Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Parent/Student Athletic Policy Handbook

Athletic Director's Message

The purpose of this handbook is to communicate to parents and students important information about the interscholastic athletic program at Bishop McGuinness. Hopefully, by reading this handbook you will be able to become more familiar with the athletic philosophy, policies and expectations.

The Bishop McGuinness Athletic Department encourages the participation of students in multiple sports. We would like to have as many two-and three-sport athletes as possible. We believe this is beneficial to our student-athletes and will help our athletic program continue its strong tradition of excellence.

This athletic policy handbook is a work-in-progress and is subject to change as seen fit by the BMCHS athletic department and administration.

For the latest information on Bishop McGuinness Sports Stories, game schedules, schedule changes, directions to away games, daily and weekly updates, and contacting the athletic director, please go to www.bmhs.us, enter, and click on athletics.

In addition, we also have an athletic hotline at 564-1240, which will list game times and locations along with any last minute changes or game cancellations due to weather for all events for that particular day.

We want to thank our students, parents, teachers, coaches, and administration for their hard work and effort in helping provide a quality athletic program.

Jeff Stoller
Athletic Director

Athletic Philosophy

As Christians we are commanded to be different from the world around us. Our desire is to please the Lord in all that we do. Jesus Christ is to be the center of all our attention, both on and off the athletic arena. It is critical that we "Live Out" His character, nature, and attitudes in all that is done.

The athletic program at Bishop McGuinness exists to guide students in developing their bodies, mind, and character in a manner pleasing to God. Not only are immediate goals and desires sought after, but also a high regard is placed on values, which will last for eternity.

Finally, we must do our best to provide a good experience for every student/athlete on every team for every season at BMCHS.

Junior Varsity Goals:

The Junior Varsity teams are considered the transitional level between the middle school teams and varsity teams. Depending on the sport, the junior varsity level may consist of students in grades 9 through 11. An important goal of the junior varsity team is to prepare athletes for varsity competition. A selection process will be utilized by coaches in specific sports according to the number of participants and players abilities.

The athletic program at this level will:

1. develop Christ-like character and behavior in each athlete;
2. continue to build skill development, individual improvement and enjoyment of the game;
3. place a greater emphasis on team strategy and competition;
4. develop and nurture the concept of teamwork and team play;
5. provide for participation of every athlete in a meaningful and effective manner;
6. develop and build an attitude of good sportsmanship in each athlete;
7. cultivate the proper attitude of respect for fellow competitors, officials, and fans in every athlete.

Varsity Goals:

Varsity athletics is the highest level of interscholastic competition at Bishop McGuinness. On the varsity level, the commitment is to field the best team possible for athletic competition. Varsity teams are composed of students in grades 11-12 unless no J.V. team exists for a sport. Students may "play up"

above grade level at the recommendation of the coach and with the approval of the athletic director. A selection process will be utilized by coaches in specific sports according to the number of participants and player abilities.

The athletic program at this level will:

1. develop Christ-like character and behavior in each athlete;
2. continue to build skill development, individual improvement and enjoyment of the game;
3. place a greater emphasis on team strategy and competition;
4. develop and nurture the concept of teamwork and team play;
5. build an attitude of good sportsmanship in each athlete;
6. cultivate the proper attitude of respect for fellow competitors, officials and fans in every athlete.

Cutting From the Team

For some Bishop McGuinness sports teams, “cuts” may be necessary. The coach must feel comfortable with the number of students on the team and with his or her ability to provide adequate coaching, supervision, and playing time to team members. A Student will be notified as to whether he or she made the team. Students will be given a minimum of 2-3 days to try out for each sport. If a student is cut from one sport he or she may try out for another sport if cuts have not already been made. No student may move from one sport team to another after the final roster has been decided.

Sports Offered

Fall Sports

Boys Sports	Eligible Grades	Girls Sports	Eligible Grades
Varsity Cross-Country	9-12	Varsity Cross-Country	9-12
Varsity Soccer	9-12	Varsity Tennis	9-12
J.V. Soccer	9-11		
Varsity Football	9-12	Varsity Volleyball	9-12
J.V. Football	9-10	J.V. Volleyball	9-11
		Varsity Cheerleading	9-12
		J.V. Cheerleading	9-11

Winter Sports

Boys Sports	Eligible Grades	Girls Sports	Eligible Grades
Varsity Basketball	9-12	Varsity Basketball	9-12
J.V. Basketball	9-11	J.V. Basketball	9-11
Varsity Swimming	9-12	Varsity Cheerleading	9-12
Varsity Wrestling	9-12	J.V. Cheerleading	9-10
		Varsity Swimming	9-12

Spring Sports

Boys Sports	Grades Eligible	Girls Sports	Grades Eligible
Varsity Baseball	9-12	JV Soccer	9-11
J.V. Baseball	9-11	Varsity Soccer	9-12
Varsity Golf	9-12	Varsity Softball	9-12
Varsity Tennis	9-12	Varsity Track	9-12
Varsity Track	9-12	Varsity Golf	9-12
Varsity Lacrosse	9-12	Varsity Lacrosse	9-12

Expectations of Athletes

In order for students to participate in interscholastic athletics there are certain rules and regulations that must be followed. Each coach is responsible for establishing guidelines and expectations for his or her team in regard to practice, travel, etc. Expectations may vary from coach to coach or sport to sport, but Bishop McGuinness has general expectations for all athletes at all levels. Bishop McGuinness expects the following from all team members:

1. punctuality and preparedness for all practices and games;
2. ongoing responsibility for academic work, particularly in cases where classes are missed for game participation;
3. dedication to their team and teammates;
4. a desire to improve skills and knowledge of their sport;
5. self-discipline – athlete will have to sacrifice time and energy for team goals;
6. a willingness to work hard and be attentive in practices;
7. on-going responsibility to represent Bishop McGuinness at all times in a dignified and positive way;
8. In the event that a student is participating on a Bishop McGuinness team and an out-of-school team concurrently, coaches expect the Bishop McGuinness team to take priority if there is a conflict**. Also, students can only participate on one Bishop McGuinness Athletic Team Per Season. Exceptions to this policy can only be made by the Athletic Director.**
9. sportsmanship before, during and after games – win with class, lose with class.

Practice and Game Attendance Mandatory

Acceptable reasons for missing a practice or game are illness or an important, necessary family trip. Unacceptable reasons are lessons for another activity, ski trips, parties, youth group activities, concerts and haircuts. Routine doctor and dental appointments should not be scheduled during practice and game times. Repeated disregard for team attendance policy may lead to suspension or dismissal from that team.

Student Participation in Athletics

1. Each student must be currently and fully enrolled to participate in any sports activity and must be in school at least half of the day on each game day.

2. Any student placed on academic probation shall be suspended from participation on any athletic team for the academic quarter. At interims, if the student is passing all classes, he/she may return to normal participation on the team. If not, he or she must wait until the end of that quarter to meet the requirements and return.

3. Any student who is disciplined in other areas of school life is subject to suspension from the athletic program to be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director or Dean of Students.

4. Any student using profane or abusive language, or demonstrating unacceptable behavior will be subject to suspension to be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director or Dean of Students.

5. Any student found to be misusing or abusing school property or equipment is subject to dismissal from athletics for the current academic year and will be expected to pay for the damage. The student will replace lost equipment.

6. Each student will abide by the rules established by each coach, regarding practice training, conditioning, dress and travel. These rules are to be submitted by the coach to the Athletic Director for approval prior to use.

7. A PHYSICAL AND PARTICIPATION/SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE FORM ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY ATHLECTIC PRACTICE OR GAME.

8. Game day dress code and travel dress code must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director and Dean of Students.

9. Students participating on a Bishop McGuinness team shall recognize the Bishop McGuinness sports schedule including meets, games, practices, etc. shall have priority over other competitive teams.

10. Any student who quits a team after the first three weeks of that sports Season (three weeks from the first official tryout date for that sport) will not be permitted to attend open gym/facility, conditioning or any activity associated with a BMHS team having out of season activity until the season is over for the sport that athlete quit. (i.e. a volleyball player who quits the volleyball team can't begin working out for basketball until the volleyball season is completed in its entirety).

NCHSAA

Bishop McGuinness is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). The North Carolina High School Athletic Association, Inc., was founded early in the 20th century. And even though the NCHSAA has witnessed dramatic growth in the scope of its programs and has had to deal with the changing face of education, one thing has remained constant: the Association's commitment to providing a wholesome environment.

The Association is a voluntary, non-profit corporation which administers the state's interscholastic athletic program. Any North Carolina public or non-boarding parochial high school is eligible for membership, provided it is accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction and that the school adopts and maintains a prescribed code to guarantee fair competition. The Association now has 351 member schools and certifies the eligibility of well over 100,000 athletes annually. The NCHSAA has a handbook which can be ordered from the NCHSAA Website at http://www.nchsaa.unc.edu.

NW 1A/2A Conference

Bishop McGuinness is a 1A school that competes regionally in the Northwest 1A/2A Conference of the NCHSAA with the following schools: Mount Airy (1A), Winston-Salem Prep (1A), North Stokes (1A), West Stokes (2A), South Stokes (2A), North Surry (2A), Surry Central (2A) and East Surry (1A). The objectives of the conference are as follows:

1. To promote good athletic relations among member schools.
2. To uphold the regulations of the NCHSAA.

3. To enact policies that will make for general understanding of athletic programs.
4. To further a spirit of fellowship among the members of the administrative and
   athletic staffs.
5. To encourage a broad athletic program in each member school.
6. To provide adequate and correct information of Conference athletic contests and standings.

Sportsmanship

Promoting and encouraging good sportsmanship by coaches, athletes, fans and parents is very important to the Bishop McGuinness athletic program. As a Catholic school, we must hold ourselves to the highest level of sportsmanship and behavior both on and off the playing field. The school's administration, athletic department and coaching staff are committed to encourage an environment of enthusiasm and school spirit consistent with high standards of sportsmanship and respect for opposing teams and game officials. (Taunting, negative cheering or any verbal abuse by fans directed toward opponents or officials is incompatible with good sportsmanship and will not be tolerated.)

Bishop McGuinness athletic events should be fun and positively supported. The school and our athletic teams are best served by fan support that is directed enthusiastically toward our athletes.

The Athletes

- Play hard within the rules of the game.
- Win with humility, lose graciously, and congratulate opposing players and coaches.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions.
- Never attempt to injure an opponent.
- Remember that they represent their school, their coaches, and their families, as well as themselves.
- Remain positive toward their own coaches and teammates.
- Respect the property and facilities of their opponents.

The Coaches

- Serve as a positive role model for their players.
- Inspire in their players a love for the game and the desire to win.
- Show restraint and respect when dealing with officials.
- Reinforce respect and good sportsmanship in practice and game situations and hold their players accountable for unsportsmanlike behavior.

The Spectators

Treat officials and opposing players, coaches, and fans with respect and courtesy.

The Schools
NCHSAA member schools have a responsibility to treat officials, opposing teams, and their spectators as guests. Schools should educate their supporters to cheer their own teams and never to behave in ways which are disrespectful toward opposing players, coaches, or spectators.

Ejection/Suspension Rule

If any player is ejected from any contest, he or she will face a suspension the length of which will be determined by the NCHSAA Handbook for that specific type of ejection. BMHS also may extend the suspension beyond the length of time determined by the NCHSAA Rules. An ejection is a judgement call; therefore, there are no appeals. Unacceptable behavior not resulting in ejection may also result in disciplinary action by the coach or athletic director.

Academic Eligibility

Bishop McGuinness athletes strive for success in the classroom as well as on the playing field. Participation on an athletic team does not lessen a student's academic responsibility. Part of being an athlete at Bishop McGuinness is learning to balance the load between academics and athletics. Students must learn to budget their time, plan ahead and fulfill responsibility to their team as well as their academic work load.

BMCHS has adopted the following policy for minimum academic standards: Eligibility is determined by a quarterly grade during the first three quarters of the school year; and by the second semester grade of the final report card. A student must meet minimum academic standards to participate in extracurricular activities. Students must maintain a passing grade in all subjects and in conduct on each of the quarterly grade report and the second semester report. If the student falls below these standards, s/he will be ineligible to participate for the next quarter. Suspension from activities goes into effect the day grades are due into the Guidance office. A student has the opportunity to return to an activity providing that s/he has achieved a passing grade at the time of the mid-quarter progress report.

ELIGIBILITY	Date of Progress Report	
Fail 1st Quarter	September	Ineligible for 2nd quarter
Fail 2nd	December	Ineligible for 3rd

Quarter		quarter
Fail 3rd Quarter	February	Ineligible for 4th
Fail 2nd Semester	Summer class completed & grade in office by 8/1	Ineligible for 1st Quarter unless the deficiency is made up during the summer

A student who fails a subject in the second semester will be ineligible for extracurricular activities the following first quarter unless the student makes up the deficiency in the summer.
Participation in summer camps or programs is permitted but team conditioning sessions are prohibited. Any student on **disciplinary probation** may not continue to participate in an extracurricular activity during the probation period.

In addition, all students must meet the eligibility criteria under NCHSAA Academic Eligibility Rules as well. Students must have passed a minimum load of work during the preceding semester to be eligible. A minimum load is defined as five courses in the traditional school schedule. No work previously passed by a student may be submitted as part of the minimal load. A student not academically eligible at the beginning of the semester is not eligible at any time during the semester. A student academically eligible at the beginning of a semester remains academically eligible throughout the semester.

NCHSAA Eligibility

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEASONS: No student may be approved for a high school contest if he has taken part in contests during four separate seasons in that sport (one season per year).Playing as a member of a private or other non-member school team shall be deemed the same as playing a member of a school team. Enforcement of this rule is to begin with entry into ninth grade, However, a student shall not participate in school athletic contests after graduation from high school. This does not apply to spring sports playoffs.

AGE OF PLAYER: No student may be approved for any athletic contest if his or her 19th birthday comes on or before August 1 of that school year (see nchsaa.org for specifics). The principal shall have on file evidence of the legal birth date of each athlete. Evidence of legal birth date must be established by a copy of the birth certificate or from one of the following: a record from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Raleigh; a record from the county register of deeds office; an infant baptismal record; a recording from the attending doctor's registry or cashbook if specific; a news item at the time of birth from the local newspaper; or an official register sheet from the first grade.

EIGHT SEMESTER RULE: No student may be eligible to participate at the high school level for a period lasting longer than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's first entry into grade nine or participation on a high school team, whichever occurs first. For students who skip the ninth grade and advance directly to the 10th from the eighth, the year prior to entering the 10th grade is considered the year of first entry into ninth grade for athletics. The principal shall have evidence of the date of each player's entry into the ninth grade. The North Carolina cumulative record is sufficient.

TRANSFER RULE: Any student who transfers to BMHS from a NCHSAA Member School must sit out of athletics for one year from the time of entry. Students who transfer from non-member schools can receive a waiver to participate.

School Attendance and Athletic Participation

All students in grades 9-12 must be in school by 8:45 in order to participate in athletics on any given day. If a student does not check in by 8:45 a.m. he/she will not be able to practice or play in games that day unless he or she has a note from his or her parents or a medical professional stating that the student was late due to a medical appointment. Special attendance circumstances must have prior permission from the principal, dean of students or athletic director in order for the student to participate.

Students who receive in-school or out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to participate that day.

Students returning from athletic trips or late night games are expected to be on time for school the next day and not “sleeping” causing them to miss classes. Part of being a student-athlete at Bishop McGuinness is learning to be disciplined and making sacrifices.

In addition, students must follow the NCHSAA Attendance Policy. (a) A player must have been in attendance for at least 85 percent of the previous semester at an approved high school. Any student must be in membership to be able to make up days missed while in membership (days missed while not in membership may not be made up for athletic eligibility).(b) A student must, at the time of any game in which he or she participates, be a regularly enrolled member of the school’s student body, according to local policy. If there is no local policy, “regularly enrolled” is defined as enrolled for at least one half of the “minimum load.” It is recommended the student be in school the day of the contest.(c) The student must be enrolled within the first 15 days and in regular attendance for the present semester to be eligible for athletics. A student whose family has moved into a school district shall immediately assume the same status in the new district as that from which he moved. Summer school attendance shall not be counted in determining percentage of attendance for athletic eligibility, but approved homebound programs do fulfill the attendance requirement.(d) At the end of each semester, any participant who has failed to attend school 85 percent of that semester is immediately ineligible.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Policy

Bishop McGuinness adheres to the drug and alcohol testing procedures of the high schools of the Diocese of Charlotte. These procedures will be strictly enforced in the administration of all athletic programs. If a student is suspended from school, that student may not participate in athletics during that suspension. Athletes who are found to be in violation of the drugs and alcohol policies of the school are also subject to further disciplinary action by the coach and the athletic director.

Criteria for Earning a Varsity Letter

High School varsity athletes have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter.

<u>Qualification Standards for Varsity Letters:</u>

Varsity Football	Play in at least 40% of total quarters
Varsity Baseball	Play in at least 40% of total innings
Varsity Basketball	Play in at least 40% of total quarters

Varsity Cheerleading	Each will receive a varsity letter upon the completion of season
Varsity Cross-Country	Finish in teams top 7 in 40% of total meets
Varsity Golf	Play in at least 40% of total matches
Varsity Soccer	Play in at least 40% of total minutes
Varsity Softball	Play in at least 40% of total innings
Varsity Swimming	Place in at least 30% of total meets
Varsity Track	Place in at least 30% of total meets
Varsity Volleyball	Play in at least 40% of total games (not matches)
Varsity Wrestling	Compete in at least 40% of total matches

Exceptions To Athletic Letter Policy:

1. A senior in good team standing who has not received a letter in that sport may be granted a letter.
2. A student who is injured while participating in their sport and cannot compete in a sufficient number of games to earn a letter may be awarded a letter if the coach feels the athlete would have earned the letter had he/she not been injured.
3. Failure to attend a conference or state tournament event for any unexcused reason will result in loss of letter.

* If a coach has an athlete that did not meet this criteria but feels that this athlete truly deserves a letter, exceptions can be approved by the Athletic Director.
**Managers will receive the same awards as athletes in all levels.

Awards

School letters are certificates are awarded according to the policies listed below.

Trophies will be presented for:
Most outstanding player – varsity and junior varsity
Most improved player – varsity and junior varsity
Coach's award - varsity only

Winners are selected in a manner prescribed by the coaching staff. New awards may not be added without the knowledge and consent of the coaching staff and the Principal. All awards will be purchased by the Athletic Director and paid for by the Booster Club.

The following criteria will be used in the selection process of the award winners:

1. Most Outstanding Player – the athlete who contributes the most to the total success of the whole team.
2. Most Improved Player – the athlete who makes the greatest strides progressing as a player in his/her sport.
3. Coach's Award – The athlete in his/her sport, who through leadership and spiritual example, contributes significantly to the coach and team.
4. Athlete of the Year Awards: An athlete who displays leadership, spiritual contribution, athletic accomplishment, team unity, total commitment to the school

and athletic program. (This award will be presented to one male and one female athlete).

5. Tony O'Meara Award – Raising the Bar – Given to that student/athlete or student/manager who continually exhibits a work ethic that raises the standards and performance patterns of those around him or her.
6. Scholar Athlete of the Year- given to the senior who excels on the court/field and the classroom. The preference is to go to a student who excels in multiple sports but it is not a requirement.
7. Coach's Award for the Year- The athlete in his/her sport, who through leadership and example, contributes significantly to the coach and team.

Athletic Awards Assembly

Athletic awards are presented at a school assembly on a B Schedule at 10:00 a.m. three times a year. Fall awards are presented in late October or November, winter in March, and spring and end of year awards in May. Parents of students receiving awards will be notified ahead of time by the Athletic Dept.

Athlete of the Year

This special award is presented to one male and one female athlete. This should be an athlete who displays leadership, spiritual contribution, athletic accomplishment, team unity, and total commitment to the school and athletic program. Any coach can nominate an athlete, and the nominees and their nominating information are put out for vote of the coaching staff. Each head and assistant coach receives a vote.

Athletic Physicals/Medical Eligibility

All student athletes must receive an annual physical examination before they are allowed to participate in athletics. This physical will cover the athlete for an entire calendar year from the date of the physical. All student athletes are also required to fill out and return a completed medical history form with consent for treatment section signed by a parent or guardian. *Any athlete who has not filled out and returned the required paperwork or who does not have a current, completed physical form on file at Bishop McGuinness will be withheld from all athletic activities until all forms are submitted. The NCHSAA Required Physical Form can be found on the BMHS Athletic Website.*

Transportation

Bishop McGuinness will provide transportation to all regularly scheduled weekday away contests. For close by contests on days in which there is no school, athletes will usually be asked to meet at the site of competition. Coaches will communicate departure and return times to team members that are setup by the athletic director. Athletes are not allowed to ride to or from off-campus practices or games with friends or in their own cars except in cases approved by the athletic director for locations within the Triad. If there is a student who needs to make alternate transportation arrangements for a legitimate reason, parents must sign a transportation waiver form and obtain approval of the coach or athletic director. It is the coach's decision whether the athlete must return from an away game with the team. If the coach decides it is not necessary for the student to return with the team from a game, the following steps should be followed:

1. The athlete may ride home with his/her parents (no one else) if the parent gives the coach oral or written notice, or
2. Parents must personally give the coach oral or written permission for their children to ride home with another parent.

Emergency Travel Procedure

In case of a travel emergency while attending an away contest, coaches will make every effort to have students contact their parents by phone to relay all necessary information. Many coaches also have phone chains of all team members to communicate any news as well. If these methods of communication are not possible, the athletic director and principal will be informed and relay all relevant information to each parent by phone.

Overnight Trips

Varsity teams occasionally have overnight trips during the regular season or state tournament play. Each coach or the athletic director makes hotel arrangements. Hotel expenses are shared evenly by Bishop McGuinness team members. Meals are the responsibility of each athlete. Parents must complete an overnight travel permission form for the school before a student can go on the trip.

Uniforms

The Bishop McGuinness athletic department will issue uniforms to all members of each team. These uniforms are to be cared for during the season by each athlete and returned at the end of each season. Parents of athletes who do not return uniforms or damage uniforms will be billed for the cost of replacing these uniforms. Uniforms and equipment that are not reusable must be purchased by the individual athlete. The coach will inform each athlete of the items that need to be purchased. Bishop McGuinness athletes are required to wear the uniforms issued to them for interscholastic competition. Teams and team members will not be allowed to independently purchase additional or different items to be worn as part of the team uniform unless approved by the athletic director.
Uniforms and team warm-ups are not to be worn except for games, or as approved by the athletic director. Any uniforms or equipment that are not reusable must be purchased by the athlete.

Beginning of Season Parent Meetings

Beginning of Season Parent Meetings are held at the beginning of each season. All team member parents should attend this meeting to go over the coach's rules and expectations. Parents will be allowed to ask questions at this meeting as well.

Parents' Responsibilities in Admissions and Concessions

All parents of participating athletes are expected to work a few games in admissions and concessions as assigned by the team parent. Revenue generated from admissions and concessions is used to help fund the athletic programs at BMCHS. If a parent is assigned a game and is unable to make it, it is that parent's responsibility to get a replacement for that game.

Inclement Weather Policy

On days when weather does not allow Bishop McGuinness to open school, there will be no practices or games. For teams that practice and play outside during the fall and spring, rainy weather can be a factor. In case of thunder or lightning all teams should be removed from the field immediately, and a waiting period of 20 minutes will follow a positive change in weather conditions before the teams are allowed to practice or play.

The athletic director or game manager has the final decision on whether a contest should be cancelled or postponed because of the weather. The Athletic Director will have the final decision on whether practices will be cancelled because of weather and will make that decision as early as possible so communication to parents can be made.

Usually students can assume those practices or games will be held as scheduled unless an official announcement has been made. At no time will Bishop McGuinness allow practice or games to be held if the weather or field conditions create a danger to students.

Publicity

As our athletic program grows and continues to be successful it is important that we publicize team and individual accomplishments. We want our athletic program to be recognized across the Triad and throughout the state. Team athletic schedules are sent to all newspapers prior to the start of each session. These schedules are made available to parents and students prior to the start of each season so that students and parents can plan ahead to avoid conflicts with practice and games.

Head coaches at Bishop McGuinness are responsible for reporting game results to the local media. Varsity coaches are responsible for reporting results to the High Point Enterprise, Greensboro News and Record, the Winston-Salem Journal and the Kernersville News. Scores should be reported, win or lose. It is the responsibility of the head coach to report in the same manner any All-Conference or All-State selections.

Villains Club (Booster)

The Bishop McGuinness Villains Club is a group of parents whose goal is to support and enhance the athletic program at Bishop McGuinness. The Villains club does three primary things, raises money, raises school spirit and volunteers at school athletic events. The Villains Club supports the Bishop McGuinness coaches and players by attending athletic events, fundraising for the athletic program, selling school spirit items, and assisting with fall and winter senior nights. The Villains Club also helps to underwrite a host of athletic expenses such as item on coaches “wish list”, items requested by the athletic department not otherwise paid for by the school, trophies, award letters and pins, sports programs, etc. Many volunteers are needed throughout the school year, from team parents to helping with the golf outing. If you would like to volunteer please contact one of the board members listed at the BMCHS web site Monthly meetings are normally held every month. By-laws and other information for the Villains Club are available on the BMCHS web site at www.bmhs.us. Requests for Booster Club funding must go through the athletic department and can’t be submitted directly to the club.

Funding of Athletics at BMCHS

Each year an athletic budget is drawn up by the athletic director and an amount is approved by the school to pay for a substantial portion of the operating expenses of the sports teams for the school year. (A list of capital improvements, not covered by the operations budget, needed for athletics can be requested from the athletic office). A sports participation fee is paid by each student at the beginning of each season. One-third of the cost of the student activity card, which is required of each student, goes to athletics and one-third to the drama department with one third going back to the school. Sales from the "All Season Family Sports Pass", sales of concessions, gate admissions and sale of merchandise help offset the cost of running the athletic program. Fund raisers such as golf outings and 50/50 drawings held by the Villains Club and restricted donations also help pay the athletic expenses. Coaches may submit a "Request for Funds" form to the Athletic Director. The Booster Club is not authorized to accept submitted requests from parents, athletes, or coaches directly.

Parent Questions

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on him or her. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:
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. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning;
5. procedure followed should your child be injured during participation;
6. discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents;
1. concerns expressed directly to the coach;
2. notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance;
3. specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at BMCHS, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches
1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child's behavior

3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved and the interests of the team. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
1. playing time;
2. team strategy;
3. play calling;

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:
1. call to set up an appointment;
2. if the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director; a meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

The Next Step – What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution
1. Call and set up appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation. These programs have been established, because research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided makes both your child's and your experience with the BMCHS athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.