

Buford High School

Parents & Student-Athletes **Athletic Handbook**

2025-2026

Information , Policies, and Procedures



**2455 Buford Highway
Buford, GA 30518
770-945-6768
www.bufordwolves.com**

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Buford City Schools Athletic Department is to provide a rigorous athletic program which compliments and supports a challenging academic program by fostering an environment where academic integrity, social and moral responsibility, respect for others, and competitive athletic excellence are highly valued. We are in constant pursuit to become Scholars and Champions. The beliefs and attitudes listed below are embedded in our history and guide us in our behavior. We strive to be E.L.I.T.E.:

EXCELLENCE

Excellence is a habit, not an act. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not doing something nearly right . . . it is doing it exactly right. Commitment to excellence should distinguish our efforts in every sport in which we compete.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a choice, not a position. It is not about a title. It's about influence and impact. Leadership is a way of thinking, acting and a way of communicating. It's about inspiring action among those around you. Leadership in the personal development of our student-athletes underlies all our endeavors and is a high standard by which we measure ourselves

INTEGRITY

Integrity can be defined as the ability to know and do what is right. It results from the relentless pursuit of honesty at all times. All our programs must be consistent with the policies of Buford City Schools, the Georgia High School Association, and the State Board of Education. We are to be at all times honest and forthright with each other, the administration, the parents and players, the community, and the media.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common goal. We compete to win as members of a team, always aware that we are representatives of Buford City Schools. We clearly understand that the success of any one athlete is always the result of dedicated effort on the part of many people. While we will recognize individual accomplishments, we will be quicker to celebrate and support the achievements of the team.

EFFORT

Effort can be defined as that total exhaustion of mind and body to compete and win. At Buford, our effort level must be greater than our talent level. A determined effort during competitions is a winning edge that our opponents should readily recognize and respect when playing the Wolves!

The Buford Way: The Standards

We have worked tirelessly for 20+ years to build a championship culture in all of our Athletic Programs through a set of Standards that apply to everyone. The Buford Way is based on discipline, commitment, work ethic, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. We believe our student-athletes must be coachable, unselfish, and dedicated to their team. What begins as a team, must grow into Family if we are going to achieve our goals. To become a champion, our intangibles (culture) must be greater than our collective talents. Division within the team, and or among our parents is the single greatest threat to derailing our potential and our talents. We also believe that our parents support the same standards. Mudita means "to find joy in others' accomplishments. When our student-athletes embrace this way of life, they become family. We want the same from our parents- to have great joy in each athlete's accomplishments. When we become family outside the lines/fence and family inside the lines/fence, championships become possible.

So our challenge to you the parents: Ask yourself everyday, how can I support our team and all our athletes? Be a family that celebrates other athlete's success as much as you would for your own athlete. While second guessing and criticism is easy to do, we must be role models for our student-athletes, and teach them how to overcome adversity, how to stay positive, and how to be supportive of their team and teammates. Champions act like champions before they become champions. So be great role models, be committed to our team, and celebrate the team and other's success.

PROFILE OF ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Buford High School is a member of the GHSA Region 8-AAAAAAA. Other members are: Central Gwinnett, Dacula, Collins Hill, Mill Creek and Mountain View

Fall Sports Offered:

- **Football** (Varsity, JV, 9th). Bryant Appling, Bryant.appling@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Softball** (Varsity, JV). Trent Adams, trent.adams@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys/Girls Cross Country** (Varsity, JV). Matthew Johnson, matthewg.johnson@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Volleyball** (Varsity, JV). Director-Hadli Daniels, hadli.daniels@bufordcityschools.org
Head Coach Kortney Herren, Kortney.Herren@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Competition Cheerleading** (Varsity, JV). -Becca Powell, rebecca.powell@bufordcityschools.org
- **Sideline Football Cheerleading** (Varsity, JV, 9th). Chrissy Woodson chrissy.woodson@bufordcityschools.org
- **Game Day Cheer** Caroline Parker, caroline.parker@bufordcityschools.org,
Cheer Director: Caroline Parker, caroline.parker@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Flag Football** (Varsity) Head Coach- Sean Gilbert, sean.gilbert@bufordcityschools.org

Winter Sports Offered:

- **Boys Basketball** (Var., JV, 9th). Wes Parker, wes.parker@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Basketball** (Varsity, JV). Gene Durden, gene.durden@bufordcityschools.org
- **Air Riflery** (Varsity). Marianne Cagle, marianne.cagle@bufordcityschools.org
- **Sideline Basketball Cheerleading** (Var, JV, 9th). Caroline Parker, caroline.parker@bufordcityschools.org

- **Spirit Dance Team** (Varsity) Ashley Smith, ashley.smith@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys/Girls Swimming** (Var, JV). -Kali Dasher, kali.dasher@bufordcityschools.org
- **Diving** (Varsity). Kali Dasher, kali.dasher@bufordcityschools.org
- **Wrestling** (Varsity, JV). Tom Beuglas, tom.beuglas@bufordcityschools.org

Spring Sports Offered:

- **Baseball** (Varsity, JV, 9th). -Stuart Chester, stuart.chester@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys Golf** (Var., JV). Chad Roberts, Chad.Roberts@bufordcityschools.org
- Girls Golf (Var., JV) Makimsey Morris, makimsey.morris@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Gymnastics** (Varsity) Head Coach: Tyler Ann Smith, tylerann.smith@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys Lacrosse** (Varsity, JV). Tyler Botts, Tyler.Botts@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Lacrosse** (Var., JV). Paul Hennelly, paul.hennelly@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys Soccer** (Var, JV). Michael Wentzler, Michael.wentzler@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Soccer** (Varsity, JV). Megan Hill, megan.hill@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys/Girls Track** (Varsity, JV). Fyrone Davis, fyrone.davis@bufordcityschools.org
- **Boys Tennis** (Varsity, JV). Jordan Simmons, jordan.simmons@bufordcityschools.org
- **Girls Tennis** (Varsity, JV). Leslie Ann Phillips, leslieann.phillips@bufordcityschools.org
- **Bass Fishing** (Varsity). Drew Eager, andrew.eager@bufordcityschools.org

Athletic Staff

Athletics Facilities and Operations: Tony Wolfe, tony.wolfe@bufordcityschools.org

Athletic Director: Tom Beuglas, tom.beuglas@bufordcityschools.org
 Assistant Athletic Director: Dexter Wood, dexter.wood@bufordcityschools.org
 Assistant Athletic Director: Gene Durden, gene.durden@bufordcityschools.org
 Athletic Admin. Assistant: Margo Skalon, margo.skalon@bufordcityschools.org
 Eligibility Coordinator: Kari Imahara, kari.imahara@bufordcityschools.org
 Operations Manager: Sean Gilbert, brandon.gill@bufordcityschools.org
 Athletic Academic Advisor: Fyrone Davis, fyrone.davis@bufordcityschools.org
 BMS Athletic Director: Brandon Manders, Brandon.manders@bufordcityschools.org

Buford High School Staff

Principal: Marty Bozoian
 Assistant Principal: Dwayne Dubose
 Assistant Principal: Maria Pacheco
 Assistant Principal: Justin Johnson
 Assistant Principal: Melissa Green
 Assistant Principal: Faith Davenport

Head Athletic Trainer: Chris Demaline
 Assistant Athletic Trainer: MARRISA CALDWELL (NGPG)
 Assistant Athletic Trainer: MELISSA HOPFENSPERGER (NGPG)
 Assistant Athletic Trainer: JAY NIERENHAUSEN (NGPG)
 Strength & Conditioning: Ryan Liccardo

DragonFly

All student-athletes must have a DragonFly account prior to participating in any athletic event (tryouts, practice, contest). This is required and will be enforced completely.

Forms

- a) **Code of Conduct:** covers student-athlete discipline in season and out of season, on campus and off campus, year round. Must be signed by parents and athletes each year.
- b) **Social Media Policy:** covers discipline issues involving social media. Must be signed by parents and athletes. Is applicable year round.
- c) **Sportsmanship Plan:** We strive to be first class in all we do. This includes parents/spectators conduct at all athletic events. We should be great hosts to visitors and officials. We should be great visitors everywhere we go.

Medical

We are partnering with NGPG (Northeast Georgia Physicians Group), which is part of Northeast Georgia Hospital. They provide us with a Team Doctor, John Alsobrook, and pay for 3 full-time athletic trainers to work exclusively at Buford High School. They are currently building a Medical Plaza on Buford Highway and Lee Street (across the street from Hendrick Chevrolet) Dr. Alsobrook will be in the Training Room on Monday evenings (approximately 5:30-6:30) for free medical evaluations for any Buford HS student-athlete. Parents are welcome to attend.

Insurance

We have secondary Insurance on all student-athletes. Once you turn in your insurance, the secondary insurance can be filed. Parents/guardians must pay any copay or deductible, and then file the secondary insurance claim. Coach Demaline handles all insurance claims.

Transportation

We provide bus transportation to all student-athletes who need to travel to the Middle School, Arena or City Gym for athletics. Student-athletes who do not drive should ride the bus and are not allowed to ride with other students.

Transportation to home and away events: We provide bus transportation to and from all away events (with a few exceptions). All student-athletes are required to ride the bus unless the parent/guardian signs them out with the coach. You must be physically present to sign them out.

If, in an emergency, you need your child to ride with another parent, you may text the coach and inform them of your emergency and who your child has permission to ride with.

Student-athletes are never allowed to drive themselves to away contests.

BUFORD ATHLETIC CLUB

The Buford Athletic Club (BAC) exists to provide financial and service support to the players and coaches at Buford High School and Buford Middle School. The support organization consists of parents and community members who join at different levels of membership. The BAC provides significant funding to all individual sports at BHS and BMS, as well as patches and cords for

Scholar-athletes, state playoff expenses, and for sports medicine supplies. We want every student that participates in athletics to join at the student rate of \$50.

The BAC parent council meets quarterly during the school year. Dates and times are announced by the athletic director. Membership applications can be downloaded from the athletics website. BAC members automatically are listed on an email blast list that the athletic director uses to regularly update members on important athletic news and events.

We would like to invite you to join the BAC this year. Membership levels range from \$100 to \$1500, with various incentives at every level. The BAC contributes \$150,000 to our Athletic Programs each year, and your membership is vital to helping us reach our goal. We also conduct two fundraisers each year; The Buford Open Golf Tournament and the Run the Rails 5k/10K road race. The Buford Open is the first Saturday in May and the Road Race is the third Saturday in May. These are huge fundraisers that assist us greatly in providing our student-athletes with a first class experience. Please consider joining the BAC and volunteering to assist with either of our fundraisers. <https://www.bufordwolves.com/athleticclub>

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at Buford High School if you:

- Attended school last semester
- Passed 5 courses the previous semester
- Have earned course units that count toward graduation equivalent to years you have been in high school
- Have been in high school no more than four consecutive years after your first entry into ninth grade
- Have not attained your 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding the year of participation
- Had a bona fide move into the school district as a transfer student or have met the GHSA exceptions
- Have completed the Buford City Schools Athletic Physical/Concussion Form. The Buford City Schools Board of Education policy on Concussion Management is listed in the Sports Medicine section of this handbook.
- Are in compliance with the Athletic Code of Conduct

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation. Summer school grades are considered part of the second semester.

Students must also accumulate Carnegie Units towards graduation according to the following criteria:

- a) First-year students entering 9th grade are eligible academically
- b) Second-year students must have accumulated five (5) total units in the first year, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester

- c) Third-year students must have accumulated eleven (11) units in the first and second years, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester
- d) Fourth-year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) units in the first three years, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester

A student has eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition.

Athletic Transfers

A transfer student who has established eligibility at a former school in grades 9-12 shall be immediately eligible at Buford High School if:

- a) The student moved simultaneously with the entire parental unit or persons he/she resided with at the former school, and the student and parent(s) or persons residing with the student live in the service area of Buford City Schools. This is known as a “bona fide move”.
- b) The student must be enrolled in Buford High School before he/she can begin athletic participation in workouts or practices.
- c) The student must be approved by GHSA before he/she can participate in any varsity contests. The official Form B document to GHSA for clearance to participate in varsity activities must be filed by the athletic director.
- d) Non-resident students who enter BHS on the first day of their 9th grade year are automatically eligible for varsity sports.

School Attendance

Students must attend school on the day of an event in order to participate in any extra-curricular event that occurs after the school day. Approved field trips or school activities will constitute attendance. The school Principal or Athletic Director must approve all exceptions to the attendance rule.

Buford City Schools Athletic Physical/Concussion Form/Cardiac

This required GHSA form must be on file in the Buford High School Athletic Office prior to any student participating in any athletic try-outs, practices, voluntary work-outs or games. The concussion form also must be individually signed in each sport that the athlete participates. The form is good for twelve months from the date of the physical exam. The form should only be submitted to the Athletic Office or directly to the Athletic Trainer. It should not be given to a coach or left at another school office.

Parent/Player Waiver Forms (can be found on DragonFly)

- Athletic Physical/Concussion Form to athletic trainer
- Athletic Code of Conduct for each sport to head coach
- Cautionary Statement for each sport to head coach
- Social Media Policy for each sport to head coach
- Medications Release Form to athletic trainer

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

The Athletic Department of Buford High School strives to keep open lines of communication between athletes, parents, coaches and the general public. Much of the information needed to keep current with the events and policies of the various Buford sports teams can be accessed by using the athletic website, www.bufordwolves.com

Parental Support:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we strive to be able to better accept the actions of the other for the benefit of the student-athlete. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

It is essential that parents and athletes demonstrate respect for coaches. The coach has been appointed to a leadership and decision-making position. His/her responsibility is to the individual participant, the team, and the school system. As a result, all coaches have been instructed to make the best decisions they can and not to bow to parent or fan pressure relative to athletic and/or coaching decisions. In all instances, an environment of mutual respect and civility should prevail and the appropriate steps for a solution should be followed.

Communication Your Child Can Expect From Coaches

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the players on the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements; i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
7. The availability of the coach to speak with you about your child if you should have a concern

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance (planned vacations)

As your children become involved in programs at Buford High School, 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 respectful discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. 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 that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategies
3. Game play-calling
4. Other student-athletes

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, please follow the steps outlined in the Chain of Communication, to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Solving Conflicts-Chain of Communication

- Athlete and Coach
- Athlete, Parent, and Coach
- Parent and Athletic Director
- Parent and Principal

The correct procedure to contact a coach is to email him/her or by telephone. Parents are urged to contact the coach directly at the phone numbers distributed at the pre-season orientation meeting. Please do not contact the coach at home unless requested to do so. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest, a practice, or event. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. If the coach does not respond to your phone call, contact the Athletic Director, Tony Wolfe at 770-945-6768 x 5122 and he will contact the coach on your behalf.

GHSA Amateur Status / Awards

Statement regarding Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) from GHSA

House Bill 617 (the law in Georgia) specifically refers to "student athletes participating in intercollegiate athletic programs at post secondary educational institutions" and therefore does not impact high school athletes. So, as we approach the start of the 2025-26 school year, please be aware that the restrictions in by-laws 1.90 through 1.96 of the GHSA Constitution remain in effect.

1.90 - AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

1.91 A student who represents a school in interscholastic athletic competition shall be an amateur in that activity.

(a) An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.

(b) Accepting nominal, standard fees or salary for instructing, supervising, or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity, shall not jeopardize an athlete's amateur status.

(c) Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.

1.92 An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

(a) competing for money or other monetary compensations except for reasonable allowances for travel, meals, and lodging. NOTE: Accepting expense allowances authorized by the United States Olympic Committee for Olympic Development Programs is acceptable for GHSA students.

(b) receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the GHSA.

(c) capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts with monetary value except college scholarships.

(d) signing a professional playing contract in any sport, or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career.

1.93 Only awards approved by the GHSA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the GHSA.

1.94 Symbolic awards (i.e. non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$400 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid by the local school. These are the only GHSA-approved awards for interscholastic competition. Beyond this, a student may receive one (1) school sweater or jacket presented by the school during his high school career.

1.95 Athletes competing in golf or tennis events are limited to awards as specified in the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf, and the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, which includes (but not limited to) the following:

(a) No cash awards may be accepted.

(b) Merchandise awards in tennis may be accepted up to a retail value of \$250.00.

(c) Merchandise awards in golf may be accepted up to a retail value of \$750.00.

1.96 Players attending national camps or all-star events may keep reasonable benefits for housing, meals and transportation. Players may keep only equipment that is commemorative in nature and/or used in the process of the event's workouts.

OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Inherent Risk:

Any student who participates in athletic competition must understand that a risk of injury always exists. The Athletics Staff at Buford High School will do everything possible to minimize risks for student-athletes, both in practice and competition. Parents/Guardians must sign a cautionary statement regarding the specific sport and risks.

Insurance:

The Buford City Schools Board of Education provides an Accident Medical Insurance Plan to help cover medical expenses resulting from interscholastic sport injuries. *Because this is an EXCESS plan only with coverage limitations, it is strongly urged that all parents have their own family insurance.* All players, coaches, and managers of every interscholastic sport are covered throughout the entire school year. The program covers accidental bodily injuries occurring to a covered person while participating in or

traveling, while under the supervision of proper school authority, to or from any regularly scheduled game or practice of an interscholastic sport.

The Medical Expense benefit of this program is an "excess" type benefit. The policy does not cover treatment or service for which benefits are payable or service is available under any other insurance or medical service plan available to the insured person, including but not limited to, HMOs, PPOS, Workers' Compensation and automobile no-fault insurance.

For further information regarding the accident plan program, please contact the head athletic trainer.

Parent Pre-Season Meetings:

All parents/guardians are required to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff. The meeting shall be held before the first contest. Parents should expect to receive the following information/forms at the pre-season parents meeting from the coaching staff:

- Mission Statement, philosophies, core values, expectations for players and parents
- Team structure
- Communication procedures
- Practice and game schedules
- Criteria for lettering and receiving awards
- NCAA Guidelines/ Scholarship Information
- Sports Medicine procedures
- Copy of "Medications Available Release Form" (must be signed by player and parent)
- Emergency Action Plans
- **Code of Conduct (must be signed by player and parent)**
- Copy of the GHSA "Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity"
- Copy of GHSA "Concussion Management Form"
- Copy of Buford City Schools, "Guidelines for Outdoor Extracurricular Activities during Extreme Hot and Humid Weather"
- Copy of Buford City Schools "MRSA Staph Infection Guidelines"
- Copy of Buford City Schools "Cautionary Statement"
- Copy of Buford City Schools "Social Media Policy for Student-Athletes"

Multi-Sport Participation

Buford High School recognizes many benefits from multi-sport participation and insists that coaches avoid promoting sport specialization. Our coaches do support all of the sports programs and will encourage students to participate in all sports where unique talents exist.

Athletes may also participate in more than one sport during a sports season if the two respective coaches can work out a practice and game schedule that meets all the requirements for both sports. The athlete may be required to designate one sport as the primary sport causing the secondary sport to become a sport of mostly sub-varsity participation or of a non-starting status.

Multiple School Activities

Buford High School believes that students can potentially benefit by participating in a variety of school curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, performing arts, and academic competitions. The coaches and leaders of these activities will not discourage students electing a variety of activities when conflicts are manageable. They will work together to resolve and minimize scheduling conflicts. Furthermore, coaches and sponsors must communicate concerns to students and parents whose combination of activities present irresolvable conflicts or unreasonable stress on the student. In these rare cases, students may be required to make a choice.

Travel

Buford High School athletes are required to travel to and from athletic events in school-approved vehicles and under certified school staff supervision provided by Buford High School. Extreme circumstances must be cleared by the Principal or Athletic Director. Students may be released to their parents (if the head coach is in agreement) after a road contest if the official Transportation Release Form is signed and received by the parent in advance of the contest. Students will never be released to ride home from a contest with other students.

Athletes represent Buford High School on all road trips. Appropriate dress will be determined by the coaching staff. Athletes will act in an acceptable manner while on all school trips. Equipment, facilities, fans, opponents and staff members at opposing school sites will be treated with respect at all times. Any damage or improper behavior on the part of Buford athletes and/or support staff will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Early release time from class for athletic activities is not part of the structure of the Buford High School. Special exceptions will only be granted with the prior approval of the Principal.

Equipment:

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain and return all equipment and uniforms issued. Parents will be financially responsible for equipment and uniforms that are stolen, lost, or misplaced. The price of replacing these items will be the actual cost to the school for purchasing new replacement items. Failure to adhere to these procedures will cause the student-athlete's name to be placed on the debt list with the school administration.

Weight Room & Gym Policy

The following guidelines must be observed when students are using the weight rooms, gymnasiums and any other athletic facilities at Buford High School:

1. Students may use the weight room, gymnasiums and other athletic facilities only while under the direct supervision of a Buford High School certified staff member
2. Students working out in the weight room, gymnasiums and other athletic facilities must be dressed in proper attire. Shirts and approved shoes are always required.
4. Weights and other equipment should be returned to the proper racks or storage areas before students and coaches leave the area.

5. Coaches, employees, and other designated individuals supervising extracurricular athletic activities are expected to use their training, personal judgment and discretion in implementing this policy.
6. This policy is not intended to create any liability for, or create a cause of action against, the Board of Education or governing body of a charter school or their officers, employees, volunteers or other designated individuals for any act or omission to act related to the removal or non-removal of a student from an extracurricular athletic activity.
7. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to direct the development of administrative regulations and/or guidelines needed to implement this policy.

Buford City Schools Date Adopted: 7/19/2013

Georgia Code Description

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0324.1 Concussion management and return to play policies for youth Athletes

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Information for the College-Bound Student-Athlete

All high school students who wish to practice and compete for a Division I or II institution must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will determine a student/athlete's initial eligibility status for all Division I and II institutions by reviewing an official high school transcript and the official SAT/ACT scores. All athletes interested in playing a college sport should contact the Guidance Office for a detailed hand-out on NCAA eligibility. You may also view information at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

All coaches and student/athletes should be aware of NCAA regulations regarding recruiting and academic requirements. All school personnel and student/athletes should be aware of NCAA recruiting rules concerning tryouts and/or auditions. The NCAA does not sanction or endorse any scouting service; therefore, you should determine whether the scouting service meets NCAA requirements.

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Resources

The following documents and presentations will assist colleges, the high school community, coaches, as well as students and parents with the initial eligibility, recruiting and college selection processes. Please refer to www.eligibilitycenter.org or the new outreach site, www.2point3.org for more information.

Informational Guides

[Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#) –The Guide is a highly comprehensive tool that has been designed to help you understand the NCAA initial-eligibility process and to prepare student-athletes for transitioning from high school to becoming an NCAA Division I or II student-athlete.

[NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards](#) – The NCAA Guide to International Academic standards for Athletics Eligibility provides specific requirements needed for college-bound student-athletes who have completed any portion of their secondary education in a non-United States educational system wishing to study and compete at an NCAA Division I or II college or university.

College Sports Interest

Most student/athletes at the high school level will not be offered college athletic scholarships; therefore, the following recommendations are for your use in pursuing financial aid and/or acceptance to the college or university which best matches your abilities and interests:

- Discuss with your guidance counselor the range of colleges for which you are academically qualified.
- Talk with your coach about the level of competition he/she feels you might be best suited to participate in (i.e. Division I, II, III, or Junior College).
- Narrow your college selection list to a reasonable size, taking into consideration the quality of academic and athletic programs, determining whether they are right for you. Be realistic about your choice.
- Find the name of the coach in your sport at each college on your list. (Use the National Directory of College Athletics in the guidance office).
- Request your high school coach to write a personal letter to the college coach highlighting your transcript, academic achievements, and interests as well as a thorough and detailed discussion of your athletic accomplishments (statistics, clippings, letters earned, records set, honors). A season highlight film should be made during the season for availability to college coaches.
- Decide where you wish to apply. Few college coaches will take an interest in you unless you formally apply. Initiate, don't react.
- Remain in touch with the coaches after applying. Inquire about the status of your application and financial aid. If possible, visit the college and the coach - sell yourself as a person and a student athlete.
- A letter from a college coach is an overture, NOT an offer.
- Be familiar with NCAA visitation rules (check with your coach).
- Financial Aid is based on need. Applications for financial aid as well as other scholarships are available in the guidance office.
- You may choose to continue your sports career even though you are not involved in intercollegiate competition. Most colleges and universities have extensive, competitive intramural programs for men and women.

**BUFORD CITY SCHOOLS
2025-26 ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Athlete's Name _____ Grade _____ Sports _____

The Buford City School's administration, coaches, and staff believe that students who are selected for the privilege of membership on athletic teams should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the schools. Since athletic participation on our sports teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration, and other specific rules established by respective coaches per their sport. As recognized representatives of our schools, members are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior during the season or out of season, in uniform or out of uniform, and on campus or off campus. The principal, athletic director, and head coaches shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Code of Conduct for athletes.

Per BCSS: Students are not eligible for participation each day they serve ISS.

Per GHSA: 1.56 Loss of Eligibility: Students assigned to an alternative school or on out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

1. A student-athlete who uses or possesses **alcohol or illegal drugs, including marijuana, or has a positive test in the BHS Drug Screening Program.**
 - a. **First Offense**
 - Loss of athletic participation in 20% of the next scheduled game competitions (this includes playoffs). The loss of athletic participation in game competitions will be carried over to the start of the next season, or to the next sports season if the athlete competed in that sport the previous athletic year.
 - The athlete is subject to random drug tests through the Drug Screening Program. An athlete's refusal to be tested in the Drug Screening Program will be treated the same as a positive test result and will be counted in the cumulative number of Code of Conduct violations.
 - b. **Second offense**-Loss of athletic participation for 50% of game competitions and subject to additional unannounced tests.
 - c. **Third offense**-Loss of athletic participation for one calendar year
 - d. **Fourth offense**-Permanently suspended from athletic participation on any sports team
 - e. The head coach may add other disciplinary action, such as loss of team captain, running drills, or community service.
 - f. The athlete is subject to being ineligible for athletic scholarship applications
 - g. *A student caught vaping / smoking / using tobacco will automatically be suspended from their next scheduled game competition (including playoffs).*
2. Any student-athlete convicted of **selling, or with intent to distribute drugs** will be permanently banned from athletics.
3. A student-athlete who is **arrested for, or charged with, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony** shall be automatically suspended from athletics until the athletic director, principal, and superintendent make a ruling as to the disciplinary action of the particular case.
4. A student-athlete who commits the following offenses shall be disciplined. The discipline may include, but not limited to, suspension or permanent dismissal from the team.
 - a. **Theft**
 - b. **Fighting**
 - c. **Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school**
 - d. **Any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration**

- e. **Any act at school, or away from school, which in the opinion of the coaches and administration, reflects in a negative manner on the school or athletic program.**
5. Buford City Schools will not condone **bullying or hazing** among its students. Buford City Schools will treat bullying and hazing as it does intimidation and harassment. Students suspected or guilty of bullying or hazing will be immediately referred to the principal. A student-athlete or parent should report any concerns directly to the coach, athletic director, or principal.
 6. Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in **written or electronic transmission** (email) and any information posted on a public domain (internet, chat room, blogs, facebook, you tube, Instagram, twitter, vine). Inappropriate, threatening, or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. A violation of this rule may result in game suspensions or dismissal from the team.
 7. **Cell phones and cameras** may not be used inside a locker room for any purpose by a student-athlete. This means no texting, no calling, and no pictures. Should an athlete receive a call or text after school hours while in the locker room, he or she must take the phone (still in backpack, book bag, gym bag, etc.) out to the hall or outside the building before use. Cameras and cell phones may not be in use or out in view in the locker room for any reason. A violation of this rule may result in game suspensions or dismissal from the team.
 8. A student-athlete who **loses their equipment or fails to return equipment or uniforms** to his/her coach must financially repay for the respective loss. The student-athlete is not allowed to participate in another sport or attend the sports awards program until all debts are cleared.
 9. A student-athlete who is placed in **out-of-school suspension** cannot participate in or attend any games or practices during the suspension.
 10. A student-athlete who **quits a team, or is removed from the team**, once it has begun official practices, cannot begin another sports season or practices until the sports season ends that he/she quit. If there is a mutual decision by the coach and player to discontinue a player's participation on a team, then the player can begin practice with another sport without penalty.
 11. Each coach of a student-athlete has the prerogative to establish additional rules pertaining to the activity supervised. These rules may include attendance at practices, curfew, dress, locker room cleanliness, horseplay, being on time, and general conduct on buses or at off-campus activities.

A student-athlete and his or her parents may appeal a decision to the athletic director and school principal within three days of the disciplinary decision. The principal and athletic director will hear both sides of the appeal and will take action upon which they consider to be in the best interests of the student-athlete, the team, and school.

As the Parent/Guardian:

- I pledge to communicate with my child's coach in a professional manner when issues arise, and that I will not approach my child's coach during or after a contest or practice.
- I understand that appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach are: the treatment of my child mentally and physically, and concerns about my child's behavior.
- I understand that issues not appropriate to discuss with the coach are: playing time, team strategy, play calling, other student-athletes.
- I will express my concerns directly to the coach.
- I will contribute to the goal of a "family" environment within Buford Athletics by promoting good sportsmanship, by celebrating team accomplishments, and by giving value to my child's opportunity to be a member of a team.

***My signature acknowledges that I have read the Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all rules and regulations contained herewith.**

***My signature releases Buford City Schools to post on the athletic website, www.bufordwolves.com, my child's name and picture with any team rosters.**

***My signature releases my child's head coach to discuss with college recruiters my child's participation with the respective BHS sports team.**

Player Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

BUFORD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Student-athletes at Buford High School are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your family, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole team. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Vine, Snapchat and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of student-athletes here at Buford High School in one form or another. Student-athletes should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, future employers and NCAA universities and coaches, could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, our athletic program and Buford High School. This can also be detrimental to a student-athlete's future college and employment options.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of GHSA rules.
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the athletic program or Buford High School, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

Please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites:

- Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
- Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Facebook applications. If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletic program and Buford High School. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or Buford High School.

By signing below you affirm that you understand the Buford High School Athletic Department's Social Media Policy and Guidelines for Student-Athletes and the requirements that you must adhere to as a Buford High School student- athlete.

Also, you affirm that failure to adhere to this policy and guidelines will subject you to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or permanent removal from the team.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

SPORTSMANSHIP

The school system of Buford City Schools believes that sports programs serve educational purposes in the lives of the students. One of these purposes is the development of good sportsmanship. The primary focus of the challenge of achieving good sportsmanship is on the student-athlete, but others are involved.

Individuals who are involved in athletic activities that represent Buford City Schools should make every effort to meet the following expectations:

School Administration

- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for athletic events
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans
- Show commitment to students and school activities by regular attendance at school events
- Apply sportsmanship policies and rule equitably
- Be prepared to address fan and participant behavior at both home and away events

Coaches

- Accept decisions of officials
- Avoid offensive gestures and language
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Avoid public criticism of game officials
- Lead by example: respect the rules, the officials, and opponents

Student-Athletes

- Show respect at all times for coaches, opponents, and game officials
- Accept the decisions of contest officials
- Avoid offensive gestures or language
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Show respect for public property and equipment
- Remember that as a participant for Buford that you represent the school

Spectators

- Avoid criticism and harassment of game officials and coaches
- Appreciate good performances by opposing players and teams
- Respect and show appreciation for coaches
- Stay off the playing area
- Show respect for public property and equipment
- Take part in cheers with the cheerleaders
- Work cooperatively with school officials and supervisors in keeping order

Cheerleaders and Band

- Know the contest rules and perform at the proper times
- Encourage support for any injured player
- Show respect for opposing players and cheerleaders, game officials, and spectators
- Lead positive cheers and praise for your team
- Show respect for public property and equipment

Appropriate Behaviors

- Applause during introduction of athletes, coaches, game officials

- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants
- Everyone showing concern for an injured athlete
- Showing respect for another school's logos, banners, Alma Mater, etc.
- Spirit leaders leading fans in positive manner

Unacceptable Behaviors

- Using disrespectful, taunting, or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures
- or any cheers that gloat in victory
- Singling out individuals on an opposing team for derogatory or insensitive treatment
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders
- Using hand-held signs containing derogatory language or pictures
- Throwing of any objects onto or near the field of play
- Displays of temper with an official's call
- Using yells to antagonize opponents
- Refusing to shake hands or to give recognition for good performance
- Unauthorized visiting of other school's rooting section
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game

Any individual violating this code of behavior will be warned and/or may be removed from the contest and banned from future sporting events.

Georgia High School Association

Student/Parent Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form

SCHOOL: BUFORD HIGH SCHOOL

1: Learn the Early Warning Signs

If you or your child has had one or more of these signs, see your primary care physician:

- Fainting suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks or ringing phones
- Unusual chest pain or shortness of breath during exercise
- Family members who had sudden, unexplained and unexpected death before age 50
- Family members who have been diagnosed with a condition that can cause sudden cardiac death, such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) or Long QT syndrome
- A seizure suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks or ringing phones

2: Learn to Recognize Sudden Cardiac Arrest

If you see someone collapse, assume he has experienced sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly. This victim will be unresponsive, gasping or not breathing normally, and may have some jerking (Seizure like activity). Send for help and start CPR. You cannot hurt him.

3: Learn Hands-Only CPR

Effective CPR saves lives by circulating blood to the brain and other vital organs until rescue teams arrive. It is one of the most important life skills you can learn – and it’s easier than ever.

- Call 911 (or ask bystanders to call 911 and get an AED)
- Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Kneel at the victim’s side, place your hands on the lower half of the breastbone, one on top of the other, elbows straight and locked. Push down 2 inches, then up 2 inches, at a rate of 100times/minute, to the beat of the song “Stayin’ Alive.”
- If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available, open it and follow the voice prompts. It will lead you step-by-step through the process, and will never shock a victim that does not need a shock.

By signing this sudden cardiac arrest form, I give High School permission to transfer this sudden cardiac arrest form to the other sports that my child may play. I am aware of the dangers of sudden cardiac arrest and this signed sudden cardiac arrest form will represent myself and my child during the 2025-2026 school year. This form will be stored with the athletic physical form and other accompanying forms required by the Buford City School System.

I HAVE READ THIS FORM AND I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS PRESENTED IN IT.

Student Name (Printed) **Student Name (Signed)** **Date**

Parent Name (Printed) **Parent Name (Signed)** **Date**

(Revised: 6/25)

Georgia High School Association Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form

SCHOOL: BUFORD HIGH SCHOOL

DANGERS OF CONCUSSION

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor “ding” to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in GHSA athletics. One copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION

- Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level/tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds
- Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments
- Unexplained changes in behavior and personality
- Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

BY-LAW 2.68: GHSA CONCUSSION POLICY: In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include a licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.

a) No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.

b) Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.

By signing this concussion form, I give Buford High School permission to transfer this concussion form to the other sports that my child may play. I am aware of the dangers of concussion and this signed concussion form will represent myself and my child during the 2020-2021 school year. This form will be stored with the athletic physical form and other accompanying forms required by the Buford City School System.

I HAVE READ THIS FORM AND I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS PRESENTED IN IT.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Name (Signed)

Date

Parent Name (Printed)

Parent Name (Signed)

Date

(Revised: 2/20)