

Brimley High School Athletic and Extracurricular Handbook

High school athletics were established with several things in mind. Character development, proper health habits, team spirit, individual and team morale. The development of leadership, and good citizenship are all part of making an athletic program a success.

An athlete is in the public eye all the time the individual's name appears on a squad roster. The athlete should bring credit to him or herself, the school and the team at all times.

According to the rulings by the State Board of Education, local school districts have the right to set up regulations for their athletic programs. The following regulations shall be in effect for all Grade 6-12 Brimley athletes, 24 hours a day, throughout the calendar year, beginning with their first participation in athletics.

All students taking part in any extra curricular activities and/or clubs are subject to the same rules and regulations contained within this handbook. Advisors of such programs are responsible for enforcing these rules.

Brimley High School Athletic Philosophy

Consistent with the mission of Brimley High School and the underlying philosophies of the MHSAA, we believe that athletics are voluntary by participation, secondary to academics, and vital to the overall development of our students.

As a part of the educational process, we believe the interscholastic programming at Brimley High School provides unique opportunities for students to develop the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, fair play, sacrifice, hard work, discipline, competition, and commitment. We believe these values echo throughout adult life.

We believe the primary goal of all athletics is to foster the development of our students into productive young men and women. We believe that this is not measured in playing time or in wins or losses, but in values our athletes carry with them and exercise openly as a result of their participation in Brimley High School athletics.

Eligibility Requirements

A. Physical Examinations/Concussions

All athletes must have a physical examination card on file in the Athletic Director's office. The physical card must be completely filled out and signed by the athlete and parent/guardian of the athlete. The athlete must submit physical cards before they can commence practice.

One physical exam per year is all that is required for those who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics. Physical exams may be administered no earlier than April 15 the preceding spring, prior to school starting in September.

A doctor's release must be submitted by any student returning to participation after an injury or extended illness. Injured athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and contests unless excused by their coach.

B. Consent Form

A completed and signed consent form must be turned in and on file before an athlete will be allowed to practice or participate in athletics.

C. Academic Eligibility

The following policy was adopted by the Board of Education on April 18, 2005:

1. The checking of student eligibility will be a function of the High School Office.
2. All student athlete grades will be checked after the 1st four weeks of a marking period and at the end of the marking period.
3. If a student, at either grade check, has 1 or more Es, that student will be placed on immediate probation, and the parents will be notified.
4. A student on probation will undergo weekly grade checks for the remainder of that marking period and will remain on probation until a 4th week progress report or end of marking period report card does not have 1 or more Es. The weekly grade check will take place on Thursdays, by 3:20 PM.
5. A student on probation must participate in before or after school tutoring during the length of the probation. The student on probation may continue to play as long as the weekly grade checks do not have 1 or more failing grades.
6. A student on probation who again receives 1 or more failing grades on a weekly grade check, will be ineligible for one week (beginning 4:00 PM Monday and continuing through Sunday evening). While ineligible the student must practice but will not suit up for games. When athletes are found to be ineligible to play, parents/guardians will be notified.
7. Each additional week the student on probation receives 1 or more failing grades, that student will be ineligible for another week. While ineligible, the student must practice, but will not suit up for games.

8. Eligibility for fall sports will be determined by the final marking period grades from the previous school year. All incoming 9th grade students, however, will be eligible to play at the beginning of the new school year.

Students who do not meet the MHSAA requirement of passing at least five (5) subjects in a semester, are ineligible for the next semester, with no appeal. To be “ineligible” means no suiting up, no participating in events while ineligible.

D. School Suspensions

When a student is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons, he/she will automatically be suspended from sports, including practices, until the matter is resolved and the student returns to school.

E. School Attendance

Any unexcused absence by a student on the day of a scheduled contest or practice will cause that student to be ineligible to participate in that contest or practice on the day he/she is absent.

An athlete must be in attendance of at least one-half day of a contest or practice and that absence must be excused.

Sometimes, due to weather conditions or bus trouble, athletes and coaches arrive back at Brimley at a late hour. Brimley athletes are expected to attend school the next day, regardless of what time they got home the night before.

Athletes will be excused from class if it is necessary to leave for an athletic contest during the school day. The athlete must make arrangements for make-up work with the teachers for the classes he/she will miss, ahead of time.

Travel

All athletes are to travel to and from athletic events in vehicles arranged by the school. The only exceptions are when:

1. Athlete's parent/guardian(s) personally speak to the coach or school administrator and receive permission to take responsibility for their son/daughter.
2. Parents/guardians must provide a note to the principal for prior approval the day before the contest to transfer responsibility for their son/daughter to another adult or family member.
3. Under no circumstances should an athlete ride home with another student/friend.

No athlete or group of athletes is to be allowed to leave the coach's immediate supervision for any reason. Only athletes, coaches, or those connected with the team are allowed to travel with the team.

Standard of Conduct

Athletic participation is a privilege not a right. An athlete is expected to behave in a manner that brings only respect and admiration for the athlete and the school. The athlete is expected to have full knowledge of the substance use policy and team membership requirements. Involvement in any unlawful acts or situations that are detrimental to the athlete, team, or school are examples of violations of this standard of conduct. Student athletes may not violate any rule or engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, which reflects negatively on the Brimley Area School District at any time. Violations of the high school student handbook are prohibited.

Violations of any team rules established by the coach are prohibited. Undesirable conduct such as, but not limited to:

- Fighting
- Stealing
- Vandalism
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Harassment of students (including over any social media sites or apps)
- Attendance at parties (where alcohol and/or any illicit substances are present)
- Involvement with the law (even without legal conviction)
- Attendance at a "minor night" at any establishment where alcohol is served is prohibited
- No iPods, cell phones, or electronic devices during practices, warm-ups, or games
- Any and all conduct perceived to be unbecoming of a student athlete

Could result in consequences ranging from no action to dismissal from athletics. (Attendance at parties excludes graduation, wedding, or anniversary receptions, etc.)

However, at no time is the possession or consumption rule waived.) Any attempted misconduct is also prohibited. Penalties for infractions may be in addition to other punishment under the student handbook. An athlete is expected to inform the coach of any occurrence that could alter eligibility.

Substance Use Policy

Since a well-trained body and mind is essential to an athlete, use or possession of tobacco (even if you are 18 years of age or older), Vaporizers (with or without nicotine), alcohol, or illicit drugs is strictly prohibited. Use of these substances not only affects the physical fitness of the user, but also has a negative effect on the mental attitude of the athlete and his or her teammates. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of any of the following is prohibited.

- a. Tobacco, tobacco products, or nicotine in any form (even if you are 18 years of age or older)
- b. Vaporizers (with or without nicotine)
- c. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form
- d. Marijuana or any derivative of
- e. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and/or state statute, and including inhaling fumes of glue
- f. Drug paraphernalia in any form
- g. Steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance enhancing drugs
- h. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing, i.e. “look alike” drugs
- i. Prescription drugs not prescribed to the individual
- j. Non-prescription drugs used in an inappropriate manner

It shall not be a violation of the Athletic Code for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to legal prescription issued by a licensed physical for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to board policy. An athlete shall notify his or her coach if he or she is taking a prescription medicine, which could alter the athlete’s behavior or affect the athlete’s ability to participate in a physical activity.

Any student who voluntarily seeks substance use treatment before a violation is reported and facing possible code violations and subsequent penalties will not face any disciplinary measures for seeking treatment. Subsequent violations will result in athletic code violations.

Disciplinary Procedure

If an athlete is accused of violating the athletic policy, the athletic director will notify the athlete of the alleged violation. The athlete's parents/guardians will be notified by the athletic director and/or the principal. This notice will state the alleged violation and the penalty to be imposed.

Appeal Process

A student and his/her parents/guardians may appeal the action taken by the athletic director within five (5) school days of the action. An appeal must be in writing to the principal. The principal may uphold or modify the penalty imposed within three (3) school days. Should the student not be satisfied with the action of the principal, the student may appeal to the superintendent of schools who may uphold the action taken or modify the penalty. The student reserves the right to appeal the decision of the superintendent to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will not take action until the above process has been followed. During the appeals process, the student will remain on suspension.

Violations of the Substance Use Policy

1. First Violation

After a complete investigation and evaluation of the facts, the athlete will be informed of the following two options that he/she must choose from:

Option 1 – The athlete will be suspended from 25% of the total regularly scheduled athletic contests the athlete will be or is presently participating in. The penalty will become effective immediately upon notification and will be served in a consecutive manner until complete. (Fractions will round up at .5 or above and down at anything below .5.)

Option 2 – The athlete will be suspended for 15% of the total regularly scheduled athletic contests the athlete will be or is presently participating in. They will also complete NFHS course(s) assigned by the athletic director and/or principal within three (3) days of being assigned.

2. Second Violation

A second violation of the substance use policy will result in the athlete selecting one of the following two options.

Option 1 – The athlete will be suspended for 50% of the total regularly scheduled athletic contests the athlete will be or is presently participating in. The penalty will become effective immediately upon notification and will be served in a consecutive manner until completed.

Option 2 – The athlete will be suspended for 25% of the total regular scheduled athletic contests the athlete will be or is presently participating in. The athlete also must enroll in and successfully complete a substance abuse program. Failure to complete the substance abuse program will be considered as a third violation of the athletic policy with the penalty of that level applicable.

3. Third Violation

A third violation of the substance abuse policy will result in the athlete being suspended from participating in any interscholastic athletics for one calendar year.

If the first or second violations occur at the end of the sport season in which the athlete is participating where there is less than 25% or 50% respectively (whichever is applicable) of the contests remaining, the athlete will be suspended from the remainder of that sport and a portion of the next sport season in which the athlete participates. The number of events will be determined by the season in which the violation occurred. The athlete must complete the season in order to count that season for suspension. If an athlete is participating in a sport at the time of the athletic violation, the athlete must continue to practice in that sport. If an athlete is participating in dual sports, the punishment will apply to both sports.

Additionally, if a student comes forward and self admits to his/her coach, Athletic Director, or Principal within a 72-hour period from the occurrence of any violations described in this section and before it is reported by another source to appropriate school personnel, the student may be subject to a reduced consequence of no more than 50% of the specified sanction.

Furthermore, any suspensions that are a result of a rules violation do not begin until the student is academically eligible.

Munsell Sportsmanship Award

The Raymond Munsell Sportsmanship Award is presented to a graduating senior who has displayed outstanding sportsmanship in basketball for the season. Sportsmanship, for this award, is based on attitude, contribution to the total team effort, the capacity to win or lose gracefully without arrogance in victory or whining in defeat. The Head Basketball Coach chooses the recipient. The family of Raymond Munsell in memory of an individual who was an outstanding basketball player for Brimley High School established this award.

Robert L. Parish Award

The Robert L. Parish Memorial Award was established in 1977 and is presented annually to the Most Valuable Player on the softball and baseball teams. The criteria established for the award includes attitude, contribution to the team effort, sportsmanship, batting and/or pitching average, attendance at practice, and the individual must have participated in over fifty percent of the games. The Head Softball/Baseball Coach chooses the recipient. Robert L. Parish was an outstanding pitcher for the Brimley Bays. He received personal invitations to try out for the Kansas City Royals, Cincinnati Reds, and Detroit Tigers. Prior to his death in 1977, he was also advised that the Bureau of Baseball Scouting would scout him.

Ken Payment Memorial Award

The Ken Payment Memorial Award was established in 1978 and is presented annually to the individual with the highest scoring average per game for the past basketball season. The Head Basketball Coach chooses the recipient. The award was established by friends of Kenneth Payment who was an outstanding scorer during his two years at Brimley with an average per game of 19.8 points. In his last game in the Class D District Tournament play, Brimley was defeated by Pickford 64-63 despite a 39-point effort by Payment. Dumping in long 30-foot jumpers, he scored 19 points in the first half and added 20 more in the second half.

Coach John Akkanen Legacy Award

This award was created in 2019 and will be presented to a graduating senior-athlete that has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Brimley High School athletics program through strength of character, pride, work ethic, commitment to team and community, and displayed leadership in both victory and defeat. To be considered for this award the student-athlete must have participated in the same sport all four years. This award was established in recognition of the outstanding contributions Coach John Akkanen has made and continues to make for Brimley Area Schools. His accomplishments as a coach and mentor leaves a legacy for many to follow.

Athlete of the Year - Male & Female

The Male and Female Athlete of the Year trophies are presented annually at the Athletic Banquet. The trophies will remain displayed in the school throughout the year, with the recipient's name inscribed. Any student in grades 9-12 is eligible to receive this award providing they meet the criteria for the award. **In order to be considered for the Male/Female Athlete of the Year, an athlete must have been a member of at least two varsity teams for not less than two years at Brimley High School. In the event that an athlete moves into the district and meets all of the requirements of the award except for the time requirements, and is an outstanding athlete, the committee may over-ride this policy with a 2/3 majority of the voting members.**

The recipient must have participated for the entire season in no less than two sports or activities. The recipient must have made substantial contribution to the total team effort, displayed outstanding sportsmanship, display good attitude throughout the season, and is considered to be an asset to the teams and school. A varsity or junior varsity coach may nominate one male and one female to receive the award. From the nominees, a secret ballot will be conducted to reduce, if necessary, the list of candidates to three (3). Each head coach of a varsity sport will have one vote, in addition to the athletic director, high school principal, and superintendent of schools. A recipient must receive a simple majority of the ballots cast. In the event an individual does not receive a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the names of the two individuals who received the highest number of votes cast will be declared the Athlete of the Year. If no nominee receives the required votes, the award need not be presented. The principal will count votes.

The Athlete of the Year award was established in 1979 by the school administration to honor, in a very special manner, the outstanding overall male and female athlete of the year. The intent of the award is to present it to individuals who have met the criteria established in an outstanding manner. The award may be presented to the same individual more than once, providing the criteria is met.

**Adopted by Brimley Area Schools Board of Education: 8/15/2010 Revisions
adopted by the Brimley Area Schools Board of Education:
3/18/2019**

LINE OF COMMUNICATION

When a question, concern or complaint arises regarding an athletic situation, the following line of communication will be followed in resolving issues.

1. **START WITH THE SOURCE.** Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. Making an appointment, sitting down and listening to both sides is far more productive in reaching a mutually satisfying resolution.

Coaches are expected and encouraged to meet with individual parents to discuss concerns that affect that parent's child. Coaches are not expected to meet with groups of parents to discuss issues of concern.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after practice or a contest. **(Use the 24-hour rule - wait to discuss a situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest or practice.)** These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. Coaches are not expected to endure verbal or physical abuse from parents. Make an appointment.

2. **IF NECESSARY AND IF YOUR CONCERN IS WITH SUB-VARSITY COACH, START WITH THE SOURCE.** The next level of communication then would be with the Head Coach of the sport/program.
3. **IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.** A meeting may be arranged with the concerned parties to discuss the issue.
4. **IF NECESSARY, TALK WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.**
5. **IF NECESSARY, TALK WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

PLEASE REMEMBER:

AREAS OF CONTROL THAT BELONG TO THE COACH ALONE:

1. Playing time.
2. Position(s) played, lineups, team strategy, etc...
3. Offensive and defensive strategies and style of play.
4. Other Student-Athletes: Matters regarding other student-athletes are to be left to their respective parents.

Student-athlete/extra-curricular Acknowledgement Form

By signing and returning this form, I attest that I have received and reviewed the athletic/extra-curricular policy that was revised and adopted by the Brimley Board of Education on March 18, 2019.

_____	_____	_____
Student printed name	Student Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent printed name	Parent Signature	Date