I. **Academic Standards**

Athletics, generally speaking, have a positive effect on the athlete’s performance in the classroom and feelings towards school.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine whether their son/daughter will continue to participate if marks are below what they feel acceptable. Parents should consult with their child’s guidance counselor or coach if they have questions about grades and athletic competition.

Students who fail two or more subjects are responsible for making arrangements to receive regularly scheduled help in any subject in which they are having difficulty. These arrangements could include:

- Study sessions during activity period prior to regularly scheduled practices.
- Evening study sessions after regularly scheduled practices.
- Academic Support Center attendance during study halls or free blocks during the regular school day.
- Students who fail to attend and participate in regularly scheduled help sessions may be subject to suspension from games.

II. **Team Standards**

In addition to the regular school policies that are in effect at all times, athletes must:

1. Receive a sports physical before participation in practice or a game. Sports physicals will be given and approved by the school physician. Physicals provided by the athlete’s physician will be accepted and approved by the school physician. The sports physical will be valid for one school calendar year. A sports physical review by our school nurse will occur prior to participation in the athlete’s next season.
2. Attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach.
3. Demonstrate respect for fellow teammates, coaches, game officials, and opponents.
4. Demonstrate control over emotions and language.
5. Follow specific rules set up by the coach.
6. Ride the team bus to and from all away athletic contests. Under unusual circumstances, an athlete may receive permission from his/her coach to ride home from a contest with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).
7. The homeroom attendance check is the official attendance record for the day. Students must be in homeroom in order to receive attendance credit for the day. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY (INCLUDING REHEARSALS, ATHLETIC PRACTICES, ETC.) STUDENTS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE ENTIRE DAY, INCLUDING HOMEROOM.
8. Demonstrate respect for others through avoidance of physical or verbal abuse.

Violation of the above standards may result in disciplinary action, including suspension ranging from one game to all games remaining on the schedule. The coach will recommend the penalty to the Assistant Principal and Director of Athletics.

III. **Athletic Training Rules**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

During the school year, an athlete is prohibited from:
1. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco (including snuff, chewing and smokeless tobacco) and illegal drugs.
2. Illegal behaviors, including hosting and/or attending drinking/drug parties and selling controlled substances or alcohol.

Penalties
Upon verification by a school official (teacher, coach or administrator) the penalties outlined will be imposed:

First Offense
1. Beginning on the date of the offense, the athlete will be placed on probation for three athletic seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring).
2. The athlete will be suspended from the team for a minimum of 20% of the team’s contests that season.
3. A conference involving the coach, athletic director, player and parent/guardian will be held to inform the athlete of his/her penalty and role on the team during suspension. During the suspension, the athlete will be referred to the appropriate school personnel for counseling.

Second Offense
If the second offense occurs during the probationary period of three athletic seasons:
1. The athlete will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the sport season.
2. The athlete will receive a minimum 30% loss of team contests for his/her next sport season in which he/she participates.
3. The athlete will be required to seek mandatory in-school counseling. The counseling must begin prior to the athlete’s return to competition. Failure to attend said counseling will result in the athlete becoming ineligible for competition for the probationary period.

Third Offense
If a third offense occurs during the probationary period, the athlete will be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics for three athletic seasons beginning on the date of the third offense.

Self-referral
An athlete who admits guilt or who requests assistance with a problem prior to any violation being discovered will be directed for assistance. He/she may have their suspension reduced or eliminated. A one-year probationary period will go into effect and any future violation will be handled as a second offense.

Substance Abuse Regulations are in force through the school calendar year. However, it is the expectation of BH-BL staff that students will use good judgment and refrain from using alcohol and illegal drugs throughout the year, including the summer recess.

IV. Quitting Team/Dismissal
Any athlete who quits after the final cut has been made, will not be permitted to join another team during that sport season except with permission of the Director of Athletics after consultation with the coaches involved. Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violating the Code of Conduct will not be permitted to join another team during that sport season. In addition, any student athlete who voluntarily quits or is dismissed under this provision without permission from the Athletic Director or coach will receive the loss of 20% of their next sports season.
V. Citizenship
Athletes are expected to adhere to school and community standards of conduct and behavior. Failure to comply may result in appropriate discipline at the direction of the administration.

VI. Outside Team Rule
The New York State Public High School Athletic Association permits outside competition. Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake athletes must recognize that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a BH-BL team. There may be circumstances in which a student should not participate in an outside competition due to the possible negative effect on the school team. Athletes are not to participate until receiving approval from the coach of the school team.

VII. Issuing of School Equipment and Clothing
It is the responsibility of the athlete to turn back to the coach all equipment and clothing issued. Failure to do this will result in the athlete paying for the missing articles. A list of any violation will be sent to the Athletic Director and then forwarded to the building principal.

VIII. Athletic Placement Process
Students in grades 7 or 8 who are exceptional athletes are provided an opportunity to try out for a freshman, junior varsity and/or varsity team. Students must meet the requirements outlined in the New York State Athletic Placement Process. These requirements may be obtained from the Athletic Director.

IX. Transportation for Special Competition
During the course of the year, individual teams sometimes compete with schools outside of Section II. Board of Education approval is required. If approved, the team will provide their own means of transportation to the contest. Parents will be required to sign a transportation waiver in order for their child to compete. These forms will be provided by their coach or may be picked up at the Athletic Director’s office.

Approved May 2000
Revised April 2019
STUDENT:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has expressed a desire to participate in our interscholastic sport program. It is important that you and your child understand the goals of the program and agree to abide by the rules established by the District for the benefit of those who participate.

WARNING: Participation in Athletics includes a risk of serious injury, permanent paralysis, infectious disease or death. These risks increase in such programs as football and wrestling. Athletic participation will also involve travel in school district vehicles. No travel will be permitted other than in district vehicles, and all travel includes serious risk of injury. You and your child will be provided information concerning these participation risks, and they should be carefully discussed and considered before this form is signed.

1. All participants must receive a physical examination by the school physician prior to being allowed to practice. Participants may choose to have physicals completed by their personal physician, but such examinations must be referred to, accepted and approved by the school physician. It is our recommendation that a pre-sport physical be obtained prior to the commencement of each sport season. Please consult your physician regarding your child’s protection against tetanus. If there is a question about your child’s eligibility for physical reasons, it will be discussed with you prior to the start of the program.

2. School insurance for the medical treatment of sport-related injuries is applicable only after the parents’ health insurance has been used. The District insurance is called scheduled, excess coverage and generally WILL NOT PAY THE FULL COST OF TREATMENT. The cost of medical benefit insurance on a total basis would be so costly as to effectively eliminate the program.

3. Within the first three team meetings, the coach will explain the attendance, training and athletic code rules as well as eligibility rules for participation. In addition to the strict observance of these rules, your child will be expected to continue to meet all regular school obligations of citizenship and academic achievement.

4. In the event that your child becomes sick, or receives an injury during athletic participation, all reasonable efforts will be made to contact you and obtain any required consents for medical care. In situations where you cannot be contacted for specific consent to treatment, and such delay creates a risk to your child’s life or health, the District representatives will use the authority you grant them by this form to obtain appropriate medical care and treatment for your child.

Sincerely,

Joseph Scalise
District Athletic Director
SPECIAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION

Procedures for securing the Board of Education's permission for special athletic competition under Policy 5280 are as follows:

1. The coach will submit in writing to the Athletic Director at least 30 days prior to the date of the special competition requested:
   a. The name, location and date of competition.
   b. The performance standard warranting consideration and a rationale for entering the competition.
   c. Cost of the trip
   d. Indication of the insurance coverage to be provided.
   e. Educational Impact

2. The Athletic Director will consider the following before making a written request through the Superintendent of Schools for Board approval of special athletic competition:
   a. Date and site of competition.
   b. Rationale for entering.
   c. Transportation
   d. Cost and Source of Funding
   e. Educational Impact.

If the Athletic Director approves the request, he/she will confer with the building principal. If the building principal also approves the request, it must be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools at least 20 days prior to the date of the special competition.

3. The Superintendent of Schools will review the request and decide whether or not to submit it to the Board of Education for its consideration. Special athletic competition beyond regular Suburban Scholastic Council and Section 2 scheduled competition may not be conducted without the approval of the Board of Education.

4. The Athletic Director will budget for entry fees for special competitions and the District will pay the entry fees.

Reviewed 1983-84
Reviewed May 1987
Reviewed August 1993
Renumbered from AR5382 and Revised June 2000
Renumbered from AR5291 & added to AR5290
Renumbered from AR5190 to AR5280