

**I recommend approving the revisions to the activities handbook. Additions are highlighted and underlined. Deletions are strikethrough.** The activities committee developed changes to the activities handbook over the past several months the major changes include:

- Clarification of student eligibility and ineligibility.
- Student eligibility for participation on the day of absences from school.
- New language requiring a student be in “good standing” to maintain eligibility.
- New language defining criteria for limiting squad size.
- New language outlining protocol for acceleration.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The contents of this handbook apply to all Becker Public Schools activities in grades 7-12 unless specifically stated otherwise.

The educational program in Becker will provide the opportunity and the incentive for each student athlete to develop mentally, physically, morally, and socially to the fullest of his/her abilities. The educational program shall be directed toward the welfare and the best interest of the student participant.

Becker High School is of the belief that athletics and activities are an integral part of the educational system. It is believed that athletics and activities contribute to the educational process of developing well rounded individuals and young adults. Through the combined support and efforts of the community; school district and activities staff, students are given the opportunity to participate in the activities program as spectators and competitors.

These educational experiences allow students to benefit in such areas of development as: interpersonal relationships, group interaction and cooperation, self concept and character, goal setting and values, leadership, initiative, self discipline, loyalty, sportsmanship, physical skills and growth, and the personal prides and satisfaction of participation and competition.

Since life demands many of the same qualities that are developed through activities, this opportunity will assist in preparing our students to meet life's challenges as contributing, worthwhile citizens.

## **SPORTS PHILOSOPHY**

1. All playing time is not a right but a privilege that is earned through sportsmanship, team play, mental discipline and hard work.

2. Varsity Sports Philosophy: Becker has chosen to compete at the interscholastic level rather than at the intramural level. With this in mind winning is an important part of our program. We feel we can best challenge our athletes to develop their abilities through this type of program. By no means is it a win at all costs philosophy but a strong effort to win the contest will be made by the players and the coaches.

3. Junior Varsity and Middle School Sports Philosophy: At these levels of competitions the emphasis is put on participation both during contests and during practices. Each participant will be given the opportunity to develop his/her skills. Contests will be scheduled to develop the students' abilities as well as to prepare them for competitive situations. A goal is set to win the contest but not at the cost of not allowing a certain individual a chance to participate.

## SCHOOL SONG

ONWARD BECKER, ONWARD BECKER,  
FIGHT THROUGH THICK AND THIN,  
FOR THE GLORY OF THE SCHOOL BOYS/GIRLS,  
THEN WE'RE SURE TO WIN,  
RAH-RAH-RAH.  
ONWARD BECKER, ONWARD BECKER,  
FIGHT ON FOR YOU FAME.  
FIGHT FELLOWS/GIRLS FIGHT-FIGHT-FIGHT  
AND WIN THIS GAME.  
B-U-L-L-D-O-G-S  
BULLDOGS  
BULLDOGS  
GO!

## SPORTS OFFERED AT BECKER HIGH SCHOOL

<u>Season</u>	<u>Boys/Girls</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Grades</u>
<b>A. Fall</b>	Girls	Volleyball	7-12
	Boys	Football	7-12
	Boys/Girls	Cross Country	7-12
	Girls	Swimming/Diving	7-12
	Girls	Tennis	7-12
	Boys/Girls	Soccer	7-12
<b>B. Winter</b>	Boys	Hockey	9-12
	Boys/Girls	Basketball	7-12
	Boys	Wrestling	7-12
	Girls	Gymnastics	7-12
	Girls	Competitive Dance	7-12
<b>C. Spring</b>	Boys/Girls	Track	7-12
	Girls	Softball	7-12
	Boys/Girls	Golf	7-12
	Boys	Baseball	7-12
	Boys	Tennis	7-12
	Girls	Lacrosse	7-12

## ACTIVITIES/FINE ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

Musical Production (Middle School and High School productions)  
Speech  
Three-Act Play  
One-Act Play  
Visual Arts

# **SPORTSMANSHIP CODE OF ETHICS**

Sportsmanship is characterized by courtesy, fairness and respect. It is interpreted by the conduct of the participants, coaches, advisors, school staff and spectators. We at Becker are continually striving to maintain and improve these qualities.

Becker School District has adopted the following Sportsmanship Code:

1. We will be courteous in speech and action at all times.
2. We will respect our opponent at all times.
3. We will be loyal to our own team but also applaud the abilities of players on all teams.
4. We will obey instructions given by schools and those in charge.
5. We will play according to the rules of each game or contest.
6. We will respect the decisions of game officials.
7. We believe to have a successful team we must have a will to win but we will enjoy each game or contest; win, lose or draw.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**I. All Minnesota State High School League rules shall be enforced and these local additions:**

A. Academic Eligibility – Scholastic Grading Policy:

Philosophy: This policy is not intended to use ineligibility as a punishment for failing grades. Student learning is a priority and decisions regarding eligibility should reflect a commitment to meeting the needs of students in activities. Because these needs are so varied, the scholastic policy must reflect some flexibility.

1. A student that receives one or more "F's" or "U's" as a mid-quarter grade is placed on academic probation for the remainder of the grading period (quarter). These students will initially be ineligible for a period of one week, during which time he or she is ineligible to participate in activity contests. Subsequent eligibility status will be determined on a weekly basis for the remainder of the grading period (quarter). At this point, students must be passing all classes on a weekly basis to participate in contests. A student who passes all of his or her classes at the end of this term will no longer be on academic probation.

2. Students who receive a grade of "F" or "U" as a quarter grade are placed on academic probation for the entirety of the next grading period (quarter). These students will initially be ineligible for a period of one week, during which time he or she is ineligible to participate in activity contests. Subsequent eligibility status for said student shall be determined on a weekly basis for the remainder of the grading period (quarter). If the student passes all classes at the end of the grading period (quarter), he or she shall be removed from academic probation.

3. Any student that receives an F or U at the end of quarter 4 will be on academic probation in the fall and subject to the guidelines in #2 above. Subsequent eligibility status for said student shall be determined on a weekly basis for the remainder of the quarter one grading period. If the student passes

all classes at the end of the grading period, he or she shall be removed from academic probation. Any student successfully completing summer school will not be placed on academic probation to start the fall season.

4. A grading committee consisting of the Principal, Coach, Assistant Principal and Activities Director shall have the authority to review and rule on the eligibility of students with special or unusual circumstances.

5. Ineligible students are not allowed to dress or participate in any contests but are allowed to attend practices during the period of ineligibility.

6. All Student participants must be “on-track” to graduate from Becker High School to participate in an activity, as per MSHSL guidelines **and BHS Scholastic Grading Policy (see page 3).**

**Notice to Becker Students: the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs is wrong and harmful.**

**B. Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs:**

During the “calendar year” or during the season of practice, play or rehearsal, regardless of the quantity a student shall not use or be in possession of a beverage containing alcohol; or use, consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana, tobacco, or any substance defined by law as a drug. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by her/his doctor.

**1. First Violation:**

Penalty: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or two (2) weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

**2. Second Violation:**

Penalty: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic events in which the student is a participant, or three (3) weeks, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

**3. Third Violation:**

Penalty:

a. After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic events in which the student is a participant, or four (4) weeks, whichever is greater.

b. If, after the third or subsequent violations, the student; on her/his own volition; becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment

center. Any student that goes through a drug dependency program to seek eligibility must work with the coordinator of the chemical dependency program at Becker High School. The above regulations are in addition to any and all eligibility rules and regulations as set for by the Minnesota State High School League.

C. Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs-Co-curricular Activities Category II Penalties:

Events shall be defined as all activities except daily class hours and concerts. This includes pep band, marching band, contests, drama productions, speech meets, etc.

A student who participates in Category I (athletics) and Category II (co-curricular activities), will be ineligible in both categories until each penalty is fulfilled.

1. First Offense:

Student shall lose eligibility for the next event or for two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.

2. Second Offense:

Student shall lose eligibility for the next two events or for four weeks of a season in which the student is a participant whichever is greater.

3. Third Offense:

Student shall lose eligibility for the next three events or for eight weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. A recommendation shall be made for chemical dependency help.

~~II. Penalties shall be accumulative 7-12~~ Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

~~III. The training rules set forth by the activities department which exceed those of the MSHSL must be obeyed.~~ The penalties for violations set forth by the Activities Department, which exceed those of the MSHSL, must be obeyed.

IV. MSHSL Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic events for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of rule, is allowed to participate, and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

V. Any eligible student enrolled at Becker High School who misses the first five days of practice when school is in session will not be allowed to participate in the sport of the current season. If a student has a conflict that will not allow them to come out in the first five days they should contact the coach and explain the situation.

VI. Any player who is present in school but fails to participate or receive permission from his/her coach to miss practice three times will be removed from the sport for the remainder of the season. If a player at any level (MS or HS) quits, the coach must notify the parents and the Activities Office.

VII. Students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled during or after the school day may not participate in after school activities or programs if they have an unexcused absence from any class during the day, have been suspended from class, or missed more than 2 blocks of the school day. In addition, students who are suspended or administratively dismissed from school are not eligible for practice or participation on the day of the suspension or dismissal. Any extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by administration, however the schools policy governing excused absences shall be the determining factor and the decision by administration is not subject to appeal.

VIII. Students wishing to participate in more than one sport per season must seek the permission from the activities office. A meeting involving both head coaches, the activities director, a building administrator, the student and his/her parents/guardians will be held to establish guidelines to ensure the student can be successful in this arrangement.

IX. A student must end the season in good standing with the team in order to receive his/her awards. If a student is ineligible because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol use he/she will not receive his/her awards. A student with a violation will not be eligible for a captain's position.

X. A student assigned time in I.S.S. will not practice or play until the time in I.S.S. is completed. A student assigned detention after school will not play or practice until the last day of detention is completed. Students suspended for all or part of a day will not be eligible to play or practice the same day. Students sent home on administrative dismissal are also ineligible to play or practice the same day.

### **Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy, Rules, Penalties and Recommendations for Student Participants in MSHSL-Sponsored Athletic and Fine Arts Activities.**

High School Principal is Title IX coordinator.

#### **I. General Statement of Policy.**

The Minnesota State High School League believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Students should be able to participate in League-sponsored activities in an environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual violence. It shall be a violation of this policy for a student participant in League activities to harass a person through conduct or communication that is determined to be sexual harassment or sexual violence by this policy.

#### **II. Responsibilities of the Minnesota State High School League and its member schools are required by state and federal law.**

A. Title IX, of the Federal Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex-based discrimination against students by education institutions.

B. Title VII, 1980 is interpreted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to include sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination in employment, and provides a definition of sexual harassment.

C. Minnesota State Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 363A, defines sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination in education and employment.

D. Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.03 (Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy) requires each school board to adopt a written sexual harassment and sexual

violence policy that is clear and understandable. The policy shall apply to pupils and employees, including reporting procedures, and set forth disciplinary actions that will be taken for violation of the policy.

E. Minnesota Statutes Section 128C.02, Subd. 2, (Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy and Rules) requires the Minnesota High School League to adopt a policy, rules, penalties, and recommendations addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence toward and by participants in League activities.

F. Minnesota Statutes Section 609.341 et seq. establishes statutory penalties with respect to sex crimes.

### **III. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Defined.**

Please refer to Becker School District website: [www.becker.k12.mn.us](http://www.becker.k12.mn.us) for the **Policy 413 Harassment and Violence**. You can find the policy under the School Board/Board Minutes tab. Scroll down to policy 413.

#### **Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements**

##### **I. Good Standing**

In order to be eligible for regular season and League tournament competition a student must be in good standing.

**Definition:** The term “Good Standing” shall mean that the student is eligible under all the conditions and eligibility requirements of that school as well as the eligibility requirements of the Minnesota State High School League.

##### **II. Student Code of Responsibilities**

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility. As a student participating in League sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

A. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.

B. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.

C. I will respect the rights and property of others.

D. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.

E. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.

F. I will show respect to my parents, teachers, and coaches.

##### **III. Penalty**

A student who is dismissed (i.e. suspended) from school or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by school officials acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations. For example, when a student is suspended from school the student is not in good standing and cannot begin to serve the participation penalty until the student has completed the suspension from school and is returned to good standing.



# PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW AT BECKER HIGH SCHOOL

1. All students must have a physical (good for three years), a parent's permission form (each year) and an eligibility form (each year) on file in the activity director's office before they will be allowed to play or practice.
2. Each head coach will organize and hold a team banquet at the end of each season.
3. Any athlete that sees a doctor about an injury must receive written permission from that doctor to return to practice or to play in a game.
4. After School Meetings:
  - a. Students attending meetings should notify the coach in person, prior to the meeting and as soon as possible.
  - b. Students will return to practice with a pass from the teacher that called the after school meeting.
  - c. If any activity requires an athlete to miss a number of practices, arrangements must be made each week between the student, the coach and the teacher. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made the student will have to make a choice between the two activities.
  - d. Academic make up work is an excused absence for missing practice time. The student needs to arrange this with the coach and teacher.
5. Student Council or NHS may meet after school. Participants who are Student Council Members and/or NHS members are excused from practice for this purpose.

## LIMITING SQUAD SIZE

If a 9-12 activity has a large number of participants, too large to safely and effectively conduct practices, the coach/advisor may limit the squad size. If this is deemed necessary, there will be an evaluation/tryout period for that activity as determined by the coach or advisor. If a student participant does not qualify for team membership following the evaluation/tryout period, the participant will be offered a full refund for the activity fee paid.

## ACTIVITIES ACCELERATION POLICY

Participation By students on athletic teams representing the secondary schools on Independent School District #726 will normally be limited to those students representing the school that they attend for regular classes. Such teams constitute an integral part of the total secondary program and are primarily designed to serve the needs of only the students of that school.

This policy represents the basic guideline for athletic participation in Independent School District #726. However, on rare occasions, a middle school athlete may be so physically and emotionally mature, as well as athletically gifted, that consideration should be given to allowing that student to leave his/her middle school team and compete at the senior high level. Such a decision requires a thoughtful and critical look at the needs of the student and concern for his/her physical, mental, and emotional well being, and the best interests of the student's

total development. In addition to the specific student concerns, the effect on the middle school and senior high school programs must be considered. At the middle school level, emphasis shall be placed on participation and skill development as compared to the philosophy of stronger competitiveness and playing to win at the senior high level. The welfare of the student must be the focus of all recommendations and decisions.

## **CONSIDERATIONS TO EXAMINE**

- Physical abilities and emotional needs of the student(s).
- Effect on both middle school and high school programs.
- Academic performances of the student(s).
- Student, parents, coach, principal, and activities director are in agreement.

## **ACCELERATION PROTOCOL**

1. The head varsity coach will initiate in writing the proposed acceleration to the high school activities director.
2. The varsity coach, middle school coach, middle school principal, high school principal, and activities director will meet to discuss the proposed acceleration and come to a mutual agreement if the acceleration should take place.
3. If the recommendation is to further consider acceleration, the parents/guardians and the student will then be notified by the head varsity coach and asked to review the recommendation in a meeting with the coach and activities director both present.
4. Once the student has been accelerated, the student will have a two-week evaluation period. At the end of that time, a final decision on placement for the season shall be made.
5. Once the student has passed the two-week evaluation period, the student must remain at the level and may not return to a lower level for the remainder of the season. The athlete would not play at the lower level when accelerated level of competition has been completed in the same season.

## **DEFINITIONS**

A. Grade levels 9, 10, 11, and 12 shall be considered as senior high program.

B. Grades 7 and 8 shall be considered the middle school program.

### **C. Individual or Team Programs:**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade are strongly encouraged to participate in programs available at their age level. While MSHSL rules state that all 7-12 students are eligible to participate in the 9-12 program, it is the general practice of School District #726 not to accelerate students from middle school programs to senior high school MSHSL team programs. However, when extenuating circumstances arise, any exceptions to this practice will be reviewed through the use of the Acceleration Protocol.

### **D. Combined Individual/Team Programs:**

Some programs have combined middle and high school levels to ensure the opportunity for all students. In 7-12 combined programs, students are eligible to compete without use of the Acceleration Protocol.

All names of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students competing at a JV or Varsity level in combined programs shall be promptly forwarded to the Activities Office. This information will also be given to the middle school administration.

NOTE: 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are not eligible to participate in any 7-12 activity programs (as per MSHSL policy).

## FEES

Each school year an activity fee will be charged for participation in each activity and/or sport.

### **I. Fee System**

A. Fee amounts are set by the school board each year.

### **II. Refunds**

A. When injury or illness prevents continuation in the sport a refund will be made provided.

1. That a doctor's statement substantiates the injury or illness.

2. The injury or illness occurs before the time of the first contest.

B. When a transfer is made out of Becker School District a refund will be made provided that the transfer occurs before the time of the first contest.

C. If a student quits a sport there will be NO REFUND.

D. If a student is dismissed from a sport because of disciplinary reasons or an infraction of the eligibility rules there will be NO REFUND.

E. After the first contest no refund will be made for any reason. This is due to the fact that the benefits of the sports equipment usage will have accrued to the amount of the fee.

F. A student who is seeking a refund must receive a Refund Request Form from the Activities Director. Parents must fill out the form and return it to the A.D., who will process the request. Refunds will be made by check from the district office upon receipt of a Refund Request Form, and after school board approval.

### **III. Accounting for Fees**

A. A record of fees collected will be kept on file in the Activities Director's Office.

B. Receipts will be issued (upon request) for payment of fees made in cash.

### **IV. Waiving a Fee**

A. It is possible to have an activity fee waived or reduced in cases of undue hardship.

1. Parents or guardians can request a waiver of fees by filling out the School District's Free and Reduced Lunch Form. If the paperwork qualifies the family for Free lunches, activity fees will be waived. If the paperwork qualifies the family for reduced lunches, activity fees will be reduced by half.

## MSHSL STATE TOURNAMENT

1. All students may attend state tournaments.
2. Each student who attends a session during school time must have written permission from their parents and approval from the attendance office. The student must notify the teacher of the absence, and all class work missed must be completed before the absence or on the day the student returns to school.

## VARSITY LETTER PHILOSOPHY

The varsity letter award is presented to the participants that reach a high level of achievement in each activity. The purpose of the award is to have the participants set their sights high and to work diligently to reach those goals. Once achieved, the participant should feel proud of his/her accomplishments.

## ATHLETIC LETTERS

The following apply to all activities:

1. The student must be an athlete which the activities department feels is deserving of this award.
2. Seniors will be given a letter award for three successive years (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades) of service in an activity.
3. The student must abide by training rules, maintain classroom eligibility, be regular in attendance at practices and follow MSHSL requirements for eligibility.
4. By special recommendations of the coaches/advisors and administration, a student who has not met the requirements for a letter award may receive such an award if he/she has proven himself/herself to be an exceptional participant.
5. All members of a first level championship team will receive a letter award.
6. In the event of contests being cancelled, the following letter requirements can be adjusted proportionately.

### Letter Requirements:

Swimming: Athletes must achieve 35 team points to letter or qualify in the top 6 at the Sectional meet.

Cross Country-Boys and Girls: In order to receive a letter award for Cross Country, an individual must earn 50 points. These points are earned as follows:

1. In a varsity meet, if you finish in the top five on our squad you will be awarded 5 points.
2. In a varsity meet, if you finish 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> on our squad you will be awarded 3 points.

3. Points will double in the conference and section meets.

4. Any athlete competing in a region or state meet will automatically receive a letter award.

Football: In order to receive a letter award a player must play one more quarter than the total number of games.

Volleyball: In order to receive a letter award, a player must play in one-quarter of the total games played.

Tennis-Boys and Girls: Athletes must participate in 70% of all varsity matches scheduled for that year.

Basketball-Boys and Girls: In order to receive a letter award a player must play one more half than the total number of games.

Girls' Gymnastics:

1. A member of the team must score 75 points in one season in order to receive a letter award.

2. If a member of the team participates in only one event they must average 7.5 points per meet in order to receive a letter award.

3. Ten letter points can be earned by perfect attendance at practices.

Wrestling:

1. A member of the team must score 12 team points in one season in order to receive a letter award.

2. A wrestler who wins a section match will receive a letter even if he has not scored 12 team points.

3. A point will be given for each match wrestled at the varsity level.

Hockey-Boys: A member of the varsity team must play in one more period than the total number of games played.

Baseball and Softball: In order to receive a letter award a player must play an average of two innings per game.

Track-Boys and Girls: In order to receive a letter award a participant must score 11 team points or place in a conference or sub-section meet.

Golf-Boys and Girls: An athlete must play in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the varsity matches or play in the conference or sub-section meet.

Lacrosse-Girls: A member of the varsity team must play in one more period than the total number of games played.

## AWARD SYSTEM

1. The first time a student fulfills the requirements for a letter award he/she will receive a letter "B," a letter certificate and a sport insignia.
2. The second time a student fulfills the requirements for a letter award he/she will receive a letter certificate and bar.
3. Captain of athletic teams will be issued a star.
4. Letter cannot be earned by participation at the junior varsity level.
5. "Letters of Participation" will be awarded at the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels and at the varsity and junior varsity levels if lettering standards are not met.
6. Three Activity Award: Any participant that earns a varsity letter in three activities in one year will receive a Three Activity Award.

# SPECIAL AWARDS

## Each Sport will award the following special awards:

### Football:

1. Most Valuable Player
2. Monster Man
3. Most Dedicated

### Cross Country-Boys and Girls:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Dedicated
3. Most Improved

### Basketball-Boys:

1. Most Valuable
2. Hardest Worker
3. Most Improved

### Basketball-Girls:

1. Senior Award
2. Senior Award
3. Senior Award

### Gymnastics:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Dedicated
3. Most Improved

### Track-Boys and Girls:

1. Leading Scorer
2. Most Dedicated
3. Most Improved

### Lacrosse-Girls:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Dedicated
3. Most Improved

### Softball:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Improved
3. Most Dedicated

### Volleyball:

1. Most Valuable Player
2. Defensive Award
3. Most Improved

### Swimming/Diving:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Dedicated
3. Most Improved

### Wrestling:

1. Most Outstanding
2. Varsity Most Improved
3. Rookie of the Year

### Hockey Boys:

- ~~1. Most Valuable~~
- ~~2. Most Dedicated~~
- ~~3. Most Improved~~

### Tennis-Boys and Girls:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Improved
3. Most Dedicated

### Golf-Boys and Girls:

1. Meet Medalist
2. Most Improved
3. Most Dedicated

### Dance Team:

- ~~1.~~
- ~~2.~~
- ~~3.~~

### Baseball:

1. Most Valuable
2. Most Improved
3. Most Dedicated

## Scholar Athlete Award:

The top cumulative G.P.A. varsity letter winner that has completed their sophomore year will receive the Scholar Athlete Award in each sport.

### **Outstanding Athletic Award:**

This award will be given each year to one boy and one girl in the senior class. It will be awarded according to the following criteria.

1. The student must be a senior in good standing at Becker High School.
2. The student must be academically in the top one-half of his/her senior class.
3. The student must have earned a varsity letter in two or more sports during his/her senior year.
4. The student must have a good disciplinary record in the Principal's Office.
5. Each varsity and assistant varsity coach will get one vote for the boy and one vote for the girl whom he/she feels is most qualified to receive the award.

### **Athletic Honor Roll:**

1. Win an Individual State Championship
2. Make 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference 2 years in 2 team sport.
3. Make 5 state entries in a varsity career in an individual sport
4. Make an All State Team in 1 sport

### **Distinguished Service Award:**

Nominations must be turned in to the Athletic Director by May.  
It is recommended that two selections are honored each year at the Spring Athletic Banquet.  
Each Head Coach will receive one vote.

#### **Criteria:**

1. Can be an organization or individual that volunteered their time and resources to help Becker athletics.
2. Years of service will have strong consideration.



## **FREE ADMITTANCE INTO HOME ATHLETIC EVENTS**

The following people shall be allowed free admittance to all home athletic events:

- Coaches, Administration, and School Board member with association passes
- All participants, coaches, scorers and managers
- Cheerleaders in uniform and the cheerleading advisor
- Performing pep band members and the pep band director
- All District 726 employees and their spouses
- Individuals participating in half time activities
- Pre-School Children
- Senior Citizens (65 and over)
- Media personnel
- Emergency vehicle people, patrolmen, doctor on duty (if needed)
- Workers-concession stand, supervisors, etc.
- In addition to the above, parents of participating athletes shall be admitted free to athletic events on special parents' nights.

# 300.00 BYLAWS:ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

**\*A Fair Hearing Procedure and Acknowledgement of Rights are provided for all students who wish to appeal a school's determination of a student's eligibility.**

## 1. Fair Hearing Procedure

Section 211.02.8 of the Constitution of the Minnesota State High School League provides a Fair Hearing Procedure for a student, parent or guardian to appeal a school's determination of ineligibility of a student pursuant to the student's violation of a League bylaw.

The purpose of the Fair Hearing Procedure is to allow a local hearing panel to review the decision of the school representatives regarding the student's declaration of ineligibility. All rulings must be consistent with League bylaws. Only the Board of Directors has the constitutional authority to waive the application of the penalty for the violation of any bylaw.

These Fair Hearing Procedures apply to all eligibility situations where a student, parent or guardian contests the school's eligibility decision EXCEPT in the situations identified below.

- A. The student admits to the violation.
- B. The student neither admits to nor denies the violation, but accepts and serves the penalty.
- C. The sole issue in question is the determination by the school to impose a penalty greater than the minimum League suspension for the violation.
- D. The principal's decision regarding the school's eligibility requirements for the student. (See Bylaw 206.1)

## 2. General Eligibility Review Process

Bylaw 305-Master Eligibility List and Bylaw 306-Responsibility for Student Eligibility indicates it is the responsibility of the school administrator to determine the eligibility of all students who participate in League-sponsored programs offered by their schools. When a student's eligibility is in jeopardy due to an alleged violation of the League bylaws and policies, the school will conduct an investigation. The investigation will begin on the day the school is first notified of the alleged violation and it shall conclude within 10 calendar days. At the conclusion of the investigation the school must make a determination of the eligibility status of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the member school to notify the student, parent or guardian in writing of the eligibility determination. The written notification must also include a copy of the Fair Hearing Procedure and the Acknowledgment of Rights.

- A. A student, parent or guardian may contest a school's eligibility decision as follows:
  - 1.) Within 10 calendar days of the documented notification regarding eligibility, the student, parent or guardian must request a hearing on the school's eligibility decision. The written request for hearing must include a statement outlining the basis for the claim of eligibility.
  - 2.) The school administrator shall convene a hearing panel of from three (3) to five (5) members with 10 calendar days after receipt of the request

for hearing. The hearing panel shall include a member of the Board of Education, a member of the school's administrative staff and a member of the school faculty, or the school may elect to have the hearing be conducted by an independent hearing officer.

- a.) Any member of the school staff who was involved in the investigation of the initial eligibility determination cannot serve as part of the hearing panel.
- b.) One member of the hearing panel must be identified as the chair.
- c.) The school must send the notification of the hearing by certified mail or personally deliver it to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
- d.) The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must be provided a minimum of three (3) calendar days notice beginning with the **receipt** of the notice of the hearing.
- e.) The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the hearing.
- f.) The student shall have a right to be represented by a person of the student's choice, which may include legal counsel.
- g.) All costs of the hearing incurred by the school shall be borne by the school.

3.) The hearing panel shall:

- a.) **Designate** one of the panel members as the chair.
- b.) **Make** an audio recording of the hearing and preserve a written record pending ultimate outcome of the matter.
- c.) **Hear** the complete evidence on the matter.
- d.) **Determine** if the school's declaration of ineligibility is supported by substantial evidence and is consistent with League bylaws. When making this determination, the committee shall meet on its own and no other persons shall be present or participate in any way in the committee's deliberations.
- e.) **Issue** written findings of fact, conclusions and determination. The written findings, conclusions and determination shall be sent by registered mail or personally delivered to the student, parent or guardian and the Executive Director of the League within three (3) calendar days of the conclusion of the hearing. The findings, conclusion and recommendations shall be stated in sufficient detail to apprise the parties of the basis and reason for the determination. The chair of the hearing panel shall be responsible for composing the written findings and shall sign the findings on behalf of the hearing panel.
- f.) Within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the determination of the hearing panel the Executive Director of the League or his designee shall either affirm or overrule the determination made by the school hearing panel based on compliance with League bylaws. If the decision of the hearing panel is overruled, then the Executive Director shall notify the school and the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of his decision registered mail. If the decision of the hearing panel is affirmed, notification shall be sent by first class mail.

B. A student, parent, or guardian may **appeal** the decision of the hearing panel or Executive Director of the League to the League Board of Directors. To appeal, the student, parent or guardian must:

- 1.) Submit a written notice of appeal to the Executive Director of the League and a copy to the school principal. The notice of appeal must be personally delivered or postmarked within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the written findings of fact, conclusions and determination from the school hearing panel or the decision of the League Executive Director. The notice must outline the basis of the appeal.
- 2.) The written request for a League-level fair hearing will be reviewed by League staff. Within (10) days of receipt of the written request the League will contact the student, parent or guardian to indicate whether the rationale warrants a League-level fair hearing. An extension to the ten (10) day notification window may be made by mutual agreement.
- 3.) If the appeal is granted the hearing shall be scheduled on a mutually acceptable date.
- 4.) The appeal by an Independent Hearing Officer shall be a review of the proceedings and the record of the local hearing panel decision or the decision of the League Executive Director.
- 5.) The proceedings of the appeal shall be recorded and preserved pending the ultimate disposition of the matter. In the event that the audio recording or the written record is inadequate for review, the hearing officer may remand the case back to the local school district for a new hearing.
- 6.) The appeal shall be heard by an Independent Hearing Officer. If all parties agree, the hearing may be conducted by telephone; or the hearing may consist of an independent review of the local level record which shall include the documents presented at the hearing and the written arguments.
- 7.) The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's choice, which may include legal counsel.
- 8.) Within four (4) calendar days of the oral presentation made at the appeal level, the Independent Hearing Officer shall make a recommendation to the League Board of Directors. The recommendation shall be in writing and based upon the record, including the oral and written presentations of the parties from the local level hearings. The recommendation of the Independent Hearing Officer will govern the student's eligibility until action by the League Board of Directors or by the League Executive Director acting on behalf of the League Board of Directors.
- 9.) The League Board of Directors will review and officially act upon the matter at its first regularly scheduled meeting following the receipt of the Independent Hearing Officer's decision.
- 10.) The decision of the League Board of Directors shall be final.
- 11.) If any of the procedural steps identified in sections 3.A.1, 3.A.2, or 3.A.3 above are omitted during the local level hearing and the Independent Hearing Officer finds that the student has been prejudiced, the Independent Hearing Officer may direct the school to rehear the case at the local level. If a rehearing is required, a new local hearing panel shall be used.

C. A violation of the technical provision of the Fair Hearing Procedure, made in good faith, is not a defense to the disciplinary procedure unless the student can show actual prejudice as a result of the violation.

### 3. Transfer Eligibility Review Process:

Two processes are available for a review of a determination of transfer eligibility: the **Appeal Process** and the **Fair Hearing Procedure**.

A. The purpose of the **Application to Appeal a Transfer Eligibility Determination** includes, but is not limited to the following circumstances:

- 1.) Documented internal Board of Education policies regarding the movement of students within the school district;
- 2.) Adoption, abandonment, broken home, death of a parent or other circumstances beyond the control of the student;
- 3.) A documented negative change in the economic status of the student's parents which requires the student to return to the school located in the attendance area where the student's parents reside.
- 4.) Intolerable conditions at the Sending School as affirmed in writing by the Sending School;
- 5.) Enrollment in an Advance Placement program, an International Baccalaureate program or similar advanced academic program not offered at the school the student attends;
- 6.) Administrative error in addressing a student's initial eligibility;
- 7.) Completion of a licensed program for treatment of alcohol or substance abuse, mental illness or emotional disturbance provided all other eligibility rules are followed;
- 8.) Other conditions not covered above but which may be agreed to by both the Sending and Receiving Schools.

**B. The Fair Hearing Procedure for Transfer Eligibility.** If the school administrator refuses to submit the eligibility question directly to the League office through the appeal process, the student, parent or guardian still retains the right to request the Fair Hearing Procedure. Once the student, parent or guardian is informed of the school's refusal to submit an appeal the student, parent or guardian may request the Fair Hearing Procedure be used to review the eligibility determination for the student. The request must be made within ten (10) calendar days of the notification of the student, parent or guardian but the school of the student's transfer eligibility determination.

### C. General Information:

- 1.) The school now attended by the student is the "New School" or "Receiving School." The school last attended by the student is the "Former School" or Sending School."
- 2.) Transfer eligibility determinations and transfer eligibility appeals can only be submitted to the League once the student has completed the transfer.
- 3.) A student transfer is considered complete when the student attends school at the New School or participates in a fall sport practice prior to the first day of school for the new school year.

4.) The school administrator of the New School determines a transfer student is ineligible for varsity competition at the New School as a result of the mandatory application of the provisions of MSHSL Bylaw 111-Transfer and Residence.

5.) The school administrator informs the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the eligibility determination. The student will choose either to participate at the New School, or for one calendar year-beginning with the first day of attendance at the New School, or for one year-choose to participate at the Former School. The choice of participation at the New School or Former School is an "either or" decision.

6.) If the student chooses to participate at the Sending School for one year the appeal or fair hearing options are not applicable.

7.) If the student chooses to participate at the New School the student, parent or guardian may request a review of the transfer eligibility determination. Two procedures are available for a review of transfer eligibility.

\*Appeal Process

\*Hearing Process

8.) Once the student, parent or guardian is informed of the school's determination of transfer eligibility for the student, the student, parent or guardian may ask the Receiving School to submit a request for an eligibility review-transfer eligibility appeal-directly to the League staff if the student is deemed to be ineligible as the result of the mandatory application of League Bylaw 111-Transfer and Residence, and if there are not fact in dispute.

9.) The school administrator responsible for determining eligibility at the New School will review the student, parent or guardian rationale for seeking the appeal and determine if the rationale warrants the submission of the appeal.

10.) In either case, the student, parent or guardian must request the Appeal or the Hearing with ten (10) calendar days of notification of the eligibility status by the school administrator.

11.) If the student decides to participate at the New School, then requests and receives an appeal or hearing and subsequently is not granted varsity eligibility at the New School, the student may not then choose to participate at the Former School. It is not a situation where the student says: "I will participate at the New School, appeal my eligibility and then if the appeal is not granted, participate at my Former School."

#### **D. Transfer Eligibility Appeal and Hearing Step-By-Step Process**

1.) The school administrator responsible for eligibility submits the electronic transfer form to the League office for review.

2.) Staff at the League office reviews the transfer form and sends an electronic response to the submitting school administrator.

3.) Once the student, parent or guardian is informed of the student's eligibility, the student, parent or guardian can request an appeal of the transfer eligibility determination if the student has chosen to participate at the Receiving School.

a.) Student, parent or guardian asks the school administrator to appeal the transfer eligibility determination;

- b.) Student, parent or guardian provides the specific rationale for the appeal;
  - c.) Student, parent or guardian provides the documentation to support the appeal.
- 4.) The school administrator reviews the rationale and documentation and decides to either:
  - a.) Deny the request for an appeal-if the appeal is denied the student parent or guardian can ask for a Fair Hearing at the League Level.
    - i. The student, parent or guardian request for a Fair Hearing at the League level must be made within ten (10) calendar days of notification of the appeal denial;
    - ii. The request for a League-level hearing must be in writing;
    - iii. The request must include the specific rationale describing why a Fair Hearing at the League level should be granted;
    - iv. Documentation supporting the rationale for a League-level hearing must be included; or
  - b.) Agree to submit an appeal.
- 5.) The administrator at the Receiving School accesses the appeal form at the bottom of the League response to the electronic transfer form.
- 6.) The appeal document has four parts:
  - a.) Part 1: Information from the student, parent or guardian-gathered by school administrator at the Receiving School and inserted into form. Click “Submit” and Part 2 will appear on screen;
  - b.) Part 2: Information from the Receiving School-gathered by the school administrator at the Receiving School and inserted into form. Click “Submit” to send it to the Sending School;
  - c.) Part 3: Information from the Sending School-gathered but eh school administrator at the Sending School and inserted into the form. Click “Submit” to send it to the League office;
  - d.) Part 4: League review and response-League staff will review the appeal and either grant or deny the appeal;
    - i. The league office may request additional documentation or information;
    - ii. The League office will work with the school administrator, not the student, parent or guardian during this process.
    - iii. Once, the appeal document is received at the League office, League staff, acting within their authority, shall render an eligibility determination and notify the Receiving School within five (5) to seven (7) business days.
- 7.) After review of an appeal the League office will either:
  - a.) Deny the appeal; or
  - b.) Grant the appeal.
- 8.) If the appeal is submitted, reviewed and denied, the student, parent or guardian may request a Fair Hearing at the League level.

- a.) The student, parent or guardian request for a Fair Hearing at the League level must be made within ten (10) calendar days of notification of the appeal denial;
  - b.) The request for a League-level hearing must be in writing;
  - c.) The request must include the specific rationale describing why a Fair Hearing at the League level should be held;
  - d.) Documentation supporting the rationale for a League-level hearing must be included.
- 9.) After the review of the request for a League-level hearing the League office will either:
- a.) Deny the request; or
  - b.) Grant the request.
- 10.) If the request for a League-level hearing is granted, the hearing will be held before an independent hearing officer. The independent hearing officer's recommendation will stand until it is reviewed by the League Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 11.) The League Board of Directors will accept or deny the recommendations from the independent hearing officer.
- 12.) The decision of the League Board of Directors is final.

**FAIR HEARING ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RIGHTS:**

We \_\_\_\_\_, the parents/guardians, and \_\_\_\_\_ the student, acknowledge that we have requested an evidentiary hearing to determine the eligibility of the above named student to participate in activities sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League.

We acknowledge that we have the right to legal counsel of our own choosing to represent us at said hearing. We also understand that we can question any witnesses in this matter and that we can present witnesses and other evidence at said hearing, including documentary evidence that is favorable to our position.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_