

Athletic Department Handbook



2024-2025

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Babcock High School is a proud member of the Florida High School Athletic Association, the Sunshine State Athletic Conference, and the Gulf Coast League

Building Traditions!

This handbook is organized to provide helpful information about Babcock Neighborhood School athletic programs and the responsibilities and privileges of student-athletes, parents, and spectators who participate in or support BNS athletics. While it is not possible to find answers to every question in this handbook, you should find it a useful reference guide.

All questions pertaining to student-athlete eligibility and athletic department policy should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director. Questions regarding a specific sport or team should be directed to the Head Varsity Coach.

BNS Mission

Growing World Changers.

The work of BNS is to develop students academically and with the essential skills for success necessary in their post-secondary experience.

BNS Vision

BNS will design meaningful learning experiences that develop effective communicators, resilient learners, and global citizens, to become tremendous Trailblazers.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Babcock Neighborhood School Athletic Department is to promote and maintain a broad-based program that offers all student-athletes an opportunity for safe, competitive, and healthy participation.

We believe that there is an athlete inside of every child. The purpose is to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to pursue and understand the values of attitude, commitment, responsibility, accountability, work ethic and team concept.

Wearing a Babcock Neighborhood School athletic team uniform is a *privilege*. Our coaches and student-athletes represent our school community. It is the responsibility of each coach and student-athlete to ensure that the mission, vision and core values that set Babcock Neighborhood School apart are reflected in all we do. Babcock Neighborhood School operates under the guiding principles that student-athletes, coaches, teachers, parents and spectators should at all times present themselves in a respectful manner. BNS Trailblazers win and lose with grace and dignity. Respect for one's opponents is a critical component of the BNS athletic experience and coaches, parents and players are expected to embody a respectful attitude at all times.

The use of alcohol, tobacco, or tobacco-like products, performance-enhancing supplements, or other intoxicants and mind-altering substances by student-athletes, coaches, spectators, and officials on Babcock Neighborhood School property is prohibited.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is essential for a successful program. The relationship is between the student-athlete and the Head Coach of their team. However, parents are our strongest allies and can be very effective supporters of our programs. Both parenting and coaching are difficult jobs. The best relationships between these adults are based on mutual respect and understanding.

Coaches will communicate with their teams through Team Reach. All parents must choose the option to have Team Reach to send them notifications. The purpose for the application is to allow for immediate communication in regards to game changes/cancellations, location corrections, or time altercations. Please keep in mind this is an open team forum and if you have a concern that you need to share with a coach, please communicate with them directly.

If your child comes home with a story that appears to be completely uncharacteristic when compared to Babcock Neighborhood School values, please ask your child for complete

details. If the issue appears to be problematic, please contact the Head Coach immediately. Please contact the Athletic Director, if you are unsatisfied after speaking with the coach. Babcock High School believes in educational athletics. Everything in sports is a teaching moment. Therefore, coaches and administrators are happy to meet with parents, but only with the student-athlete present.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

We hold our student-athletes to a very high standard as they are very visible representatives of what BNS stands for. One of the great lessons that athletic participation helps to form is that of character under pressure. Even in the heat of a contest, the following behaviors are considered unacceptable:

- Aggressive physical contact, flagrant fouls, or fighting
- Use of profane language
- Actions which constitute unsportsmanlike conduct
- Disrespectful language or physical behavior towards officials, opponents, coaches, and fans
- Taunting officials or opponents
- Obscene gestures
- Degrading comments
- Failure to appropriately shake hands with opponents and coaches following the game

This list is not exhaustive, and the Babcock Neighborhood School administration reserves the right to review any incident that reflects poorly on the school even if such an incident is not specified above. Should a student-athlete be guilty of representing the school poorly, the administration may utilize the school discipline ladder and/or choose to suspend the athlete from athletic participation for up to one year. Additionally, if the FHSAA levies a fine for an athlete's behavior, it shall be the responsibility of that athlete to reimburse the school for such fines.

Sexual Harassment Prohibition

BNS prohibits harassment of any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or marital status.

Specific Prohibition - It is sexual harassment for a student to subject another student, employee, or non-employee volunteer to, or be the subject of, any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature from another student, employee, or non-employee volunteer. Students who

engage in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action as described in the district *Code of Student Conduct*.

Procedures - Any student who alleges sexual harassment by another student, employee, or non-employee volunteer may use the Student Grievance Procedure or may complain directly to the building principal, the Director of Student Services, or the Assistant Superintendent for School Support.

Reprisals or retaliation for reporting sexual harassment will not be tolerated and will be regarded as threats or intimidation as defined in this document. The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected, consistent with the School Board's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, all of its circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The Superintendent or designee has the responsibility of investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

Disciplinary Action

A substantiated charge of sexual harassment on the part of a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, consistent with the *Matrix of Infractions and Disciplinary Actions* which is located in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Bullying

Charlotte County Public Schools does not tolerate bullying in any form. Students who participate in bullying will face consequences as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. Bullying is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees.

Hazing

At no time will any activity considered hazing be allowed with any team or group associated with Babcock Neighborhood School. Any member found in violation of this policy may face penalties up to and including removal from the team and loss of the ability to participate in any athletic activities at BNS.

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain status in a

group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

Parents represent our school community too! You can help our school present a welcoming environment by displaying courtesy to opposing players, coaches, and parents. All visitors should leave our campus with an understanding of what a great community we are. Remember that your children are always watching the example you set. Please help them learn good manners by being respectful of game officials. Officiating is a difficult job and perceived poor calls are frustrating, but please refrain from public harassment or questioning of game officials. Lastly, coaches spend so much time and effort helping our children be their best. Please support their efforts and refrain from shouting instructions to players. Players should not be pulled aside during the game or game breaks. Please do not engage in a confrontation during a time when the coach is responsible for student-athletes.

If you need to discuss a coach's decision, please do so respectfully at a separate time, normally 24 hours after the event and by appointment. Should this need arise, please respect the chain of command that exists within our school:

1. Schedule a time to talk to the Coach and/or Head Coach.
2. If your concerns have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with after speaking with the coach, please schedule a time to talk to the BHS Athletic Director.
3. If your concerns still have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with, please schedule a time to talk to the BHS Principal.
4. If your concerns still have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with, please schedule a time to talk to the Executive Director of Babcock Neighborhood School.

All parents and spectators are expected to remain behind fences before, during, and after contests and practices for all outdoor sports. In the stadium, the track should remain clear of anyone not involved in the event in an official capacity. All parents and spectators are expected to remain off the playing courts before, during, and after contests and practice for indoor sports. Storming of spectators onto the field/courts after a game puts the student-athletes' safety at risk, therefore we request that the field/courts remain clear of spectators.

Coaches will never leave your student-athlete unattended. This includes while waiting for parents to pick them up. If a parent is late, the coach will remain with your student-athlete. Parents, please be punctual for pick-ups.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SPECTATORS

Every adult spectator helps educate the student-athletes as well as the children in the stands. By modeling high standards of behavior in their conduct, spectators help children understand how to be their best too. Spectators who demonstrate good sportsmanship by accepting the decisions of officials and coaches, responding enthusiastically to cheerleaders, and respecting the property of the school as well as the authority of school officials set the best examples. They remember that the opposing team consists of children too; therefore they don't heckle or jeer members of the opposing teams. Root for – not against!

STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Attendance

A student-athlete must be in school for 75% of the school day (3 blocks Tuesday-Friday or 6 periods on Monday). Medical appointments and other extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Principal. Student-athletes are expected to be at all practices and games unless absent from school. Student-athletes may be dismissed from a team for unexcused absences from practice or a game.

Other Extracurricular Involvement and Competition Teams

Communication is the key to being successful in both sports and extracurricular activities. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the Coach and Sponsor (Band Director, Drama Director, Class Sponsor, etc.) are made aware of any scheduling conflicts as soon as they arise. This includes bringing a copy of the schedule from both activities to both teachers prior to the sports season.

Participation as a member of a BNS athletic team should take precedence over club competition or team practices.

Eligibility

- All high school athletes must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA from the previous semester to be eligible for athletic participation during the current/following school semester. The exception is for incoming 9th graders who have a one semester grace period.
- All middle school athletes must have a 2.0 GPA from the previous semester to be eligible to compete. The middle school GPA is not cumulative. The exception is incoming 6th graders have a one semester grace period.

- A student who begins the season as ineligible will remain ineligible throughout the entire semester they are ineligible.
- Students who fall below a 2.0 GPA per the semester grade check will be ineligible for all athletic events that transpire in the following semester.
- Home school and virtual school students may participate in athletics at BNS after completing the necessary paperwork.

Forms

Every student-athlete must have on file with the Athletic Director all required documents before he/she begins participating in athletics at Babcock Neighborhood School. A student-athlete who participates without the following forms will not be permitted to participate, be ineligible for the remainder of the season, and the team may face game forfeitures.

All forms can be found on the Athletic Clearance website.

- **FHSAA Form EL2 - Pre-participation Physical Examination Form.** This form is valid for a calendar year. If a lapse occurs between the date of expiration and the date of the new physical examination, the student-athlete must stop all athletic physical activity immediately.
- **FHSAA Form EL3 - Consent and Release Liability Form.** This form is valid for a calendar year. This form must be turned in before beginning any training sessions.
- **FHSAA Form GA4 - Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting.** This form is required for all student-athletes entering Babcock Neighborhood School for the first time who began their participation at another school.

NFHS Online Courses

Student athletes must complete the following free NFHS online courses and turn in certificates with paperwork: Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Concussion for Students, and Heat Illness Prevention. Each team will watch these videos collectively to receive credit. However, if a student athlete arrives late to a team, they must go to www.nfhslearn.com/courses and register using their school email address.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the above, international student-athletes must also provide the following: Birth Certificate and/or Passport, Current US Visa, Signed & Executed I-20 A-B Form (F1 Visa Student-athletes only), Original language & translated transcripts (from 8th grade up).

TRYOUTS

Tryouts are a part of school athletics. However, it is not mandatory that a team cut players from the team. Many teams opt for a no-cut policy. Deciding to cut or not will truly depend on facilities, safety, equipment, and is determined by the Head Coach in consultation with the Athletic Director.

Coaches will not restrict any student-athlete from trying out, nor will a student-athlete's placement on a team be dependent on their participation during off-season open gym workouts or participation on a travel ball team. The decision must be based on ability, attitude, and commitment. Results from tryouts must be communicated personally by the Head Coach to the student-athlete.

Student-athletes may not try out for the next season until they have completed the current season to its fullest. This includes all post-season tournaments. The current season sport Head Coach may grant permission to the student-athlete to try out for the next season sport team; as long as it does not interfere with the current season. This is completely at the discretion of the current season Head Coach. The current season sport has priority over any involvement with a next season sport team.

PRACTICE TIMES

Middle School teams will generally practice 3 - 4 times per week. Practices will begin right after school and usually run up to 5pm. Exact schedule will be communicated by the Head Coach.

Junior Varsity & Varsity teams will generally practice five times per week. Practices will typically run from 3:30pm – 5:30pm, but may differ slightly from sport to sport. Due to facility & student-athlete availability, some Varsity teams may opt for morning practices beginning at 6:00am. Exact schedules will be communicated by the Head Coach.

TEAM UNIFORMS

After a student is placed onto a team, the coach will arrange for uniform distribution. Students will be assigned a uniform that they will be responsible for. After the season ends, the student is expected to return all issued uniforms within a two week period. The student account will be billed for any uniform lost, damaged or not returned.

ADMISSION CHARGES FOR HOME GAMES

Admission for Home Middle School games is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

Admission for Home JV and Varsity games is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.

All Babcock Neighborhood School faculty, administration and staff may attend all regular season Home games for free. Everyone must pay a designated admission fee for all State Series competitions (District & Regional Tournaments).

FACILITIES

Babcock Neighborhood School is blessed with great facilities. It is incumbent that we are good stewards of what we have and this will require a collaborative effort from our student-athletes, parents, spectators, and coaching staff. All equipment must be securely put away after each practice or game and many hands make light work for all. Facilities must be picked up daily after each use. This includes the gymnasium, locker rooms, press box, concession stands, fields, weight rooms and other rooms or facilities used by a team. When everyone picks up after themselves, helps with trash pickup, and assists with moving equipment on and off the game and practice fields, it makes it easier for everyone.

The gym floor is one of our most expensive facilities to maintain and constant attention to it will improve its quality. Our facility crew does a great job with the maintenance of our indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. When every member of the BNS community is mindful about how they can help, it is a great example of the BNS community pulling together for mutual benefit.

Babcock Neighborhood School student-athletes may **not** use the facilities without direct supervision from a school employee and permission from the Athletic Director.

TRANSPORTATION

Depending on availability, all teams will travel to away games using the athletic department charter buses or vans. There may be situations where transportation is not available, and parents/guardians will be asked to assist with transportation (See Appendix B and Appendix C). In general, it is the expectation for student-athletes to use school provided transportation to away events. The bus/van will be clean and ready for the trip one half hour prior to the

scheduled departure time. After the trip, it is the Coach's responsibility to ensure that the bus is clean. Athletes should help with the pick-up. Teams may not travel on the bus without a coach.

Depending on the Head Coach's decision, student-athletes who traveled to an away competition on the athletic bus may ride home with their parents. However, the parent must inform the head coach of the arrangement. Student-athletes may ride home with other parents, if they have a signed permission form from their parents. This permission form is valid for the season. The Head Coach will keep this form on file and with them on all trips.

After returning from an away competition, it is recommended that coaches have their non-driving student-athletes call their parents when the bus is approximately 20 minutes from returning to the school. **Coaches will be the last one to go home. They will never leave a student-athlete unsupervised in the parking lot.**

INJURY POLICY

Babcock Neighborhood School has an Athletic Trainer on staff. If a student-athlete is injured while playing a sport, the trainer will evaluate the injury and take appropriate action.

If a member of the medical profession determines that a student-athlete is physically unfit to participate in athletics or physical education class; it will require written notification from a medical professional to grant permission to resume participation. A parent cannot grant this permission. If a student-athlete is not physically able to participate in physical education class, then he/she is not permitted to participate in athletics during the same time period. Exceptions must be cleared through medical releases. If a student is recovering from an injury, they must still attend daily practices and/or rehab with the Athletic Trainer. **Failure to attend daily practices will result in removal from the team.**

OPEN GYM

Off-season conditioning programs conducted by a school shall only be open to participation by all student-athletes enrolled in that school or as per FHSAA Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3 or 9.2.2.4. Open gyms must be open to all student-athletes. Opening facilities to a select group of student-athletes to practice individual skills for a specific sport is a violation of this policy. School personnel, including faculty and non-faculty coaches in attendance, however, shall not provide coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport. No sport-specific tasks or drills shall be taught.

SPORTSMANSHIP

“Sportsmanship is that quality of honor that desires to be courteous, fair and respectful and is interpreted in the conduct of players, coaches, spectators, and school authorities”. -*Fielding H. Yost*

Student Athlete:

- a. Plays hard, plays to win, but plays fair.
- b. Never uses profanity or illegal tactics.
- c. Understands that losing is a part of the game; is gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- d. Concentrates on the game and ignores remarks from spectators or opponents. Maintains poise and self-control.
- e. Abides by the decisions of game officials. Only the appointed captain shall talk to an official, and it shall be in a respectful tone and only for the purpose of clarification.
- f. Shows respect for students, faculty members and officials at all times.
- g. Is aware that he/she represents school, home and family through appearance and actions.

AWARDS

The specific requirements for athletic letters and awards shall be the responsibility of the head coach with the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director.

- Captains Award – Captains pin awarded to each varsity team captain.
- Certificates – certificates are issued to letter winners, for recognition of participation in a sport, and for athletes chosen “All Conference”.
- Patches – an athlete that is a member of a Conference champion or FHSAA tournament champion (or any individual champion) will receive a patch. Patches for regional qualifiers and beyond will also be distributed.
- Senior Awards (2024) – Voted on by the coaches and Athletic Director.
- Sport Specific Awards – These awards are given on a limited basis and only to athletes for outstanding performance in their sport. The criteria for the awards are set by the coaches prior to the start of each season.
- Varsity (Athletic) Letters / Pins - Athletes shall be considered for an athletic letter / pin on the basis of sportsmanship, playing time, regular practice attendance, and completion of season.
- Student-athletes who earn a varsity letter will receive the actual letter and sport pin the first time they receive the award. A student-athlete who participates on multiple teams will receive their sports pins to wear on their varsity letter. Additional years of participation on a team are designated by service bars. Therefore, a student-athlete who participated on the varsity basketball team for four years will have a varsity letter,

one basketball pin and three service bars.

- In addition to varsity letters, each varsity team will award a Most Valuable Player and a Trailblazer Coach's Award. These awards will be purchased by the athletic department and presented to the student-athletes at their end of season banquet.
 - The Most Valuable Player award is designated for that one player for whom the team could not have performed as well without. In addition to individual statistics, this includes team support, team attitude, and love of their sport.
 - The Trailblazer Coach's Award is an award the Head Coach can use as either "most improved", "iron man/woman (never missed a practice or game)", or any other appropriate reason. Teams have the option of purchasing additional awards for their season-end team celebration.

TEAM CELEBRATIONS

At the end of every season, all teams will come together and celebrate their season with all student-athletes. Athletic Boosters will assist with planning and financial support. At this dinner, awards for deserving students at all levels will be recognized.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night for each sport is a very important opportunity for coaches to show their appreciation for their senior team members. This is accomplished by recognizing their achievements, and favorite moments while playing, prior to the start of a home game or half time, depending on the sport. Small gifts may also be presented to the senior players.

Senior night is not an obligation to play the seniors in the game. Many coaches will start and end the game with seniors on the field or court, but this is the Coach's decision. A victory should not be sacrificed for the sake of senior night.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT FOR ATHLETES

This is a long process beginning the summer before the student-athlete's sophomore year. The athletic department works hand-in-hand with the Guidance Counselor Office to assist student-athletes who have shown a desire to play their sport on the college level. While we cannot guarantee college placement, we will offer your student-athlete guidance and support.

TEAM TRIPS (Special Events)

Babcock Neighborhood School teams may travel to tournaments and meets outside the West Coast Florida area. The athletic department works with coaches to find the correct level of competition for each team. Some teams may need to travel further and more often than others. Keeping opportunity and expenses in mind, the athletic department adheres to the following policies:

- All team trips must be approved by administration before any team announcements are made or schedules handed out
- Out-of-state travel is the exception, and not the rule. For out-of-state travel, coaches must submit a Travel Request/ Approval form
- A complete itinerary, and travel roster must be provided; to include names and telephone numbers of all hotels and schools.
- All participating student-athletes must have signed trip permission slips.
- Student-athlete families are responsible for all hotel and transportation costs for trips during the regular season. Hotels and transportation are booked by the Head Coach and secured by the athletic department.
- If a team participates on a trip of extended length during the regular season (usually Winter/Spring Break), the players will be responsible for all hotel and transportation costs.
- Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of meals.
- Participating on a team trip is on a voluntary basis and student-athletes and their families cannot be forced to incur the additional cost.
- Parent/chaperones will follow all school rules regarding adults who are responsible for student-athletes.
- Once a student-athlete has committed to attending a team trip there will be no refunds.

SAME SEASON DUAL SPORT STUDENT-ATHLETES

In light of the unique nature of the Babcock Neighborhood School community, it is possible for student-athletes to compete in more than one sport during the same season. If a student-athlete wishes to participate in two sports during the same season, then the student-athlete must complete the *Same Season Dual Sport Student-athlete* form (*Appendix A*), and it must be on file in the office of the Athletic Director.

The student-athlete must declare one of the sports to be their primary sport. Both coaches must sign the form acknowledging their awareness of the student-athlete's primary sport selection. Once the student-athlete has selected a primary sport, the secondary coach may

not pressure or encourage the student-athlete in any manner to change their mind.

If the student-athlete, for any reason, is no longer a member of the primary sport, then they are also ineligible to participate as a member of the secondary sport. If the student-athlete elects not to continue participating in the secondary sport once the season has started, then the student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in the dual-sport program next year.

If there are any scheduling conflicts between the two sports, the student-athlete must attend the primary sport event. The Head Coach of the primary sport does not have the authority to excuse the student-athlete from their event to attend the secondary sport event. The student-athlete may not participate in post-season tournaments as a member of the secondary team, until the primary sport season is completely over; including all post-season tournaments.

The secondary sport coach may deny participation on a varsity team due to multiple game and practice conflicts creating an unsafe environment for the student and the other players. Once executed, Head Coaches **do not** have the authority to undo this agreement; nor can they allow the student-athlete to switch their primary & secondary sport designations. This agreement is between the student-athlete, their parents, and the Athletic Department.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in athletic activities, the athlete must meet all of the requirements established by the Florida High School Athletic Association and maintain satisfactory conduct as defined by the district *Code of Student Conduct*. If a student is arrested for an on or off-campus felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, that student's participation in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities may be suspended by the principal in consultation with the Assistant Superintendent of School Support in their sole discretion until final disposition of the criminal charge. If a student is convicted of said felony charge, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, that student's participation in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities will be suspended for a minimum of (18) consecutive school weeks. The student may only be reinstated for eligibility with the approval of SERT.

******Please note that this handbook is tentative to change as the athletic program develops. Notice of any changes will be made known to the coaches and athletes.***

BABCOCK NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL ATHLETIC FAQ's

These questions and answers are a brief way of introducing you to some of the policies that regulate athletics at Babcock Neighborhood School. For more detailed explanations, please read this handbook thoroughly. Thank you.

Question: *How does my student-athlete sign up for a team?*

Answer: Three ways:

- Show up the first day of tryouts, *or*
- Contact the Head Coach, *or*
- Notify the Athletic Department staff

Question: *How do we learn about all of the Athletic Department programs?*

Answer: Our Babcock Neighborhood School Athletics website, Facebook account, Twitter account and Instagram accounts contain a lot of athletic information. Additionally, prior to the start of every season, teams will conduct organizational meetings with their families & student-athletes. Our teams will also use Team Reach for information that is team specific.

Question: *How are selections made? Are there cuts?*

Answer: Tryouts are a part of school athletics. Deciding to cut or not will truly depend on facilities, safety, equipment and is determined by the Athletic Director and Coaches. The decisions must be based on ability, attitude, and commitment. Results from try outs must be communicated personally by the Head Coach to the student-athlete.

Question: *My student has never played an organized sport, should they still try out?*

Answer: Absolutely. Babcock Neighborhood School is blessed to have great coaches. We believe that there is an athlete inside of every student waiting to be discovered. We pride ourselves on discovering & developing successful student-athletes.

Question: *Can my student-athlete try out for a team after tryouts have completed?*

Answer: Yes, but only in certain situations. Not all seasons begin and end on the same days. If a student-athlete is not available to try out because of medical reasons or because they were still participating on a previous season team, they will have the opportunity to try out as soon as they are cleared by a doctor or their previous season ends. All situations must be communicated to the coach and all decisions regarding late tryouts will be based on team roster availability and student-athlete circumstances.

Question: *What grades can participate on which teams?*

Answer: Per FHSAA rules, All 6th - 12th grade students may participate on varsity teams (except tackle Football). All 6th - 12th grade students may participate on JV teams. All 6th - 8th grade students may participate on middle school teams. The coach and administration will make these decisions for Babcock Neighborhood School and each sport. There are some stipulations to these rules per sport.

Question: *What time are practices?*

Answer: Middle School & Freshmen teams will generally practice three to four times per week. Practices will begin right after school and usually run up to 5pm. Exact schedules will be communicated by the Head Coach. Junior Varsity & Varsity teams will generally practice five times per week. Practices will typically run from 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm, but may differ slightly from sport to sport. Due to facility & student-athlete availability, some Varsity teams may opt for morning practices beginning at 6:00am. Exact schedules will be communicated by the Head Coach.

Question: *How does my student-athlete get to an off-campus practice?*

Answer: Student-athletes will be required to have their parents or an approved adult take them to practice, or if a student driver the student driver may drive themselves to the facility. A student driver may not drive other students to practice.

Question: *What if my student-athlete must miss a practice or game?*

Answer: If a student-athlete must miss a practice or game, the coach must know prior to the absence, unless due to illness or an emergency. Our purpose is to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to pursue and understand the values of attitude, commitment, responsibility, accountability, work ethic and team concept. Missing a game due to participating on a community travel team outside of Babcock Neighborhood School is not permissible. Student-athletes are expected to be at all practices and games unless absent from school. Student-athletes may be dismissed from a team for unexcused absences from practice or a game.

Question: *What if the student-athlete must miss a practice/game due to an academic issue?*

Answer: This occurs more frequently on middle school and freshmen teams. Teams only practice 3 or 4 days per week and we request that all academic/doctor/family business be conducted during the off days. For high school teams, we request that the student-athletes take care of these other responsibilities either during their free time, study periods, or in the morning. However, when conflicts do arise, contact the coach first.

Question: *Is there a participation fee to participate on an athletic team?*

Answer: No. We are very fortunate at BNS, we provide the resources to operate our athletic programs.

Question: *Can a student-athlete play on two sports teams during the same season?*

Answer: Yes. Student-athletes may participate on two teams during the same season by completing the “Dual Sport” contract and obtaining the required signatures. This must be done prior to participating on either team.

Question: *What equipment is provided by the school?*

Answer: All team members are provided a team uniform. Shoes, socks, mouth pieces, undergarments, etc are all personal items that must be provided by the student-athlete. Specialized equipment such as tennis rackets, golf clubs, etc. are all considered personal items. However, teams will have generic equipment available for use.

Question: *Are meals provided?*

Answer: No. Meals are a personal item. Some teams choose to have a team meal prior to a game. In all cases, these meals are provided by team families. Snacks & meals may also be provided by families during away games. However, when a team or individual competes in a regional or state level event, meals & lodging will be provided by the school for the team members.

Question: *May student-athletes use the athletic facilities on their own time?*

Answer: No, Babcock Neighborhood School student-athletes may not use the facilities without direct supervision from a school employee and permission from the Athletic Director.

Question: *How does the student-athlete travel to a game?*

Answer: The Athletic Director coordinates transportation for all Trailblazer sports teams. Travel will either be by charter bus or van, depending on the size of the team.

Question: *After an away game, may student-athletes ride home with parents? With other parents?*

Answer: Student-athletes who traveled to an away competition on the athletic bus or van may ride home with their parents. However, it is the student-athlete’s responsibility to notify the Head Coach of their travel plans. Student-athletes may ride home with other parents, *if* they have a signed permission form from their parents. This permission form is valid for the

season. The Head Coach will keep this form on file and with them on all trips.

Question: *How does a family or individual contribute financially to the Athletic Department or specific team?*

Answer: We currently have school fundraising events that we will ask our families to donate to for athletic support.

Question: *Can parents coach?*

Answer: We do allow parents to coach. However, parents must be available to the team on a full time basis.

Question: *Is there a fee to attend games?*

Answer: Admission for Home middle school games is \$5.00. Admission for Home Freshmen, JV and Varsity games are \$6.00. If games have more than one team competing (JV & Varsity), attendees are only required to pay one Admission fee. Everyone must pay an admission fee for all State Series competitions (District & Regional Tournaments). Babcock Neighborhood School athletics offers year-long sports passes at the beginning of the school year.

Question: *What does my student-athlete need to be eligible to participate on a Trailblazer team?*

Answer: Every student-athlete must have on file with the Athletic Director a current Physical EL2, a current Consent & Release EL3, an Affidavit of Compliance on Athletic Recruiting (if a transfer student), verification of proof of health insurance, and signed the BNS Student Athlete Handbook. Furthermore, student-athletes must have completed the following NFHS online courses: Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Concussion for Students, and Heat Illness Prevention. These courses can be found at nfhslearn.com/courses. These documents must be on file before he/she begins participating in athletics at BNS, including summer conditioning. A student-athlete who participates without these forms will not be permitted to participate, be ineligible for the remainder of the season, and the team may face game forfeitures. All forms can be found at [BNS Athletic Clearance](#) . On this site, a user account will be set up, and all forms will be signed and uploaded on this site.

Appendix A – Same Season Dual-Sport Student-Athletes Form

Name: _____ Grade: _____

- ❖ I elect to participate in the same season dual-sport program.
- ❖ I have read the policy regarding my involvement in same season dual sports.
- ❖ I fully understand the difficulty I will face as a dual-sport student-athlete.
- ❖ I also understand that this policy may affect my future athletic eligibility if I do not adhere to this policy.

PART 1

I choose my Primary Sport as:

Primary Sport _____ Date: _____

Coach: _____ Head _____ Date: _____
Signature

PART 2

I choose my Secondary Sport as:

Secondary Sport _____ Date: _____

Coach: _____ Head _____ Date: _____
Signature

Acknowledgements

Student-Athlete: _____
Date: _____ Signature

Parent: _____
Date: _____ Signature

Athletic Director: _____
Date: _____ Signature

Appendix B



43261 Cypress Parkway
Babcock Ranch, FL 33982

<http://www.babcockneighborhoodschool.org>

Ph. 239.567.3043 Fax 239.567.2896

Due to transportation difficulties and budget constraints, the occasion may arise where parents must arrange transportation for their student to athletic events. Parents may also elect to allow their child to ride with another parent that will be going to the athletic event. It is solely the responsibility of the parent to ensure their student has transportation to and from athletic events when the school does not provide transportation. Parents are also permitted to take their own student home after events as they see fit, even if the school provides transportation for the athletic event.

A student may also depart athletic events with other individuals if a legal guardian or parent approves in writing and provides the school with permission.

I understand that transportation may not be provided to and from scheduled sporting events and it is my responsibility to provide transportation for my student to participate as needed.

Athletes Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____

Appendix C: BHS/BNS Athletics Transportation Liability Form



*****This release form must be signed and submitted to the BHS/BNS Athletic Office.**

Student athletes **are not permitted** to drive themselves to or from a game. They must ride with the team or their parents/guardians when permitted.

Parents/Guardians **are not permitted** to drive athletes from athletic contests and/or school events who are not their own children, without a signed waiver from that parent providing permission.

Athletic contest location: _____

On this Date _____ and Time _____

I am giving my permission for _____ (Adult's Name), parent of _____ (Student's Name) to transport my student from the contest location above.

Athlete's Name:

Athlete's Name:

Athlete's Name:

Effective immediately I hereby release, hold harmless, and indemnify Babcock Neighborhood School/Babcock High School from any and all responsibility for my child(ren) as well as for any and all liability for any injuries that may occur to my child(ren) during, or as a result of, my transportation or another approved adult's transportation of my child(ren) from the athletic contest described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Administrator / Designee's Signature: _____ Date: _____