



## **Boquet Valley Central School District Mission Statement for Interscholastic Sports**

The mission of Boquet Valley Athletics strives for the development of the whole student: academically, socially, emotionally and physically through intentional preparation and planning through the school day and season. We focus on creating opportunities for all student-athletes to develop skills through individual and team instruction, peer interaction and competition. While winning is not an end in and of itself, we believe that striving and preparing to win motivates our student-athletes and forges positive character traits in our healthy competitive environments. Our mission is that all individuals associated with Boquet Valley Athletics (coaches, staff, student-athletes, alumni and parents) will value character traits developed through athletic participation. We expect all participants to respect themselves and others, demonstrate loyalty, be good teammates, handle athletic outcomes with poise, express school pride, exhibit a strong work ethic, be honest, show integrity, be timely and be prepared.

### **OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

1. To understand and value the role of interscholastic athletics in the development of the student, sports in our culture and develop healthy attitudes towards competition.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to experience athletics through healthy sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit, and loyalty of our school community.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness, and emotional stability for all participants.
5. To provide the opportunity for students-athletes to develop leadership skills and become a respected member of the greater community that leads, guides and mentors teammates and younger students and begins a life of service to others.
6. To develop, through hard work and dedication, a feeling of self-confidence, achievement and reward.

## **CODE OF ETHICS NYSPHSAA, Inc. (New York State Public High School Athletic Association)**

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 the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual 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 PROGRAM

At the Modified level of athletics, there is an emphasis placed on basic skill introduction, team building, student-athlete behavior and proper sportsmanship. The Modified level of competition is used to teach the game and have the student-athletes learn necessary skills and behaviors of Interscholastic Athletics. Athletic participation and playing time is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. Characteristics that will affect an individual's playing time include, but are not limited to: a positive character, adequate athletic ability, proficient athletic skill, strong dedication, solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, exceptional attitude, etc. Student-athletes at the Modified level can assume they will play in every game, provided circumstances that would prohibit play are not present, i.e. injury, poor academic standing, poor attitude, missing practice, etc. The coach will strive to find fair playing time, **equal playing time is not an expectation**. Every attempt will be made to keep as many athletes as possible. This will be determined by budget, (i.e. officials, uniforms, equipment) space and/or coach availability. This is aligned with the NYSPHAA policies concerning modified sports.

### JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)

At the Junior Varsity level of athletics, there is an increased emphasis placed on winning and being a competitive team, but teaching fundamentals and participation still come to the forefront. Athletic participation is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. Characteristics that a student-athlete can exhibit to increase playing time are: a positive character, superior athletic ability, athletic skill, great dedication, solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, exceptional attitude, etc. An individual's playing time shall be reflected by one's ability to maximize his/her attention to the aforementioned criteria. If the circumstances of the game allow, the coaching staff should enter a maximum number of athletes into the contest, that practice will be adhered to as opposed to the significance of the contest's outcome.

### VARSITY

At the Varsity level of athletics, there is a significant emphasis placed on winning and being a competitive team and program. Athletic participation is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. The characteristics shown by a student-athlete that will dictate playing time are:

overall character, athletic ability, athletic skill, dedication, a solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, positive attitude, etc. An individual's playing time shall be reflected by one's ability to maximize his/her attention to the aforementioned criteria. However, in the end, the Coach is expected to make decisions to attempt to win the game. Playing time for Student-athletes at this level is determined by the Coach.

## **NYSED ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)**

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a process for screening student-athletes in 7th and 8th grade to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (JV or Varsity) than their current grade level would otherwise indicate. It is based on physical maturity, mental readiness, and overall athleticism rather than grade level. This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete's physical fitness, physical maturity, and skill. This program is intended for the exceptional few in each school who would be better served by playing at a higher level than age and grade might indicate. Information must be collected and evaluated by the Boquet Valley Athletic Coordinator before a student may try out for a team. The Athletic Coordinator will solicit the assessments of the coaches of that sports coaching staff in regards to that Student-Athlete. Once permission of the Athletic Coordinator is granted to test a student-athlete, arrangements by the Athletic Coordinator will be coordinated with the representing coach. All APP tests will be administered by the Athletic Coordinator, separate from the coach. Student-athletes will be provided no more than two attempts to meet APP event criteria during any one season.



## BOQUET VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT INTRODUCTION TO EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of student-athletes, coaches, parents and all involved in interscholastic athletics at Boquet Valley Central School District to adhere to the District Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy. Moreover, it is a privilege to play interscholastic athletics at Boquet Valley Central School District and the student-athlete understands that expectations are in place. Not fulfilling these expectations will be addressed by the Coach, Athletic Coordinator and/or Building Administration in order to preserve the integrity and reputation of our athletic programming at Boquet Valley Central School District. It is also the expectation that the student-athlete recognizes that athletics is an extension of the academic programming at Boquet Valley Central School District. Student-Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. It is the expectation of our student-athletes that they embrace representing our school and community on our fields, courses, courts, gymnasiums and tracks. In addition, student-athletes will conduct themselves with dedication, respect and integrity in our classrooms and hallways as well as in our communities and the communities of others.

**Upon signing the BVCS Athletic Code of Conduct, Boquet Valley student-athletes take on a role of representing our school community at all times. They then become a person that leads by example and behaves in a way that brings honor to the BVCS School District, every hour of every day, every day of every week, all year long.**

### VERY IMPORTANT EXPECTATION

The student-athlete is a student athlete for the entire academic year and the years to follow. For clarity, if a student-athlete plays only one sport per year, the policies set forth in this document can affect that student's participation in the following year. Moreover, a one sport athlete or a two sport athlete who breaks these expectations while not a member of a current team, can expect to have consequences that may fall into the next scholastic year.

### DUE PROCESS CLAUSE

Due process is available to all student-athletes who believe that the Athletic/Academic Eligibility Policy has not been administered impartially. If so, student-athletes retain the right to appeal before the Athletic Director and building Administrator.

# **EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES, STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PARENTS, 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.
3. Treat 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 and the communities of others, reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your team, your school and your community.
6. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
7. Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity and class.
8. Abstain from the use, and/or abuse, or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vape or drugs, understand if warranted, appropriate action will be taken by the school and or outside agencies with respect to the use and/or abuse of alcohol or drugs.
9. Do not engage or participate in negative comments to social media, TV and newspaper reporters.

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

It is the responsibility of the coach to:

1. To be a model of the philosophy and mission of the Boquet Valley Athletic Department.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
3. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not as a life and death struggle that requires victory at any cost.
4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women with diverse backgrounds and 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 the competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior.

7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.

8. Do not engage or participate in negative comments to radio, TV, social media, and newspaper reporters.

9. Communicate that the use of drugs, alcohol and nicotine/vape have adverse health effects and are prohibited and, if warranted, appropriate action will be taken by the school and or outside agencies.

10. To never be in possession and/or under the influence of tobacco, drugs and/or alcohol at an athletic event. If warranted, appropriate action will be taken by the school and or outside agencies.

## **BREACH OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS CODE**

The Athletic Coordinator, along with the Building Level Administrator, will conduct an investigation into the breach.

1. The Athletic Coordinator and Building Level Administrator will address issues and findings with the coach in question.

2. A course of action will be determined to rectify the situation.

3. In egregious circumstances, termination or suspension of duties could occur.

## **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 teams or individual players.

3. Treat all teams and spectators as guests and show respect.

4. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.

5. To never be in the possession and/or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at an athletic event. If warranted, appropriate action will be taken by the school and or outside agencies.

6. Refrain from creating or attempting to create a disturbance among fans.

7. 9. Do not engage or participate in negative comments to social media, TV and newspaper reporters.



## COMMUNICATION THAT PARENTS EXPECT FROM THE COACHES

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season equipment, etc.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Communications should be received within 24-48 hours, depending on the circumstances of the situation. Communications from coaches could be in a number of forms: voice call, email, conference, text message, etc.
8. Numerous items of interest concerning athletic programs can be viewed on the Boquet Valley Athletics website. \*\*\*While it is our intention to keep parents/guardians as well informed as possible, it is the nature of athletics that some changes are made in a moment's notice. We are trying to raise a sense of responsibility and effective communication with our student-athlete so we ask that parents hold them to a high standard when we ask them to relay important information such as dates/times of practice/games.

## COMMUNICATION THAT COACHES EXPECT FROM THE PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance. Schedule conflicts that are not expressed early enough may result in a playing time adjustment.
3. Specific concern regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations. It is very difficult to accept that your child's not playing as much as you may have hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As you have read from the list above, issues such as those that follow must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES



**The following concerns should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator through an appropriate avenue of communication and at an appropriate time.**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes i.e. discipline issues involving teammates, teammates playing time, etc. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the area of concern.

#### **PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW WHEN DISCUSSING A CONCERN WITH A COACH**

1. The student-athlete may address the captain first with their concern. The captain will act as an intermediary, confidant, advisor or assume any other leadership role that would aid the situation. This can be in the presence of the coach or not, depending on what is discussed with the captain. If a student-athlete is not comfortable with approaching the captain the student athlete can express concerns directly to a coach to rectify the situation. If this is the case, and all parties are in agreement, the captain may be apprised of the situation.
2. If the conflict is not resolved after the student-athlete meets with the coach and/or captain, then the parent should ask to speak to the coach. Please wait until the following day to contact a coach so the initial stress of the situation has been lessened. At this point, the coach should contact the Athletic Coordinator and brief him/her on the situation and provide any pertinent background on the situation.
3. If the issue is still unresolved, then the Athletic Coordinator should be contacted to mediate a meeting with the student-athlete, parent, coach, and Building Level Administrator.
4. **Coaches should not be contacted until 24 to 48 hours after a contest regarding player or contest issues. This allows for both coach and parent to deescalate and go into a conversation with a clear state of mind.**



## REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

### I. BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATION STANDARDS

This handbook shall apply to all student-athletes for their entire athletic year, from the date the acknowledgement is signed, both in and out of a particular sports season, and on and off the field of competition.

The following are considered **MAJOR OFFENSES**:

**A. SPORTSMANSHIP** is an integral and vital ingredient of any interscholastic athletic program. The National Federations of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VII and the Champlain Valley Athletic Association have targeted the area of sportsmanship as a major emphasis. Section VII and Boquet Valley Central School have instituted the following policy to ensure the development and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play. Any Boquet Valley student-athlete, coach or spectator who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game, in compliance with section VII regulation. The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejections/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Coordinator, the Section VII office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. A conference between the player or coach and the Athletic Coordinator will take place before the student-athlete or coach is eligible to return.

**B. HAZING** The Boquet Valley Athletic Department interprets hazing as any act whether physical, mental, emotional, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate the person, or which may in any fashion compromise the inherent dignity of the person. In addition, any requirements by a member which compels another member to participate in any activity which is against school policy or state/federal law will be defined as hazing. Any report of a hazing violation will go directly to the Athletic Coordinator and Building Level Administration for a review of the incident and to determine the consequences.

#### LEVELS OF HAZING

1. Bystander- was present during the incident but did nothing to encourage or discourage actions.
2. Active Observer-was present during the incident and actively promoted the continuation of the incident, i.e. chanting, filming, taunting, etc.
3. Active Participant- was the initiator/perpetuator of the hazing incident. Their actions resulted in physical, mental, emotional, or psychological harm. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the incident, it is plausible to have the consequence supersede the penalty for the 1st and 2nd violation.

**C. TOBACCO/ALCOHOL/NICOTINE/VAPE/DRUGS** A student-athlete shall not use or possess alcoholic beverages, drugs, or nicotine/vape products (except by physician's prescription). There will be no use or possession of nonprescription steroids or mood mind-altering drugs.

**D. VIOLATION/ARRESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL/PHOTO/VIDEO** If a student-athlete is arrested for a crime, the Athletic Coordinator and another administrator will review the actions giving rise to the arrest, and determine if the conduct constitutes a violation of the Athletic Handbook. Athletes will serve consequences outlined in the handbook. Any identifiable image, photo, video, etc. which implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or alcohol; portrays actual use, out-of-character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the handbook. Student-athletes should not place themselves in compromising situations or environments (including, but not limited to, cyber space, camera phones, blogs, cell phones, video cameras, etc.). Important- Please refer to due process clause on page 5 of this document.

## **II. ACADEMIC EXPECTATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

Students must accept responsibility for their academic performance; academics remain the first responsibility of a student-athlete. Within a week following commencement of practices, coaches are responsible for compiling lists of participants and giving that list to the Athletic Coordinator. This list will be continually revised to reflect additional athletes and athletes no longer participating. At every five-week point, academic ineligibility will be determined by a run of grades through progress reports and/ or quarterly grades. If a student-athlete is failing two or more classes at the five-week point they will be deemed ineligible to participate in games for their respective sport. They will still continue to practice and attend all events/games for the next two weeks while they work to improve their academic standing. If after two weeks, the student-athlete has improved their grades they may rejoin the team in full membership. If they are still failing two or more classes after the two-week period, they may not attend any events/games/practices and they will focus on academics only, for the next three weeks. If after three weeks they manage to improve their grades, they are allowed back to the team in full membership. If after those three weeks, the Student-Athlete is still failing two or more subjects the Athletic Coordinator and Building Principal will meet to discuss and decide if continued participation is in the best interest of the Student-Athlete.

## **III. STUDENT – ATHLETE EXPECTATION STANDARDS (School & Team)**

**A. ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL TARDINESS** Repeated tardiness and absence will affect eligibility as determined by the administration in accordance with the district code of conduct and discipline policy.. An exception to this would be if a student-athlete has late arrival to school or a documented medical reason that does not limit their ability to perform athletically, i.e.- routine dental exam. Student-athletes will not be permitted to leave school due to sickness and then return for a contest later in the day. The Athletic Coordinator will approve any extenuating circumstances. The day following a contest, a student-athlete must attend school by the

completion of 2nd period. If a student-athlete establishes a pattern of unexcused tardiness and/or absences from school the student-athlete will have consequences that may include but are not limited to suspension from team activities, attendance contracts, and other hybrid programs that facilitate the student-athlete being present and on time to school. Parents will be notified of any consequences or plans that are put into place in relation to attendance and tardiness. These plans or consequences will also be documented.

**B. PRACTICES AND CONTESTS** Each student-athlete is required to attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach. A student-athlete who is injured 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.

**C. PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT** The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports. Athletes who are illegally absent from or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of the absence. Athletics is an extension of the Physical Education Program.

**D. DISCIPLINE REFFERALS NOT RESULTING IN ISS** There are instances in which a student-athlete receives a referral and may not result in disciplinary action outside of a warning by district administration. In this case the student-athlete will also receive a warning from the athletic-coordinator in respect to athletic ineligibility. If another referral of the same nature is received by that student athlete, they may receive a one game suspension. Upon the third referral in a season the student athlete may receive another game suspension as determined by the Athletic Coordinator. Any infractions after this will result in a long term suspension imposed by the Athletic Coordinator and district administration. Parents will be notified of any consequences or plans that are put into place in relation to conduct in school. These plans or consequences will also be documented.

**E. IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)** On the day a student-athlete is placed in ISS, they will not be allowed to attend a practices or games from that moment until through the day of the suspension is complete. Parents will be notified of any consequences or plans that are put into place in relation to attendance and tardiness. These plans or consequences will also be documented.

**F. OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)** A student-athlete who is suspended from school by school authorities shall incur a suspension from his/her team equal in duration to the period for which the individual is out of school. The Building Level Administrator will notify the Athletic Coordinator, who will notify the coach of the suspension. Understand that all student-athletes are subject to, but not limited to suspension, team dismissal or behavioral contracts depending on the severity of the offense. Parents will be notified of any consequences or plans that are put into place in relation to suspension from school. These plans or consequences will also be documented.

**G. CONFLICTS** Any individual student who attempts to participate in 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 will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The student-athlete and parent/guardian must realize that

many times schedules cannot be changed because of league/ section regulations or facility usage. Students have a responsibility to notify the coaches involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict.

**H. DROPPING/CHANGING A SPORT** A student-athlete may not drop or change from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from the Athletic Coordinator. If he/she has been cut from one team, the student-athlete may gain permission to try-out for another team, provided there were not cuts on the team they wish to join. If a student-athlete drops from a team without initiating a meeting with the Athletic Coordinator and/or the coach within 48 hours (unless on a holiday break) they will not be able to participate in the next sports season without a scheduled meeting with the Athletic Coordinator. That meeting will be scheduled at the earliest convenience of the Athletic Coordinator. This penalty can follow the student athlete into the next sports season and the next competitive year. Upon the initiation of this meeting the student athlete must provide adequate documentation in a letter addressed to the Athletic Coordinator the reasons for dropping the sport. The student can participate in the next sports season by holding this exit interview. 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 must receive permission from the Athletic Coordinator to withdraw or he/she will be ineligible to participate in the next sport season.

**I. EQUIPMENT** It is the expectation that all athletic equipment will be returned at the conclusion of the current sports season to the coach or Athletic Office. If a student-athlete has joined a sports team at the conclusion of the previous season without returning equipment from that previous season, they will be restricted from participating in contests until that equipment is returned or deemed lost by the Athletic Coordinator. When the equipment is deemed lost, the student-athlete may be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment. If the equipment is deemed lost, the student will not be restricted from contests.

**J. 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 competitions 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.

**K. OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION** The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation (AAU, Travel, Club, etc.). Boquet Valley athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Boquet Valley team. Always check with your coach and Athletic Coordinator prior to committing to an off campus team. Boquet Valley supports outside teams through insured use of facilities, Boquet Valley Teams come first in every regard from facility use to participation and conflicts for Student-Athletes. If outside clubs have a negative impact on participation of the in-season sports teams the Athletic Coordinator will discuss facility use with the Superintendent and club coach.

**L. SQUAD SELECTIONS** 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 the team. The final decision on squad size will be left up to the varsity coach and Athletic Coordinator.

**M. TRYOUTS** In the case of tryouts, where a “cut process” occurs, it is essential that the student-athlete attends the tryout. Without the tryout procedure, the coach cannot adequately determine the student-athlete’s skills compared to the other student-athletes that are trying out. If the student-athlete is unable to attend the tryout, he or she may still be able to participate on the team in a manager/practice player capacity. If a student-athlete is a returning player; the circumstances surrounding the missed tryout and the athlete’s body of work in the sport will be examined and an appropriate course of action will be determined by the Athletic Coordinator. Family vacations are not a valid reason to miss tryouts.

**N. CUT PROCESS** While it is the goal of our athletic teams to keep as many student-athletes as possible, it is inevitable that cuts will have to be made when the number of athletes is greater than the total capacity of the team roster. Cuts will be done in a fair and objective manner. Each sport will have a sport specific form that the evaluator will utilize with sport-specific rubrics to evaluate the participants. In some cases, the Athletic Coordinator may be present during tryouts to provide another evaluative perspective. Coaches will meet with individual players to make them aware of their status with the team, inform them of their strengths and weaknesses regarding their tryout, and suggest ways of improvement. If a student-athlete is cut, there may be other capacities to fulfill in order to maintain their affiliation with the team, i.e. manager, practice player, etc. The Coach and Athletic Coordinator will determine if this is a viable option for the student-athlete. Student-athletes who are cut from a team may transfer to another sport that does not hold cuts past the start date of another sport, i.e. a student-athlete is cut from baseball, they may join the track team as there are no cuts for that sport.



## MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Major violations can include, but are not limited to: repeat of minor violations, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vape or other illegal substances; attendance at a party where alcohol is served; sale or distribution of nicotine products, alcoholic substances, drug paraphernalia, non-prescription or controlled substances; criminal arrest, or large scale breaches of the Athletic Handbook.

### DURATION:

The violations outlined under "Violation of the Handbook" will be applied to the student-athletes athletic career at Boquet Valley Central School. For clarity, if a student-athlete violates the handbook in their freshman year it will hold as a violation through their sporting career.

### PROCEDURE:

1. A school staff member, administrator, parent, or community member who knows or believes that a student-athlete has violated the Boquet Valley Athletic Handbook should immediately report the alleged incident to the Athletic Coordinator and/or the Building Level Administrator.
2. Upon notification of alleged incident, the Athletic Coordinator will verbally report the incident to the coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is participating.
3. The student-athlete involved will be requested to explain the particulars of the alleged incident to the Athletic Coordinator and/or Building Level Administrator.
4. The student-athlete may request his/her coach and/or parent (s) to be in attendance at the meeting.
5. If an athlete has violated the Athletic Handbook, the Athletic Coordinator and/or the Building Level Administrator will record the violation in writing, including an explanation of the consequences that will occur as a result of the infraction, as a matter of record. The parent or guardian of the student-athlete will receive a copy of the violation and consequences of the report.

### HONOR CODE:

School district personnel agree that to have an honor system for student-athletes is a reasonable expectation. If a student, when first questioned about an incident, admits to a breach of the Athletic Handbook agreement, and this is their first violation they will be given a one-week suspension/two game suspension. If it is determined that a student is not truthful about an incident, the Athletic Coordinator and/or Administration, will place additional consequences.

### **VOLUNTARY INFORMATION:**

Student-athletes who voluntarily admit to an Athletic Handbook violation prior to being questioned by the Athletic Coordinator or Administration will receive a one-week suspension and retain any local awards they may receive. This Student-Athlete will no longer be eligible for League and Section All-Star selection. It is important to note that this option will be available to each student only **ONCE** during his/her Boquet Valley athletic career.

### **FIRST VIOLATION:**

Following an investigation and confirmation of the first violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will lose eligibility for the next two consecutive scheduled interscholastic events.
- The student must still practice with the team during his/her loss of eligibility.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose the duty/honor for the remainder of the season.
- The student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference all-star selection at the end of the sport season.
- Students may be required to become a participant in chemical dependency program or treatment program at the discretion of the Athletic Coordinator in conjunction with the Building Level Administrator.
- Students may also be required to attend certain trainings, treatments or workshops based on the nature of the infraction.
- Students may be required to meet with the Athletic Director and Building Principal to develop an individualized return to play plan.

### **SECOND VIOLATION:**

Following an investigation and confirmation of the second violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will immediately receive a five (5) week suspension from all sports activities.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose this duty/honor for the remainder of the season.
- The student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference all-star/all-academic team at the end of the sport season.
- Students may be required to become a participant in chemical dependency program or treatment program, if warranted.
- Students may also be required to attend certain trainings, treatments or workshops based on the nature of the infraction.
- Students will be required to meet with the Athletic Director and Building Principal to develop an individualized return to play plan.



### **THIRD VIOLATION:**

- Upon the third violation the student-athlete will serve a one (1) year suspension from all athletic teams.
- Students will be required to meet with the Athletic Director and Building Principal to develop an individualized return to play plan.

**SUPERCEDING THE FIRST AND SECOND OFFENSE:** After confirmation of a severe violation the Athletic Coordinator, Building Level Administration, and/or Superintendent of Schools will convene to determine appropriate consequences for said violation. Circumstances surrounding the loss of eligibility will be taken into consideration, i.e. duration of the season, current point of the season, play-off/ regular season games (this is put into place in respect to the NYSPHAA tournament process and integrity of post season competition beyond section 7), law enforcement involvement, etc.

**SUSPENSIONS:** It is plausible to have an individual, individuals, and/or a whole team suspended depending on the infraction that has occurred and the time it takes to complete the investigation. Parents will be notified of any consequences or plans that are put into place in relation to conduct outside of school. These plans or consequences will also be documented. \*\*\*Please note – Individual coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sport. These rules will be approved by the Athletic Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the coach to clearly inform team members and parent/guardians of these rules. Penalties for violation of these established team rules will be administered by the coach.

### **APPEALS PROCESS:**

A student-athlete who wishes to appeal a penalty decision should notify the Athletic Coordinator, in writing, within two (2) 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM school days of the disciplinary action. The letter should include the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined as outlined, and signatures of both the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the following will occur:

1. Athletic Coordinator will notify the Building Administrator.
2. This meeting will take place no later than two (2) school days following receipt of the formal appeal.
3. The athlete will then meet with the Athletic Director and Building Administrator for a special hearing. The student-athlete may be represented by witnesses, parents/guardian, etc. All questioning will be done by the Athletic Coordinator and Building Administrator.
5. The student-athlete will be informed in writing by the Athletic Coordinator within two (2) school days relative to the Athletic Director and Building Administrator's decision.

### **FORMAT OF THE APPEAL MEETING**

1. The student-athlete will have 3 minutes to address the Athletic Director and Building Administrator.
2. The student-athlete will verbally answer a set of questions from the Athletic Director and Building Administrator.

3. The student-athlete will have 2 minutes for closing remarks. The format of the Appeals Meeting could vary depending on the circumstances surrounding the appeal.

#### **APPEAL TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:**

1. A student-athlete who wishes to appeal the process in which the decision made by the Athletic Director and Building Administrator must notify the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, stating specific procedural concerns in the determination process. The intent to appeal to the Superintendent must be made within 2 school days (7:30 AM – 3:00 PM) of the decision made by the Athletic Director and/or Building Administrator. The Superintendent will confer with the Athletic Director and/or Building Administrator prior to rendering a decision.

2. Until such time as there has been a decision by the Superintendent, the athlete will not continue to participate.

3. The decision rendered by the Superintendent of Schools will be final.

#### **ATHLETIC AWARD SYSTEM:**

**Varsity Letter:** The Varsity Letter is earned by being on the Roster and eligible to enter a game in a specified number of contests. This is specific to the sport.

Soccer: Eligible and suited for at least half of scheduled games.

Basketball: Eligible and suited for at least half of scheduled games.

Softball/Baseball: Eligible and suited for half the number of games scheduled for that season.

Golf: Eligible and suited for half the total number of matches for that season.

Track and Field: A Varsity Letter will be awarded if the Student-Athlete is eligible to compete in post-season meets.

The Varsity Letter is not awarded for participation and attendance alone. Student-athletes unable to complete a season due to injury, illness or other such circumstances may earn a letter if the coach and Athletic Coordinator feel it is justified. Athletes must finish the season and be in good academic standing to be eligible for an award.

**Griffin Award:** Each Varsity Griffin team will vote for the Student-Athlete that best exemplifies the values of a Griffin.

**Character awards:** Each Griffin team will have three awardees of character awards. For example, Leadership, Sportsmanship, Work Ethic etc. (This includes merged teams)

**Pins:** Varsity only (1/athlete/sport)

**Pins:** Captain

NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award Program (varsity only)

League and Section Awards (presented each sport season)

**Team Captain:** (To be amended at a later date/Including Leadership Academy)