

# Buckeye Union High School District Interscholastic Handbook



• • • REMINDER • • •

Students that are members of an interscholastic program are required to pay a one time (not per sport) ANNUAL FEE. It is recommended that the AZ Tax Credit program be used to pay this fee.

\$50.00	per year
\$37.50	per year (Reduced Lunch Program)
\$25.00	per year (Free Lunch Program)

# INTRODUCTION

Buckeye Union High School District believes in the education of the whole person, and that competitive activities are an integral part of the overall educational experience. All students are encouraged to participate in interscholastic programs as part of the healthy development of a well-integrated person.

Competition means more than a contest between schools or individuals. It is a means of teaching a way of life. It teaches fair play. It teaches that no one individual is more important than the team. It teaches that quitting usually means failure while hard work eventually brings success. In the Buckeye Union School District, athletics, co-curricular activities, and academics are combined to develop physical, mental, social values that will help the student grow throughout life.

The goal for students and teams is to perform at the maximum of each person's capabilities. Every student is encouraged to participate in multiple programs and strive for excellence.

This handbook contains the rules/regulations that govern all extracurricular activities in the Buckeye Union School District.

Students in the Buckeye Union High School District may have the opportunity to qualify for participation in the following Arizona Interscholastic Association approved interscholastic activities depending on which school they are attending.

## **Fall**

Spiritline - Cheer & Dance  
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)  
Football  
Volleyball (Girls)  
Golf (Boys & Girls)  
Swim/Dive (Boys & Girls)  
Badminton (Girls)

## **Winter**

Basketball (Boys & Girls)  
Spiritline – Cheer & Dance  
Soccer (Boys & Girls)  
Wrestling

## **All-Year**

Band/Choir  
Speech/Debate-Theatre

## **Spring**

Baseball  
Softball  
Tennis (Boys & Girls)  
Track (Boys & Girls)  
Beach Volleyball (Girls)  
Volleyball (Boy's)

# PHILOSOPHY

Buckeye Union High School District promotes individual dignity, personal development, and social interaction through its programs. Furthermore, the department will do everything it can to provide a quality program for all students.

Each interscholastic team does not measure success simply by the number of wins and losses or the number of trophies or championships won in a given season or year. Success may also be measured by the degree to which we live up to the principles and ideals we instill in all participants.

Every school in BUHSD believes that education comes first. Athletes must remember that the primary reason for attending High School is to be a part of a first-class educational program. Activities should never take precedence over education.

## A.I.A. ELIGIBILITY

**Academic:** A student must be enrolled in a minimum of four block courses the first six semesters of high school and a minimum as determined by the district during the seventh and eighth semesters. The configuration and method of course delivery shall be as determined by the member school.

**Age Limit/Birth Record:** If a student becomes 19 years of age after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age on or before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year. An acceptable record of birth shall be submitted before a student's name is placed on an eligibility list for participation.

**Amateur:** Each Student, in order to represent his/her school in any AIA sanctioned contest, shall be and shall remain an amateur. An amateur athlete is one who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.

**Domicile:** Except as otherwise stated in Article 15, a student, whether an adult or not, is privileged with eligibility for interscholastic competition only at the school in the district in which his/her parents are domiciled or allowed to attend by school district issued variance. In multi-school districts, the student is eligible only at the school in the attendance zone in which his/her parents are domiciled. Exception: A school district governing board may declare all or certain high schools within its district as open schools. A student enrolling for the first time in any open school in the district shall have met the domicile requirements to be able to participate in interscholastic competition.

**Enrollment:** Only students enrolled at a member school in grades 9 through 12, inclusive, shall be eligible for interscholastic competition. A home school student may be eligible if said student is in compliance with §A.R.S. 15-802.01 (A) and all BUHSD eligibility policies.

**Maximum Participation:** After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity and a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.

## A.I.A. ELIGIBILITY (cont).

**Parent/Legal Guardian Legal Consent:** Parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have on file with the principal or his/her designee appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation. (see back page)

**Physical Examination:** A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a physical examination performed by a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), osteopathic physician (D.O.) or certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, or a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery. The physical examination for the following school year shall be given **on or after March 1**. The physical examination card on file shall be signed by one of the aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The principal or his/her designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

**Recruitment:** There shall be no recruitment of athletes. Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to enroll in a school or to transfer from one school to another in order that the student may participate in interscholastic athletics. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are in a position to influence the student's choice of a school.

**Student Due Process/Eligibility Appeal Procedures:** Each member school principal or his/her designee(s) having reasonable cause to believe that a student is ineligible to participate in, or continue in, an interscholastic activity under the Enrollment Rule, Domicile Rule and/or Transfer Rule of the AIA Bylaws shall provide the student with notice of his/her ineligibility either in writing or by delivering said notice in person.

**Transfer Student: Must fill out a 550 form.** After enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. A transferring student is not eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the receiving school for the first 50% of all power point games after the 1<sup>st</sup> transfer of all sports played at the previous institution. After the second transfer the student is not eligible to participate for one calendar year.

## PRE-SEASON ELIGIBILITY

Before an athlete can **PRACTICE** in a particular activity, the following criteria must be met.

1. The student must be registered for classes with BUHSD and have a class schedule.
2. The student must have a completed eligibility packet on file in the RANKONE.
  - a- Birth Certificate
  - b- AIA Position Statement on Substance Use
  - c- Data Sheet and Authorization for Emergency Medical Care
  - d- Request for Permission to Waive Student Insurance: Use of Personal Insurance
  - e- AIA Transfer Form 550 if a student transfers schools in grades 10-12
  - f- Physical Examination
    - Part one- pre-participation physical evaluation
    - Part two- pre-participation physical examination
  - g- AIA Statement and Acknowledgement on MTBI / Concussion
  - h- Completion and Certification of Concussion Education course BRAINBOOK.

Before an athlete can **PLAY** in a particular activity, the following criteria must also be met.

1. The student must have the front and back of the last page of this Interscholastic Handbook Electronically signed and submitted.
2. The student must have paid the appropriate Activity Fee.

## ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Students must be in attendance for 3 of 4 classes in order to practice or participate on that day. Verified medical/dental appointments are accepted as excused absences.

Students are required to be in attendance for their first scheduled class the day after a contest. Failure to do so may result in the student being suspended from participation in the next contest.

# ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility is determined using grade reports occurring EACH week.

This evaluation process will be repeated each Monday.

Changes in academic eligibility status take place the Monday of the eligibility grade check.

Students that receive a failing grade in any class become ineligible to participate for the week (Monday-Saturday).

Students who are ineligible may not participate in any contests during the ineligible period or breaks during the ineligible period.

Students should continue to practice with the team during the ineligible period in order to remain physically fit and receive coaching instructions.

Ineligible students will not be excused to miss any class time for home or away contests.

Each program will determine whether or not the ineligible student is allowed to travel with the team to away contests when class time will not be missed.

# NCAA ELIGIBILITY

Any student with the desire to participate in athletics after high school should contact their guidance counselor regarding eligibility. Academic eligibility requirements are different at each level. More information can be found on [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org), [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org) and [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org).

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

All physical forms and parent consent forms must be submitted to the ATHLETIC OFFICE prior to any tryouts, practicing, or participation in a given activity.

Students who are assigned Out-Of-School Suspension are not eligible to participate in any activities (practices/contests) at any time on those days. Students must complete their OSS assignment and attend classes the following day in order to regain eligibility. A student athlete suspended out-of-school a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) time during the same sports season shall also be suspended from that team for the remainder of the season per JJIB-RB.

Students who lose credit due to excessive absences or discipline problems will be assigned a grade of "WF" for that class and become ineligible to practice or participate in any activity for the remainder of that semester.

Students are responsible for missed work due to absences for home or away contests. The make-up policy for missed work due to extracurricular absences will be the same as all other excused absences.

Students requesting December Graduation will not be permitted to participate in Winter Sports.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETE

Respect your opponents, teammates, parents, teachers, coaches, administrators and fans.

Respect and follow all school rules.

Respect and follow all A.I.A. rules regarding athletic eligibility and sportsmanship, abide and respect official's decisions at all times.

Dress appropriately on all trips, remain with the group, and ride the team bus to and from the site of the contest unless proper transportation arrangements have been made with the Interscholastic Office and the head coach.

Turn in all equipment issued to you immediately after completion of that activity. You are ineligible for participation in following activities until all equipment is turned in. You must pay for any equipment not returned to your coach.

Report all injuries without delay to a coach or the Certified Athletic Trainer on staff. Failure to do so may result in no insurance coverage. Athletes that have injuries requiring medical attention by a physician may not return to practice or participate in contests until they have received written clearance from a physician and such written permission is on file in the Interscholastic Office. Final clearance to return to practice or contests will be made by a Certified Athletic Trainer.

# TRAINING AND CONDUCT POLICY

The training rules will apply to all BUHSD High School athletes. Excellent physical and mental condition is necessary for high performance in athletics as well as protecting the personal health and safety of the participant and others.

- 1- The use or possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited.
- 2- The use or possession of an alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- 3- Illegal use, sale, or other abuse of drugs is prohibited.

A- On School Grounds or School-Related Activities

Students will be subject to the discipline policy as stated in the Student Handbook and also subject to the Athletic Training Rules as stated in this regulation.

B- Off School Grounds

Burden of proof must be with one of the following:

- a- Observation by staff or administration
- b- Verified Police Report (when possible)
- c- Athlete's own admission

## **FIRST OFFENSE**

The student will be suspended for the remainder of that sports season.

The start of the season shall be defined as the first required official practice as defined by the A.I.A. standardized calendar. The end of the season shall be defined as the last official contest at the level at which the athlete has participated.

## **SECOND OFFENSE**

The student will be suspended from all athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.

## **THIRD OFFENSE**

The student will be suspended from **all** athletic programs for the duration of his/her attendance within the Buckeye Union High School District.



## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Social media is a wonderful tool to promote, inform, and communicate. We would like to help student-athletes, coaches and parents with the expectations surrounding athletics. When using any social media site related to school activities:

1. **Assume nothing is private – EVER!** If you are putting your thoughts on the internet, there is no invasion policy.
2. **Remember that your audience is vast and unknowable.** You have no idea who will ever see what you post. Impress a potential recruiter or boss, they are looking at your social media.
3. **Do not engage, influence any non-BUHSD student for the purposes of enrolling for athletics.**
4. **Do not discuss injuries, either yours or any teammates.**
5. **Never post a picture from the locker room, practice or game without permission of the Athletic Director or Head Coach.**
6. **Complaining about your coaches or teammates will not solve anything.** If there is a problem, speak to them in person.
7. **Do not talk to your opponents in a negative fashion.** Stay away from trash talking your past or present opponents. Positive representation is desired – Own your brand of your school, team, community
8. **You cannot take back what you put on the internet for everyone to see.**
9. **If you retweet something, you agree with it and promote it!**

## PLAYING TIME

Varsity Level Programs: The philosophy of the varsity program is to place the best combination of athletes into a game or match situation. This combination of athletes is to be determined by the coaching staff based on their evaluation of the athletes. No athlete is guaranteed playing time.

Junior Varsity and Freshman Level Programs: The philosophy of the junior varsity and freshman programs is to emphasize the development of physical and social skills for each athlete.

## LETTERING AND AWARDS

Students may earn a school letter for participating in various school activities. The specific criterion for earning a varsity letter is established by the coach or sponsor of the activity.

## OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

A student who is a member of a school team shall not practice or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport during the interscholastic season of competition. This rule applies to team sports only, which are football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, track relay and swimming relay teams. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin with the first regularly scheduled game and conclude with that team's final game. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

## SPORT TRANSFER POLICY

The following guidelines pertain to the athlete's choices concerning the move from one program to another program during the same season and different seasons.

Same season before the first scheduled contest:

An athlete may try out for a 2nd program when not selected as a member of their 1st choice.

Different seasons:

After the first scheduled contest, an athlete may not transfer from a program in season to another program out of season. The athlete must wait until the scheduled contests are completed.

In all situations above, athletes must join the team within the first two weeks of scheduled practice. Transfer students have two weeks from the date of admission to join a team in season.

## OPEN COMMUNICATION

Every High School in the district believes that open communication between students, parents, coaches, and the interscholastic department is vital to the success of our program.

- a- If a student or a parent has a disagreement with something that a particular coach is doing, we request that you try to work out the disagreement with the coach first.
- b- If the situation cannot be resolved, the student or parents may wish to visit with the Athletic Director to discuss and resolve the problem.

## CHAIN OF COMMAND

A chain of command is vital to the success of an organization. The chain of command to be followed at each high school's interscholastic department is as follows:

Individual directly involved – Assistant Coaches – Head Coaches – Head Varsity Coaches – Athletic Director – Principal. Coaches, students, and parents should always follow this chain of command when addressing concerns and/or asking questions regarding our programs.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Interscholastic Department requires all students to travel home with their coaches and teammates at the conclusion of away events.

If a student must be transported from an athletic contest by their parent(s), the head coach of that sport must be directly contacted by the parent(s) and written permission with parent signature must be given to the coach.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Anyone acting in a manner construed by onsite supervision to be unsportsmanlike may be asked to leave the site of the event and may be denied future attendance to or participation in school-sponsored activities.

### **AIA Bylaws; Article 16. Penalties**

**16.3.2.4 Spectator Behavior – In the event that spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel initiate or engage in physical conflict or other threatening or aggressive behavior with school personnel, officials, players, coaches, or other spectators, the school(s) involved shall utilize all available law enforcement resources to prosecute such offenders, and shall take all reasonable actions to help ensure that future similar incidents do not occur, such as temporarily or permanently prohibiting the offender(s) from attending future contests.**

# VICTORY WITH HONOR

The goals of Pursuing Victory With Honor will help student-athletes develop healthy attitudes towards competition and commitment to the principles of sportsmanship. These principles include the ability to win or lose with grace, preparation, hard work, self-discipline, and the appropriate role of sports in the content of the importance of education, meaningful personal relationships, and realistic career ambitions and alternatives. We know the importance of building good character and we will strive to provide a quality education and athletic experience through the use of these six pillars of character.

## SIX PILLARS

### trustworthiness

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



### respect

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

### responsibility

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

### fairness

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

### caring

Be kind . Be compassionate and show you care  
Express gratitude . Forgive others . Help people in need



### citizenship

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

# PARENT AND STUDENT SIGNATURES

After reading this handbook, students and parents must sign this form stating they have read the handbook and understand the policies contained within. Students must have returned this form to the interscholastic office in order to be eligible for practice.

## **STUDENT'S AGREEMENT**

I have read this handbook, and I agree to abide by all the policies of the High School Interscholastic Department.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## **PARENT'S AGREEMENT**

We have read the handbook, and we agree to uphold and support all of the policies of the High School Interscholastic Department.

By signing in the appropriate spaces below, we give our child permission to participate in interscholastic activities in the Buckeye Union High School District.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

# PARENT AND STUDENT SIGNATURES

## **PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

I/We give our permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in organized interscholastic athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions, the injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, quadriplegia or even death.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

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Parent's Signature

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Student's Signature

## **PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR**

I have read and understand the AIA Victory With Honor Program as well as the AIA policy on Sportsmanship. As a student involved in interscholastic activities, parent, relative or sports fan, I will strive to uphold the principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship at each interscholastic competition.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand these documents.

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Parent's Signature

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Student's Signature