

BITTERROOT HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION Annual Certification

Name: _____ Email: _____

Current Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

As a board member/coach for BHAA, I hereby certify that *I have read, understood, will support, and will enforce the following:*

Please Initial Each Statement

_____ BHAA Expectations

_____ BHAA Child Safety Code of Conduct

_____ MCAA Eligibility Requirements and MCAA Code of Conduct

_____ I agree to comply with and abide by all the rules, regulations, and rulings of the organization and its officials.

_____ I understand that any action, either physical or verbal, that is deemed by the board to be detrimental to BHAA will cause my immediate and indefinite suspension.

_____ I authorize BHAA to complete background checks, from whatever source deemed appropriate, as it feels necessary.

_____ I have read, understand, agree with, and will fully support the following BHAA *Statement of Faith* (below).

<p>COACHES:</p> <p>Completed online coaching clinic (Date: _____)</p> <p>Completed concussion training (Date: _____)</p>

All board members and coaches are required to sign this statement of faith, indicating their agreement with it. Although players and their families are not required to sign the statement, we want families to know this is an important aspect of BHAA and MSAA.

The BHAA Statement of Faith

We believe in and unqualifiedly affirm:

- The inspiration of the Bible, equally in all parts and without error in its origin.
- The one God, eternally existent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who created man by a direct immediate act.
- The pre-existence, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension to Heaven, and second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The fall of man, the need of regeneration by the operation of the Holy Spirit on the basis of grace through faith and the resurrection of all; to life or damnation.
- The spiritual relationship of all believers by the Lord Jesus Christ, living a life of righteous works, separated from the world, witnessing of His saving grace through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

BITTERROOT HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Coach / Player / Parent Expectations

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

BHAA expects its Coaches to:

1. Be responsible for their own behavior and also the behavior of their team members, their parents, and fans.
2. Lead by example in being respectful of other players, coaches, fans, and officials at all times.
3. Provide a sports environment for their team that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language at all BHAA events.
4. Place the emotional and physical well-being of their players ahead of a personal desire or external pressure to win.
5. Never publicly demean a player, official, opposing coach, or parent.
6. Ensure that their players are supervised by a coach or another designated adult and never allow their players to be left unattended or unsupervised at a game or practice.
7. Never knowingly permit an injured player to play or return to the game.
8. Take reasonable steps to see that all equipment used by their players is safe and conforms to standards.
9. Take the initiative in resolving any known or suspected conflict relating to a player or family.
10. Accept positive and negative feedback graciously as from the Lord.
11. Communicate expectations – including these BHAA expectations – clearly to players and parents.

BHAA expects its Players to:

1. Be courteous to opposing teams and treat all players, officials, and coaches with the utmost respect.
2. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
3. Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. Stay composed and exercise “self-control.”
4. Show respect for authority to all officials, whether or not they agree with a call.
5. Respect the privilege of using playing facilities by cleaning up benches, locker rooms, stands, and grounds after a practice or game.
6. Refrain from use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.
7. Avoid profanity or demeaning speech on all occasions, even in the “heat of competition.”
8. Be an encourager.
9. Understand that the TEAM comes before the welfare of an individual player.
10. Be willing to serve in any role to build TEAM success.
11. Show up for practice on time, with proper equipment, and ready to play.
12. Make reasonable efforts in advance to be excused from any scheduled classes or activities that conflict with practices, games, or team functions.
13. Communicate to the coach ahead of time when they will miss a practice or game.

14. Dress in a manner that could not be considered offensive or morally suggestive at all BHAA events.
15. Tell the coach of their concerns or problems instead of talking to others about them.
16. Seek to resolve personal conflicts with teammates. Speak to them first and seek reconciliation.

BHAA expects Parents to:

1. Trust the coach to coach the team.
2. Volunteer to help with team needs whenever possible.
3. Let the officials and umpires call the game, remembering that they too are only human and that rarely is the outcome of a game determined by a "bad call."
4. Demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship at games by using only positive cheers and never laughing at errors or jeering an opponent.
5. Advocate a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language, including profanity, and refrain from their use during any BHAA event.
6. Assist their athletes to show up to practice and games on time, with proper equipment, and ready to play.
7. Direct their athletes to communicate to the coach in advance of any anticipated missed practices or games.
8. Speak to the coach privately (and not to others) about any issues concerning any aspect of their family or athlete's participation on a BHAA team.
9. Speak to the Athletic Director about any issue not adequately resolved with a coach.
10. Be familiar with the MCAA rules of eligibility and to notify the coach of any reason their athlete might not qualify to play with BHAA.
11. Fill out the post-season evaluations with truth and love.

BITTERROOT HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Child Safety Code of Conduct

Coaches and adults interacting with children must do so with integrity and respect for the child. There is a danger that the sporting context could be used to exploit or undermine children. All adult actions should be guided by what is best for the child. Verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable at all times.

This Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to the following expectations of staff and volunteers.

I. Visibility

All work with children shall be planned in a way that minimizes risks as far as possible. This includes being visible to other adults when working with children. This can be accomplished by planning activities in areas where other adults are present and at a time when other activities are occurring.

II. Three Person Rule

The “three person rule” prohibits one adult being alone with one youth. At least two unrelated adults shall be present in work with children. When this is not possible, reduce isolation by having a minimum of two children present.

III. Physical Contact

Creating a child safe environment does not mean ceasing all physical contact with children; however strategies should be put in place to ensure that all physical contact that occurs is appropriate, related to the sport and only occurs when necessary. The requirements of sports can vary significantly, which means that contact which is appropriate in one sport may not be appropriate for another; however, it is widely recognized that in some situations appropriate physical contact is required to support an athlete. These include:

- To provide guidance to develop a particular skill; or
- To prevent an injury.

If physical contact is appropriate and required in a particular situation, wherever possible, that physical contact should take place in view of the public by utilizing an open space in clear sight of other adults. Always be accountable to other adults regarding your interactions with youth or children.

How should physical contact be undertaken?

- Always seek permission from the child to touch them prior to any contact occurring; for example, “Can I move your forearm to adjust your technique?”
- Be aware of and respect signs indicating the child is uncomfortable with physical contact. This may include limited eye contact or a step away from you.
- Use words to accompany physical contact, explaining what you are doing and why.
- Congratulate children using non-intrusive contact such as a pat on the upper arm, back, high-five, or hand shake.
- Provide skill-teaching support to acceptable body regions such as the shoulders or back, providing it is in context for the sport and the skill or technique being demonstrated.
- Physical restraint and intervention should only occur if there is a serious and imminent risk to an individual's safety. This may include reaching out to grab a child by the arm to move them away from a dangerous situation or holding a child so they don't fall to the floor and injure themselves.

IV. Verbal Interaction

Words can be used to support and encourage a child, such as praise, positive reinforcement, and appropriate jokes. Inappropriate verbal interaction includes the following: shaming, belittling, humiliating, name calling, using harsh language that may frighten, threaten or humiliate the child, cursing, or making derogatory remarks about the child. Adults shall avoid favoring or showing differential treatment to particular children or youth to the exclusion of others. Inappropriate verbal interaction also includes telling off-color or sexual jokes, making sexually suggestive comments, telling inappropriate secrets, or inappropriately discussing sexual encounters or desires with children.

V. Discipline

Discipline should be used to teach and correct rather than punish. It should not include slapping, hitting, shaming, yelling at, or belittling a child.

VI. Technology

Technology should be used appropriately to protect children or youth from abuse and exploitation; for example, to prevent downloading pornographic material from the internet, access to inappropriate emails, chat rooms, or movies.

VII. Selection of Suitable Staff and Volunteers

BHA will take reasonable steps to ensure that the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children are engaged. This may be achieved using a range of screening measures through the application process, including conducting background checks. If a criminal history report is obtained as part of the screening process, the board will ensure that the criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with relevant state requirements.

VIII. Reporting

All Bitterroot Homeschool Athletic Association representatives are required to report immediately to the Athletic Director any disclosure or allegation from a child or community member or representative regarding the safety, abuse, or exploitation of a child; observation of concerning behavior by any representative that breaches this policy or the Child Safety Code of Conduct; inappropriate use of technology, including computers and photographic equipment; persons engaging in suspicious behavior that could be associated with child abuse or exploitation or trafficking.

Mandatory reporters are required to report the facts and circumstances that led them to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected. They do not have the burden of providing proof that abuse or neglect has occurred.

To report a possible case of child abuse or neglect, call toll-free 1-866-820-5437.

The Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline accepts confidential reports of suspected child abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Reports are received through a toll-free telephone line which is answered seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

IX. Enforcement and Discipline

The Athletic Director will conduct an investigation in a timely and thorough manner, and may require the assistance of outside legal, mediation, or other expert advice. The investigation and its outcomes will be appropriately documented, and the Athletic Director will inform the board of the complaint and the outcome of the investigation.

MCAA ByLaws – Article V: Rules to be used for MCAA sports (abbreviated)

5.A. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

5.A.1. Age and Graduation

5.A.1.a. No student is eligible to participate in the MCAA who has turned 19 on or before August 31st of that school year.

5.A.1.b. No student is eligible to participate in the MCAA who has received a GED.

5.A.1.c. No student is eligible to participate in the MCAA who has gone through a graduation ceremony.

5.A.2 Student athletes are allowed to participate in the MCAA at the High School level for four (4) years.

5.A.2.a. An extension of a fifth (5th) year of participation will be granted to those students who are in the eighth (8th) grade and participation at the high school level. The Board of Directors must be informed in writing of such participation.

5.A.2.b. Seventh (7th) grade student athletes are allowed to participate in the MCAA at the High School level only when the total athlete participation is below the following numbers: Soccer—12; Volleyball—9; Basketball—10, without losing a year of eligibility. The Board must be informed in writing of such participation.

5.A.2.c. Seventh (7th) grade student athletes are allowed to participate in the MCAA at a Sub-Varsity High School level without losing a year of eligibility. The Board must be informed in writing of such participation.

5.A.3. Any student who is not in full-time attendance at an MCAA member school/ association, must have Board approval. A written request for a Board ruling must be made prior to participation.

5.B. MCAA ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

5.B.1. Players must play for the respective team in their geographic area at which they must be in full-time attendance. No student may establish athletic eligibility concurrently at two schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MCAA activities.

5.B.2. Girls play girls' sports and boys play boys' sports.

5.B.3. A student with no program available to him/her, who is not enrolled in a member school but who wishes to participate within the MCAA, must submit a formal written statement to the Board requesting the privilege to participate as an eligible athlete within a specific member organization. A student enrolled in a school which is a member of a high school athletic association other than the MCAA will not be granted permission to participate in an MCAA program.

MONTANA CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

Welcome to the game. We are anticipating a great contest and hope that you will enjoy the competition.

While you are here it is our hope you will join us in reinforcing positive lessons for the athletes.

We believe athletics teaches valuable life lessons like:

***Self-control**

***Team work**

***Goal setting**

***The value of fitness**

In that spirit we ask you to cooperate in the lessons we are seeking to teach. Please:

***Display self-control by not being critical of the officials, coaches, or players.**

***Let the coaches coach—please don't shout instructions from the stands.**

***Let your enthusiasm and excitement be channeled into encouragement and appreciation for all of the athletes' efforts. If it is not positive and uplifting—please don't say it or act it out.**

*Let the officials officiate—Let the coaches coach—Let the athletes compete
—Let sportsmanship reign on the court and in the stands!*

*Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt,
so that you will know how you should respond to each person—Colossians 4:6*