

Buford Middle School

Athletic Handbook

2018-2019

***Information , Policies, and Procedures
For Parents & Student-Athletes***

**2700 Robert Bell Parkway
Buford, GA 30518
770-904-3690
www.bufordwolves.com**

Buford City Schools Athletic Mission

The mission of the Buford City School's athletic department is to offer region and state-wide athletic teams which reflect the interests of our students and faculty, the Georgia High School Association, the Board of Education, and the community of Buford. These teams shall provide a worthwhile and positive experience for our students by teaching them the basic principles of excellent competition, competitive integrity, fair play, and equal opportunity. Furthermore, these athletic teams shall promote the growth of our students in their mental, physical, social, and moral well-being. All our efforts are guided by certain values we believe essential to the fulfillment of these tasks:

Buford Middle School Mission

The Mission of Buford Middle School Athletics is to teach the student-athlete the fundamental skills of the respective sports and to instill the athletic values of teamwork, excellence, effort, leadership, and integrity.

Buford Middle School Objectives

- Academic Accountability / Implementation of a Code of Conduct
- Developmental Program for the High School
- Create a Positive Environment / Emphasis on Fundamentals and Not on Winning
- Play Limited Number of Contest (60% of GHSA per Sport)
- An Effective Transition from the Recreation League
- Practice Times, Saturday and Weekend Competition to be Minimized

Integrity

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. We acknowledge that athletic competition, by its very nature, involves character development, and for this reason, we must conduct ourselves with utmost integrity.

Teamwork

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. So, while we will recognize individual accomplishments, we will be quicker to celebrate and support the achievements of the team.

Excellence

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

We strive to maintain a model athletic program of which our students, staff, parents and community can be proud. It is also an abiding goal for all staff to foster the ideals, standards, and values which will enable our students to mature as leaders. Leadership in the personal development of our student-athletes underlies all our endeavors and is a high standard by which we measure ourselves.

Effort

Effort can be viewed as the starting point of all achievement, not a hope, not a wish, but a keen pulsating desire that transcends everything. It is that total exhaustion of mind and body to compete and win. At Buford, we may not always be the most talented or the best coached, but we will always strive to play the hardest and the longest and the toughest.

Fall Sports Offered:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country – Cameron Hutchins – cameron.hutchins@bufordcityschools.org
- Girls Volleyball – Ethan Burke – ethan.burke@bufordcityschools.org

Winter Sports Offered:

- Boys Basketball – Adam Gower – adam.gower@bufordcityschools.org
- Girls Basketball – Susan Oates – susan.oates@bufordcityschools.org
- Cheerleading – Chelsey Gillilan – Chelsey.gillilan@bufordcityschools.org

Spring Sports Offered:

- Boys Soccer – Ethan Burke – ethan.burke@bufordcityschools.org
- Girls Soccer – Abbie Jones – abbi.jones@bufordcityschools.org
- Boys and Girls Track – Ryan Woodworth – ryan.woodworth@bufordcityschools.org

Buford Middle School Administration

Principal: Melanie Reed
Assistant Principal: Laurabeth Short
Assistant Principal: Chad Cole
Athletic Director: Brandon Manders

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

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

- Are passing all of your classes at the progress report grading period and the end of the 9 weeks grading period.
- Have completed the Buford City Schools Athletic Physical/Concussion Form
- Are in compliance with the Code of Conduct

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

This required GHSA form must be on file in the Buford Middle School Athletic Office prior to any student participating in any athletic try-outs, practices, voluntary work-outs or games. The form is good for twelve months from the date of the physical exam.. It should not be given to a coach or left at another school office.

BUFORD CITY SCHOOLS 2018-19 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 completion 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.

1. A student-athlete who uses or possesses **alcohol or illegal drugs, including marijuana, or vaping/juuling, or has a positive test in the BHS Drug Screening Program.**
 - a. **First Offense**
 - Loss of athletic participation for 10% of game competitions. The loss of athletic participation in game competitions can 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.
 - Must complete the BHS administration approved Drug and Alcohol Education Program within 30 days from date of positive test. After 30 days the athlete will be suspended from game competitions until the program is completed. Athlete is subject to five 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 30% of game competitions and subject to up to five 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
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. **Use of tobacco**
 - b. **Theft**
 - c. **Fighting**
 - d. **Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school**
 - e. **Any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration**

f. 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, face book, 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 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 game suspensions or dismissal from team.
8. A student-athlete who **loses their equipment or fails to return equipment or uniforms** to their 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 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, ways to help my child improve, 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

- **Each sport has its own individual discipline plan in addition to the Buford City Schools Code of Conduct.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

The Athletic Department of Buford Middle 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. Procedure 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)
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in programs at Buford Middle School and 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's 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 strategy
3. Calling plays
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 others 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 at 770-904-3690 and he will contact the coach on your behalf.

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 and teach student-athletes to do the same

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

- ✓ 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.

SPORTS MEDICINE

Sports Medicine Staff

Chris Demaline ATC, CSCS
Head Athletic Trainer

404-788-6845

Coach Chris Demaline is a licensed/ certified athletic trainer, certified strength and conditioning specialist, and a certified massage therapist. He is employed by Buford City Schools as the full-time athletic trainer.

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 Middle School will do everything possible to minimize risks for student-athletes, both in practice and competition.

Parent Pre-Season Meetings:

All parents/guardians are required to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff of that sport. 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
- 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"

Travel

Buford Middle School athletes are required to travel to and from athletic events in school approved vehicles and under certified school staff supervision provided by Buford Middle 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 Middle 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 Middle School. Special exceptions will only be granted with the prior approval of both the Principal.

Multiple School Activities

Buford Middle 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, speech, and academic competitions. Co-curricular and extracurricular leaders, coaches, and sponsors 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.

Multi-Sport Participation

Buford Middle School recognizes many benefits from multi-sport participation and insists that coaches avoid promoting sport specialization. Coaches must support all athletic programs and will encourage students to participate in all sports where unique talents exist.

BUFORD ATHLETICS SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Student-athletes at Buford 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 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. 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, and 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.

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

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

BUFORD ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB

The Buford Athletic Boosters Club (BABC) exists to provide financial and service support to the players and coaches at Buford High School and Buford Middle School. The support organization consist of parents and community members who join at different levels of membership. The BABC provides significant funding to all individual sports at BHS and at BMS as well as monies for award plaques, scholarships for seniors at graduation, state playoff expenses, and for sports medicine supplies. The goal for each sport at BHS and BMS is to have at least fifty per cent of its parents to join the BABC.

The BABC meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the BHS Team Meeting Room. Membership applications can be downloaded from the athletics website.