive image. Winning or losing is not as important as your reaction to winning or losing. Your reaction is what people will remember, not the score.

Unsatisfactory citizenship on the part of a Bemus Point Central School District student-athlete (in or out of season) could result in the student-athlete being dismissed from a team or being deemed ineligible for participation in all interscholastic athletic competition for the school. Good sportsmanship and citizenship are required of all student-athletes. A student-athlete's conduct is to be guided by the following principles:

- To have respect for the rights and feelings of others.

- To behave in a manner that reflects positively on yourself, your family, you team, your school and your community.

### **ON THE FIELD/COURT**

In the area of athletic competition, a “class” student-athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and learns fast that losing is part of the game and that you should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well played game after the contest whether in defeat or victory. Game officials will always be treated with respect and a sense of understanding the critical role they play.

*~Win or Lose – Do it with “CLASS”~*

### **OFF THE FIELD/COURT**

Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect positively on their team, our school and themselves. Any inappropriate behavior (including accusations, involvement with police and/or arrests) will result in a disciplinary review and be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team.

*~Character is who you are when no one is watching~*

### **IN THE CLASSROOM**

In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person cannot be a classroom laggard and think he/she can be an outstanding athlete. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field or court and never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to you studies to insure acceptable grades. Plan ahead and be organized. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectable attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty/staff at all times. Horesplay and disrespect are not approved habits of behavior.

*~Academics + Athletics = Success~*

### **TRAINING RULES**

As a candidate for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of the Bemus Point Central School District, it is our hope that you will soon be a member of our solid program. It is very important that the student-athlete and the parents/guardians understand, agree to, abide by and reinforce the essential policies in regards to athletic training rules. The regulations have been established for the benefit of those who participate as players, students and representatives of our school and community.

IT IS THE overwhelming opinion of health educators and teachers/coachers that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules which include abstinence from tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of tobacco, alcohol and any mood modifying substances produce harmful effects on the human body. Additionally, significant findings along with publicity surrounding deaths and arrests of professional, college and high school athletes, have most certainly pointed out the undesirability of using chemicals (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, steroids and any



other controlled substance), especially at the teenage level. Our athletic program and staff as well as the National Federation of State High School Associations wholeheartedly endorse these findings. Unfortunately, education and reasoning alone are not always sufficient to deter the use of experimentation of these chemicals and controlled substances. Therefore, in an attempt to fight this battle, the Bemus Point Central School District Athletic Department will require all of its participants to agree to and abide by the student-athlete training code. In order to participate each season, a “Guideline For Athletic Participation Authorization Form” must be signed by both the student-athlete and the parents/guardians and submitted to the respective coach.

It is Bemus Point Central School District and the Athletic Department policy to prevent and prohibit the possession of and/or use of any amounts of alcoholic beverage, tobacco products, or unauthorized use of drugs (controlled chemicals or substances) by all student-athletes during the school year. This training rule policy will be in effect in school and out of school for the entire sport season of participation (from the first legal practice of the season until the final contest of the season). Ideally, student-athletes are athletes the whole year and are encouraged to abide by training rules both in and out of season.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The Code of Conduct found in the Bemus Point Central School District Student-Parent Handbook is in effect all year and any suspensions, detentions, or other disciplinary action resulting from this policy will take precedence over Athletic Department Policy.

## **VIOLATION REPORTS**

Reports of alleged student-athlete violations of the above mentioned training rule policy coming from: a district employee or those directly involved with the district, an adult acting as a chaperone, a law enforcement officer or agency, or a parent/guardian of a student involved in an alleged violation, will be investigated. Reports of alleged violations from persons other than those mentioned above must be submitted **IN WRITING** by the person witnessing the incident. Such report will then be given consideration by the athletic director, principal and/or assistant principal.

## **PROCEDURE FOLLOWING REPORT OF TRAINING RULE VIOLATION**

Upon report and after investigation of an alleged violation, the athletic director or principal shall provide verbal notice, followed by written notice, to the student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians regarding the necessary disciplinary action to be administered. The respective coach will be informed as well. If requested, a conference will be held between the student-athlete, his/her parents/guardians, the coach and the athletic director and/or principal.

## **ALCOHOL, DRUGS, UNLAWFUL INHALANTS, AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

- A. All athletes must refrain from the use or possession of all alcohol products, all illegal drugs, all unlawful inhalants, and all tobacco products (in all forms), which are those that are subject to penalty under the law, and include non-drug imitations or misrepresentations as illegal substances “look-alikes”.

In addition, all athletes shall not remain in the unauthorized presence of alcohol, tobacco, or other controlled substances.

NOTE: *If a student-athlete attends a party/gathering where alcohol or drugs are being dispensed, the student-athlete must LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Failure to comply with this expectation will result in a violation of the athletic code.*

B. Penalties for possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs, unlawful inhalants, or tobacco products.

Any athlete who is determined to have been using or in possession of any form of alcohol, drugs (including imitations or misrepresentations of controlled substances), unlawful inhalants, or tobacco products (in any form) will be dealt with according to the following distinctions:

1. First Violation – The athlete will retain membership on the team but will be suspended from 50 percent of the remaining regularly-scheduled consecutive contests. If there are three or fewer contests remaining, the athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
  - a. If an athlete is continuing participation from one season to another consecutive season, this code will remain in effect BETWEEN consecutive seasons during the given school year and any code violation will result in the athlete's ineligibility in the upcoming sport.
  - b. For the purpose of continued cardiovascular fitness, knowledge of the sport, learning consequences of prohibited conduct, guidance from the coach, and involvement in ongoing positive activity the following must be adhered to:
    - i. The athlete will attend and participate in all team meetings and practice sessions.
    - ii. The athlete will sit with the team at all home/away contests during the period of suspension.
    - iii. The athlete will not dress in uniform during the period of suspension.
    - iv. The athlete and parent/guardian must sign a new code before re-entering competition at the conclusion of the suspension period.
  - c. A meeting between the athlete and parent/guardian must occur before the suspension period is concluded.
2. Second/Subsequent Violations
  - a. An athlete violating this section of the code within two calendar years from the date of the first violation (with any substance) will be suspended from all sports activities (practices, contests, team membership, sport's letter) for a period of six months of the school calendar.
  - b. The athlete and parent/guardian may request reconsideration of the length of such suspension after the following has occurred:
    - i. At least one-half of the time period has passed.
    - ii. At least 60 school days have passed.
    - iii. A plan of action has been successfully completed. (Such a plan will have been developed with each individual and circumstance taken into account. It will be developed by the Principal or his designee and with the athlete and parent/guardian.)
  - c. If an athlete is continuing participation from one season to another consecutive season, this code will remain in effect BETWEEN

- consecutive seasons during the given school year and any code violation will result in the athlete's ineligibility in the upcoming sport.
- d. The athlete and parent/guardian must sign a new code before re-entering competition at the conclusion of the suspension period.
3. Penalties for selling and/or giving of alcohol, drugs, unlawful inhalants, or tobacco products.

Any athlete who is determined to have been selling and/or giving any form of alcohol, drugs (including imitations or misrepresentations of controlled substances), unlawful inhalants, or tobacco product (in any form) will be immediately suspended from all athletic participation for a period of six months of the school calendar for the first offense and twelve months for the second offense.

### **APPEAL PROCESS**

Athletes who are suspended from participation may appeal to an Athletic Review Board. Such an appeal must be presented, in writing, to the Athletic Director within five days of the suspension. The appeal must state the reasons for the appeal.

The Athletic Review Board consists of the Athletic Director, the head coach of the team on which the athlete plays, and the athlete's guidance counselor. If the Athletic Director also happens to be the coach of the team involved, a third party faculty member/coach will be appointed with mutual agreement of the persons involved.

Further appeal may be made to the High School Principal.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Individual coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sport. It is the responsibility of the coach to clearly inform team members and parents/guardians of these rules. Penalties for violations of these established team rules will be administered by the coach.

### **ATTENDANCE –**

A student-athlete shall be in attendance and on time in his/her regular classes in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest unless excused for a legal reason. Habitual absences and/or tardiness will affect eligibility as determined by the coach, athletic director and/or administration. Please refer to page 11-12 of the MGHS Student-Parent Handbook for specifics regarding unexcused absences. If you are healthy, get to school on time. If you are to be excused, be sure the excuse is for a valid and acceptable reason. Communication with your coach and the attendance office is imperative. Attendance on the day before, the day of and the day after contests is considered to be especially important.

### **SUSPENSIONS/DETENTIONS**

A student-athlete who is suspended from school by school authorities shall incur a suspension from his/her team equal to or longer in duration to the period for which the individual is out of school. The principal will notify the athletic director, who will notify the coach of the suspension. An in-school suspension will result in the student-athlete being ineligible for participation in any interscholastic athletic contest for three days following the date of the in-school suspension. Habitual teacher or administrative detentions will affect eligibility as determined by the coach and/or athletic director.

## **PRACTICES AND CONTESTS**

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach. An athlete who is injured or ill but still able to attend school is also required to attend practice even though they will not be actively participating. Any student-athlete failing to abide by this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team. Remember, once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to that team for the full season. Any student-athlete who considers quitting a team is encouraged to first talk with the respective coach and communicate his/her concerns and/or reasons for wanting to leave the team.

## **TRANSPORTATION TO AWAY CONTESTS**

All players, cheerleaders and team personnel will ride to and from all athletic contests on transportation approved and provided by the school district. A student-athlete may ride home with his/her parent/guardian with the approval of the coach and the parent/guardian signing the transportation release form provided by the coach. Permission for a student-athlete to leave with any other individual(s), other than another parent/guardian will not be given. Please note, a student-athlete may receive permission to ride home with another team parent/guardian provided he/she presents a written permission slip form his/her respective parent/guardian and gets this approval by the athletic director in advance before leaving for the away contest. The student-athlete will present this permission slip with the Athletic Director's signature of approval to his/her respective coach. In special cases, parents/guardians may request to provide transportation to a contest for their child only. In some cases, the request must be made in writing in advance to the Athletic Director.

## **CHANGING SPORTS**

It is important that the student-athlete try to go out for the right sport, particularly at the varsity and junior varsity levels. A student-athlete may not change from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from the coaches involved and the athletic director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try-out for another sport. The athlete must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot count from one sport to another.

## **HAZING**

Hazing in any form, including initiation which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by New York State law and the Bemus Point Central School District. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed at Bemus Point Central School District in our athletic program. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any acts of hazing we see or know of to a coach or administrator. Participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic program.

## **CONFLICTS**

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many activities will undoubtedly be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each

student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in school activities and, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The student-athletes and parents/guardians must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of league or section regulations or facility usage. Students have the responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the coaches involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict.

## **EQUIPMENT**

All athletic equipment must be returned at the end of the season to the coach or athletic office. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned. In addition, the student-athlete will be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment.

## **CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION**

From time to time during the course of an athletic career in our school, parents/guardians and student-athletes may have questions or concerns that need to be addressed. The team coach is the best source of information. The student-athlete should address concerns directly with his/her team coach. If, after speaking with the coach you are not satisfied, the next step would be for the parent/guardian to speak to the coach and then, if necessary, the varsity coach. The final step if you are still not satisfied would be for the parent/guardian and/or student-athlete to communicate with the athletic director. Please be advised that anonymous concerns will not be addressed.

## **FAMILY VACATIONS**

When parents/guardians and student-athletes choose to take their family vacation during sport seasons, it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student-athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted. Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents/guardians and student-athletes of the season's schedule as far in advance as possible.

## **OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION**

The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation (AAU, Travel, Club, etc.). Maple Grove athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Maple Grove team. There will be many circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the team. Always check with your coach and/or the athletic director.

## **DRESS AND GROOMING**

A member of an athletic team is expected to be well-groomed. "You look good – You feel good – You do good." Appearance, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. Maple Grove team members are expected to dress presentable at all times and especially on away trips. Sloppy dress and sloppy

grooming leads to sloppy attitudes, which leads to sloppy play. Only uniforms issued by the athletic department should be worn for contests.

### **SQUAD SELECTION**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students participate in the athletic program as possible, we encourage coaches to keep as many athletes as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. The final decision on squad size will be left up to the varsity coach.

## **BEMUS POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE**

The Bemus Point Central School District Interscholastic Athletic program is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play at all sports activities. Good sportsmanship is defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The concept of “sportsmanship” must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action. Perhaps a quote from Knute Rockne says it best:

“One man practicing good sportsmanship is better than fifty others preaching it.”

We are further committed to the belief that schools participating in interscholastic athletic activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, staff members and spectators. Conduct, which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities, could result in appropriate disciplinary action by the school.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS**

**It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/spectator to:**

1. Keep cheering positive. No profanity or degrading language/gestures.
2. Avoid actions which offend visiting teams or individual players.
3. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
4. Learn the rules of the game in order to be a better informed spectator.
5. Treat all visiting teams and spectators as guests and show respect.
6. Accept the judgment of contest officials and coaches.
7. Encourage all spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
8. Avoid the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS**

**It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:**

1. Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times, be they officials, spectators or other athletes.

2. Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
5. Remember that improper behavior while in uniform, in school or in our community, reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your school and your community.
6. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
7. Accept victory with grace/modesty and accept defeat with dignity/class.
8. Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and performance enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

### **COACHES CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS**

#### **It is the responsibility of the coach to:**

1. Promote good sportsmanship by setting a positive example while coaching.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
3. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not as a life or death struggle that requires victory at any price.
4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women with human frailties and limitations, who are capable of making mistakes.
5. Refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with players, opponents, officials or spectators.
6. Instruct the players in the elements of good sportsmanship, and remove players from competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
8. Avoid and eliminate negative comments to radio, TV and newspaper reporters.
9. Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and performances enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

### **SECTION VI & BEMUS POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISQUALIFICATION POLICY**

Sportsmanship is an integral and vital ingredient of any interscholastic athletic program. The National Federation of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VI, Cattaraugus/Chautauqua County Athletic Association and the Expressway Conference have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis. Section VI and BPCSD have instituted the following policy to ensure the development of and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play.

Any Bemus Point student-athlete, coach, parent or spectator who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejection/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Director, the Section VI office and the league Sportsmanship Chairperson. If necessary, a conference

between the player, coach, parent or spectator and the athletic director will take place before the individual(s) is eligible to return.

**NO SMOKING POLICY**

To comply with Federal and State law and to acknowledge the health hazards associated with smoking, particularly in an environment where children are present, the Bemus Point Central School District Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to smoking and chewing tobacco in all school facilities, on all school grounds and in any vehicle used to transport children or school personnel.