

**Athletics**  
**Britton Deerfield Schools Athletic Policy and Conduct Code**  
**(This policy is in effect all year long.)**

**Mission Statement**

Students are encouraged to participate in athletics if they wish at Britton Deerfield Schools. We consider being an athlete at Britton Deerfield a privilege and expect our athletes to be good representatives of our community and school system.

**Philosophy**

Although our Interscholastic Athletic Competition is an integral part of our total school program it is by no means the primary objective in securing our high school education. However, we feel there are many important lessons to learn from athletic competition with other schools, and so Britton Deerfield has been an active participant in the Tri-County League. Boys and girls who are candidates for the team in any sport should be prepared to put forth their best effort at all times, to abide by the training rules in their entirety, and conduct themselves in a cooperative manner both on and off the playing field. Athletes should remember that they are setting the example, which many future athletes will follow.

**Academic Eligibility—High School / Middle School**

Academic eligibility will be checked on a weekly basis and is cumulative throughout the semester. A student/athlete must be passing all of their classes to be eligible to compete in an athletic program. If a student/athlete is failing any class, they will be declared ineligible for a seven-day period beginning the Monday following the eligibility reports. The student/athlete will be required to go to all practices, even though they will not be allowed to compete in any contest for that seven-day period. Teachers will turn in grades each Thursday and letters will be sent home to any parents/guardians of student athletes who are declared ineligible on Fridays. Athletes who receive a D or F in a particular class for the week are encouraged to seek extra help from their teachers or contact the Guidance Office for a tutor referral to help bring up his/her grade.

**Note:** Any athlete who is ineligible for three (3) weeks during a sports season will be dismissed from the team. Weekly eligibility begins the third week of each semester with the third week being a warning week.

**Semester Eligibility**

An athlete will be ineligible to participate if they have one or more failing semester grades. The athlete will be permitted to practice for the first week of the following semester. However, if the weekly eligibility report shows all grades passing, then the student/athlete may participate in team practices, but may not participate in games for one-third of the season's contests. An athlete declared ineligible due to semester grades earned before the beginning of the season will begin practice when the practice schedule begins, then will serve the semester eligibility penalty beginning the first regular season contest. Again if the weekly eligibility report shows all grades passing, the athlete will attend and participate in practice, but not in games for one-third of the season's contests.

## **Attendance**

- **At practice and games:** You will receive adequate notice any day we do not practice and we expect you to be present unless excused. In the event that an athlete has one (1) unexcused absence, it is mandatory that the minimum penalty be one contest suspension. Procedures and obligations relating to scheduled practices and games during school vacation breaks must be fully explained by the Coach at the beginning of the sport season involved.
- **At School:** You must be in school the entire day of a contest or practice in order to compete in that contest or practice unless prearranged with the Coach and School Office. **Definition of entire day = Present beginning of second hour through the end of the school day.** Excessive tardiness may result in action taken by the Principal and Athletic Director.
- When a practice or contest takes place on a day that we are not scheduled to be in school, the student-athlete must have been in school the entire day of the last day previous to contest.
- When school is not in session due to weather conditions, practice will be held at the times arranged unless notified by the Coach. There will be no penalty for students unable to make these practice sessions due to weather conditions.
- When school is not in session due to weather conditions, all Middle School practices and contest will be cancelled for that day.
- In school/out of school suspension: If you have an in school or out of school suspension you may not participate in either practice or games during your suspension.

## **Travel**

Athletes are expected to use the transportation provided by the school. It is important that a team build a team feeling and camaraderie. If parents need to arrange special transportation, they must notify the Coach and Athletic Director in writing. Athletes will be limited to riding home from away contests with their parents/guardians or grandparents. Extenuating circumstances may be discussed with the Athletic Director prior to the specific need.

## **Transportation for weekend tournaments**

1. A bus will be available to transport students to the tournament site.
2. Parents need to make arrangements for rides home after the tournament. There will not be any bus transportation home from the tournament site. Sharing rides and car-pooling is suggested.
3. A student may drive to the tournament with parental permission. Parents should write a note and have this approved by the administration prior to the tournament.

### **Athletic Rules**

All athletic rules and guidelines shall apply to Britton Deerfield students who participate in athletic teams sponsored solely by Britton Deerfield Schools.

#### **VIOLATION:**

1. Tobacco – use or possession of
2. Alcoholic beverages – use or possession of
3. Illegal drugs – use or possession of
4. Performance-enhancing substances – use or possession of

#### **PENALTIES:** (for violations 1- 3 above)

##### **First Offense**

Minimum penalty one-third of season contests (determined by Athletic Council). If more than two-thirds of the season is over at the time of the violation, penalty will carry over into the next sport that the student participates in (determined by Athletic Council).

Additionally, successful completion of an assessment program and its recommendation may be required. The successful enrollment and initial consultation of an assessment/treatment program may result in the length of the suspension being reconsidered. Failure to successfully complete the assessment and its recommendation may result in additional suspension.

##### **Second Offense**

The Student/Athlete will be suspended from all athletics for a period of one calendar year. Additionally, successful completion of an assessment program and its recommendations may be required. The successful completion of an assessment/treatment program may result in the length of the suspension being reconsidered.

##### **Third Offense**

A student-athlete will be permanently suspended from all athletics.

Violations are accumulative throughout a student/athlete's career.

All reports of violations will be checked and substantiated before the Athletic Council shall take any action.

### **Athletic Council**

The Athletic Council – composed of a Board Member, Administrator, and the Athletic Director or Alternate by majority rule shall determine the penalty for violations 1 – 3 above. The athlete, his/her parents or guardians, and the athlete's Coach have the option of sitting in on the hearing. If the student athlete feels the Council's decision is not appropriate he/she may appeal the decisions to the Board of Education.

## **Discipline**

Any coach of a team, Athletic Director, or the administration may suspend a student athlete for any indefinite period of time for actions not consistent with those expected by the school. The student athlete and the parents will be notified of any disciplinary action taken by the coach, Athletic Director, or Administration. Examples of such actions calling for disciplinary action are vandalism, stealing, gambling on games in which Britton Deerfield is participating in, police involvement and/or other problems.

If a student/athlete or their parent(s) feel a disciplinary action is unfair, they may request a conference. This process will begin at the level where the disciplinary action originated, and then progress through the school's chain of command listed below:

- 1)Team Coach
- 2)Athletic Director
- 3)Principal
- 4)Superintendent
- 5)Athletic Council
- 6)Board of Education

## **Not completing a season**

An athlete has the first two weeks of practice in a sport to determine whether it is something he/she wishes to continue. During this two-week period, athletes may excuse themselves from the sport without any further consequences. If an athlete continues on an athletic team after the first two weeks, he/she is expected to honor the commitment of participating for the remainder of the season. This is a commitment that has been made to their coaches, teammates, and school. Failure to honor a commitment by either quitting, or being removed from a team, may result in an athlete missing a part or all of the next sports season he/she wishes to compete. If an individual does not complete a season it is his/her responsibility to approach the Athletic Director and request a meeting that will include the Athletic Director, the coach of the sport they did not finish the season, the coach of the sport he/she wishes to compete in next, the parent/guardian of the athlete, and themselves. The meeting will take place within one week of the athlete's request. A decision will be made and reported to the athlete and their parent/guardian within seventy-two hours. An athlete may not be allowed to practice, or participate in a contest of another sport, until this meeting has taken place and a decision has been made by the Committee.

Requests for permission to participate in additional athletic teams may include:

- Permission to participate with no additional stipulations
- Permission to participate with limitations
- Denial to participate

### **Starting a Sport Late**

If a student requests to come out for a sport after practices for that sport have started, it will be left up to the discretion of the coach as to whether the student will be allowed to participate in that sport. A variety of factors should be considered. Any athlete allowed to start late will be required to have a minimum number of practices before they can compete in games. If cuts have been made, a student will not be allowed to come out for the sport after the cuts have been made. If the date of the first scheduled game has passed, students will not be allowed to come out for that sport.

If a student moves to Britton Deerfield during a sport season, they may be allowed to participate in a particular sport if: (a) They participated in that sport at their previous school and; (b) They meet all the requirements of the MHSAA and the Britton Deerfield Athletic Policy.

### **24 Hour Rule**

If a parent/guardian has a concern or a problem with something that a coach has done in a contest they must wait 24-hours before they address the problem with that particular coach.

### **Transfers Following Violations of School's Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

Britton Deerfield High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

A student who transfers to Britton Deerfield after becoming ineligible because of a student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school shall remain ineligible at Britton Deerfield for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of Britton Deerfield and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation I, Section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at Britton Deerfield Schools. That student was subject to the rules and penalties of the previous school and shall not be allowed to escape the consequences of his/her conduct and, in doing so, displace students of Britton Deerfield Schools from teams, positions, events, and awards at least until the full period of ineligibility has been served.

**General Appearance**

Athletes should set and keep a high standard of appearance at all times. The athlete's appearance shall be governed by the school dress code. A Coach may set appropriate dress standards for away and home contests. The very simple standards of being neat and well groomed should not present a challenge to the disciplined athlete. If this does create a problem to the individual athlete, the athlete should not be involved in athletics.

**Sportsmanship**

Good sportsmanship reflects the image of a good athlete and upon the school. Our opponents formulate their opinion of Britton Deerfield from the way our team and spectators conduct themselves at an athletic contest, and it is up to us to display the qualities of a good sport at all times. An athlete should treat his/her own and visiting coaches, team members, and fans respectfully and courteously at all times. An athlete should also accept the decisions of officials, applauding the fine play of our opponents, and show our disapproval of any abusive remarks from our sidelines, or rough play from our team.

Student participants in any athletic contests should be fully aware of the rules and regulations put forth by M.H.S.A.A. and our School Board governing eligibility for interscholastic sports. Any questions regarding these should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director or Coach so the issue can be clarified.

**Curfew**

The Coach of the sport you are participating in will set curfew rules.

**Equipment**

Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued him/her. If he/she fails to return equipment or it is damaged through neglect or malicious destruction, the athlete must pay for its replacement cost. Failure to do so will result in the athlete not being allowed to go out for another sport until the equipment is paid for or returned.

## **Accidents and Injuries**

1. The athlete has the responsibility of notifying the Coach or Athletic Trainer of any injury or illness, which might be serious enough to require medical attention, which could endanger the safety of the student-athlete due to further participation.
2. Our Certified Athletic Trainer is an independent contractor and certified by the State of Michigan. Therefore if the Trainer examines a student-athletes injury and deems them either fit or unfit to participate and the Trainer's recommendation will be followed. The Trainer will also refer for further medical attention as necessary, as dictated by their family health care insurance.
3. If a student-athlete and their parents/guardians feel an injury or illness is serious enough to seek further medical attention they must then be cleared in writing by a M.D. or D.O.
  
4. If a student-athlete receives care from a physician (including a physician's assistant or certified nurse practitioner) for an injury or illness, then that student-athlete is required to present a written release from that physician stating that athletic participation has been deemed appropriate before the student-athlete may return to athletic participation.<sup>5</sup>

## **Dual Sport Athletes**

If a student wishes to participate in two different sports in one season the guidelines are as follows:

1. Each student will declare a primary sport.
2. Before games start the athlete will be expected to practice with both teams. At least two days with each sport and one of the sports will be attended three times.
3. Missing a practice of one sport to go to the other is an excused absence from practice. This does not mean that the athlete does not have to perform at or above the level of another athlete to earn their playing time. Remember it takes a lot to be a dual athlete and perform at a high level.
4. If we have two contests on one day, the following is how it will be determined which contest they will attend:
  - a) A varsity contest takes precedent over a JV contest
  - b) A state tournament contest takes precedent over a non-state contest
  - c) A league contest takes precedent over a non-league contest
  - d) If they are either both league or state contest the athlete will go to their primary sport
  - e) If they are either both non-league or non-state contest the athlete will go to their primary sport

\*\*\*\*If there are league schools at a tournament or invitational it does not necessarily make it a league contest

### **Athletic Awards**

The following requirements must be met before a varsity letter can be awarded to any pupil:

**Golf** – Participation in at least half of the total matches of competition, finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the coach.

**Football** – Participation in at least one-half of the total quarters of competition; finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Basketball** – Participation in at least one-half of the total quarters of competition (including tournaments); finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Volleyball** – Participation in at least one-half of the total matches of competition (including tournaments); finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Baseball** – Participation in at least one-third of the total innings of competition; finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Softball** – Participation in at least one-third of the total innings of competition, finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Track** – Average one point per dual meet. He/she must finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the Coach.

**Cross Country** – Participation in at least one half the total meets of competition, finish the season unless excused, and/or be recommended by the coach.