



# Belchertown High School Athletic Department

2025-2026 Caregiver and Student-Athlete  
Informational Presentation

# Athletic Department Philosophy

The Belchertown High School Athletic Department will strive to provide all participants with a positive and meaningful experience and all teams will strive to represent Belchertown High School and the Belchertown community in an honorable manner through their efforts during practice and competition, in the classroom, and in the community.

# Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference



# Belchertown High School Athletic Handbook

The Belchertown High School Athletic Handbook is Appendix A in the BHS Student Handbook.

Link: [BHS Student Handbook](#)

All Belchertown High School caregivers and student-athletes are responsible for understanding and abiding by all rules outlined in the Belchertown High School Athletic Handbook, Belchertown High Student Handbook, the PVIAC/District 1 policies and the MIAA handbook. Student-athletes are responsible to abide by all rules, even those instituted, amended or revised during the season.

# Athletic Schedules

All Belchertown High School athletic schedules can be accessed here: [ArbiterLive](#)

Schedules on this site are updated live as changes are made. Sign up for alerts to be notified.

***ArbiterSports***<sup>®</sup>

*The Only One That's All In One*

# Academic Eligibility

## **Academic Requirements as outlined in the Student Handbook:**

### Student-athletes:

1. Must receive a passing grade (65% or higher) in all courses taken during the previous term.
  - The previous school year's final grades determine eligibility for the fall season.
  - Rising 9th graders are exempt from this requirement.
2. Average at least 70% across all courses taken during the previous term or previous school year's final grades for fall participation.
3. Resolve any incomplete grades from the previous term prior to participating in athletics.

“Student Before Athlete”: Failure to meet eligibility requirements means NO participation in athletics

# Attendance

Student-athletes must be on time for school and present for the entire school day in order to participate in athletics. Please see the section discussing school attendance in the BHS Handbook for more information.

If a student-athlete is going to be absent and would like the absence (for any period of time during the school day) excused, the caregiver must inform the Principal, Mrs. Vigneux and the Athletic Director, Mr. McNeill, via email of the anticipated absence at least 24 hours in advance. Proper documentation such as a doctor's note or appointment confirmation, must be presented to the main office to confirm the absence is allowed to be excused.

# Physicals

- All student-athletes must have an up to date physical on file with the school nurse/athletic trainer before being allowed to tryout or practice.
- **A physical is valid for 13 months from the date it was conducted.** A student-athlete becomes ineligible to participate in practice or games when the physical expires.
- It is the responsibility of the student-athlete and caregiver to be sure they have an up to date physical. Reminders are sent via FamilyID two weeks before they expire for student-athletes registered on FamilyID.
- Physicals may be accepted from an appropriate medical professional other than the student-athlete's PCP, if the MIAA Recommended Physical form is completed.



# Athletic User Fees

- Student-athletes who leave a team voluntarily or who are dropped from the team by the coach, athletic director, or principal for disciplinary or scholastic deficiencies are not eligible for a refund.
- A student-athlete who pays an athletic user fee and is cut from a team will have their athletic user fee refunded in full. Please email the Athletic Director requesting a refund.
- **Athletic user fees must be paid by the due date listed on the BHS website Athletics page and FamilyID registration - Fall sports: August 23rd.**
- Permissible penalties for non-payment include the loss of privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.

*Any family experiencing a unique financial hardship may send an email to Mrs. Vigneux at the start of the season.*

# Transportation

- Any athletic event sanctioned by the school, in which its students participate, constitutes an extension of the school day, regardless of time or place of the event. Therefore, to assure proper supervision and optimum safety conditions, transportation for student-athletes will be provided to and from away athletic events.
- The Athletic Director may grant exceptions to this policy if the caregiver emails or provides a written note to the Athletic Director at least 24 hours in advance of the requested exception. The email/note must state the request and the reason for the request.

# Loyalty to the High School Team: MIAA Bona Fide Team Rule

- Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA.
- MIAA Bona Fide Waiver Form: Please see the Athletic Director
- MIAA Bona Fide waivers are only allowed during the pre-season or regular season. Bona Fide Team Member Waivers (for missing any practice or game) are not permitted during MIAA postseason play. The postseason officially begins the day after the cut-off date.

# MIAA Chemical Health Policy

- The MIAA Chemical Health Policy can be found on pages 55-57 of the MIAA Handbook.
- From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, vape pens and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; drug paraphernalia; or any controlled substance.
- First Offense: 25% of the season
- Second Offense: 60% of the season

# Chain of Communication

1. **Meeting between student-athlete and coach**
  2. Meeting between student-athlete, caregiver, and coach
  3. Meeting between student-athlete, caregiver, coach, and athletic director
  4. Meeting between student-athlete, caregiver, coach, athletic director, and principal
  5. Meeting between student-athlete, caregiver, coach, athletic director, principal, and superintendent
- Do not approach a coach before, during, or after a practice or competition. These particular times may be emotional for the caregiver, student-athlete and coach and may not necessarily promote objective analysis or resolution.
  - **Please allow 24 hours to pass before communication.**

# Conflict Resolution

## **Appropriate concerns for discussions with coaches:**

- The emotional and physical treatment of a student-athlete
- The health and well-being of a student-athlete with regards to injuries
- Advice from the coach to help facilitate a student-athlete's improvement
- Concerns about a student-athlete's behavior
- Concerns about a student-athlete's academic performance
- Advice regarding a student-athlete's post high school athletic/education opportunities

# Conflict Resolution

## **Inappropriate concerns for discussion with coaches:**

- Team strategy and play calling
- Playing time and role on the team (by a caregiver)
- Officiating
- The athletic performance of another student athlete

# Spectator Expectations

We urge you to support the Belchertown High School Athletic Programs by:

1. Cheering for both teams as they enter the facility or contest area.
2. Accepting the decisions of officials as final.
3. Applauding the outstanding plays made by either team.

At Belchertown High School we:

Let the players play, let the coaches coach, and let the officials officiate

If it is not positive - do not yell, cheer or chant it.



# Belchertown High School Athletics

## Fall Sports

- Football
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Field Hockey
- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball
- Golf
- Cheer

## Winter Sports

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Hockey (Ludlow Co-op)
- Boys Swimming
- Girls Swimming
- Cheer
- Wrestling

## Spring Sports

- Baseball
- Softball
- Girls Lacrosse
- Boys Lacrosse
- Boys Volleyball
- Boys Tennis
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Outdoor Track
- Girls Outdoor Track

# Belchertown Orioles Athletic Association

We are excited to announce that we are looking for members to join the BOAA. All fundraising groups must be a 501(c)(3). The BOAA is, and is here to support Belchertown High School student-athletes. Please join us for our next meeting Monday, September 8th at 6:00PM. The goal is to have at least 2 representatives from each BHS athletic program.

# Thank you!

If you have any questions, please free free to contact the athletic office.

Athletic Director: [kmcneill@belchertownps.org](mailto:kmcneill@belchertownps.org)

Website: [BHS Athletics Website](#)

# Program Meetings

Cross Country - Room #106

Boys Soccer - Cafeteria

Golf - Room #118

Football - Main Gymnasium

Girls Soccer - Auditorium

Girls Volleyball - Fitness Room

Field Hockey - Room #120

Cheer - Back Gymnasium