



Babcock Schools

HOME OF THE TRAILBLAZERS

Athlete's Handbook

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Babcock High School is a proud member of the Florida High School Athletic Association

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Building Traditions!

This handbook is organized to provide helpful information about Babcock School athletic programs and the responsibilities and privileges of student-athletes, parents, and spectators who participate in or support Babcock 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.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Babcock 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 any Babcock 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 schools apart are reflected in all we do. Babcock schools operate under the guiding principles that student-athletes, coaches, teachers, parents and spectators should at all times present themselves in a respectful manner. Babcock athletes, coaches and parents win and lose with grace and dignity. Respect for one's opponents is a critical component of the 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 at Babcock athletic events is prohibited.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT BABCOCK SCHOOLS IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Prior to the first tryout session, all students must have:

1. A current physical examination. **Must be on the most current EL2 FHSAA form.**
2. A current ECG completed within the past 2 years. **Must be on the most current EL1 FHSAA form.**
3. Create an Athlete profile on athleticclearance.com annually.
4. Must have proof of Medical Insurance.
5. Must complete 5 NFHS Course Certificates. (Free courses required annually Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Concussion for Students, Heat Illness Prevention, Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior, and Sportsmanship. Go to www.nfhslern.com/courses and register using an email address and the ATHLETES NAME. If a certificate is issued with any name other than the student-athlete, then he/she will need to complete the courses again.
6. **Consent and Release of Liability Certificate EL3.** (Electronic signature on Home Campus)
7. Acknowledgement of Student Athlete Handbook. (Electronic signature of Home Campus)
8. Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting. This form is to be used by any student who has transferred to Babcock Schools. (Form can be obtained from Athletic Office)
9. An original birth certificate must be presented to the school for verification.
10. **Home Education**-all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. Please refer to Article 11.1.3 and 11.1.4 of the FHSAA Bylaws and Policy 14 (C) in the Administrative Guidelines, Policies and Procedures section in the FHSAA Handbook. The Home Education program must be registered with the county.
11. **Foreign Exchange/International Student**-all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. The amount of paperwork that is required for a foreign exchange student is extensive and will require additional time to complete.

NOTE: Seniors may not participate on Freshmen or Junior Varsity Teams.

High School Eligibility

The FHSAA determines the academic requirements for member school student athletes to participate in interscholastic athletics. The entirety of the bylaws and policies for the FHSAA's academic requirements can be found in the FHSAA Handbook listed in Bylaw 9.4. The policies and bylaws listed in this handbook are intended to give a basic overview of academic eligibility requirements for student-athletes participating at the high school level.

- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.1** - 2.0 GPA Required for Academic Eligibility A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester (§ 1006.15(3)(a)1, F.S.). Final grades previously earned by the student from another school shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.1.2** - Academic Eligibility/Ineligibility is for a Semester A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically eligible for that entire semester. Likewise, a student who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically ineligible for that entire semester, except as provided in Bylaw 9.4.5.1.2. The student's academic eligibility for each successive semester will depend upon his/her cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the previous semester.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.1.3** - Attendance During Previous Two Consecutive Semesters Required A student cannot be academically eligible if he/she has not attended school and received grades for all courses taken during the previous two consecutive full semesters.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.1.9** - Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained A student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established a cumulative GPA. The school must submit a written report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.2.1** - Incomplete Grade is a Failure An incomplete grade must be counted as a failure (Grade "F") when calculating a student's cumulative GPA.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.3** - Effect of Summer School or its Graded Equivalent Courses on Cumulative GPA A student may raise or lower his/her cumulative GPA by attending summer school or its graded equivalent if:
 - The summer school or its graded equivalent is regularly scheduled and regularly organized under the direction of Babcock board;
 - All coursework taken by the student is completed before the first day of classes in the subsequent semester; and
 - All courses taken by the student, in which he/she receives a grade, whether during the regular academic year or summer school, or its graded equivalent, must be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.3.1** - "Forgiveness" If a student repeats a course, regardless of whether he/she passed or failed the course on the first attempt in which the student earned a "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," the grade may be replaced with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, provided for required courses the course is the same or comparable course, or with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher for an elective course and that grade will be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA (§ 1003.4282(5), note, F.S.).
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.3.1.1** - Grade GPA Calculation For the purposes of GPA calculation, each subsequent unsuccessful attempt on a course taken for forgiveness will not be computed in the calculations. One successful attempt will overwrite the original grade and all previous unsuccessful attempts.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.4** - Determination of Academic Eligibility at Conclusion of Each Semester. A school must calculate the cumulative GPA of a student at the conclusion of each semester to determine the student's academic eligibility for the next semester. Only those grades that are first reported by the student's teachers at the conclusion of the semester can be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.4.1** - Definition of "First Reported" "First reported" means the grades that were originally submitted by the student's teachers at the conclusion of the semester. Changes to grades that are first reported by a student's teachers may only be made according to the published policies of the school.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.5** - Course Work must be Completed by First Day of Next Semester A student must complete all work required to earn credit in a course taken during a semester by the first day of the next semester. A grade of "incomplete" must be considered a failing grade when calculating a student's cumulative GPA.
- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.6** - Change in Eligibility Status If a student's academic eligibility changes at the end of a

semester, the student will become eligible or ineligible on the sixth school day of the next semester as published on the school's official calendar for that school year. Even if the last day of the semester coincides with the last day of school for the winter holidays, the student will not become eligible or ineligible until the sixth school day of the next semester that follows the winter holidays as published on the school's official calendar for that school year.

Transfer and/or New Students

- Must have an official transcript on file with the school prior to participating in any athletic activities to ensure that academic eligibility has been established.
- Students who transfer schools during the school year may be "authorized for good cause" to participate in the same sport at a new school if certain "good cause" circumstances are met to the satisfaction of the President or President's designee. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - Move to a new residence by the student (with a person/persons with whom he/she has been previously living)
 - Transfer of school within the first twenty days of school
 - Undue hardship

Limit of Eligibility

The FHSAA determines the limit of eligibility for member school student-athletes to participate in interscholastic athletics. The entirety of the policies for the FHSAA's limit of eligibility can be found in the FHSAA Handbook listed in Bylaw 9.5.

- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.5.1** - High School Student Has Eight Semesters of Eligibility A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the semester he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has eight semesters of participation. After eight consecutive semesters, the student is permanently ineligible.

Age Requirements

The FHSAA determines the age limit for member school student-athletes to participate in interscholastic athletics. The entirety of the policies for the FHSAA's age limit can be found in the FHSAA Handbook listed in Bylaw 9.6.

- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.6.1** - High School Age Limit A student who reaches the age of 19 prior to July 1st shall become permanently ineligible.
- **FHSAA Bylaw - 9.6.4** School Must Verify Age of Student A school must verify the age of each student who represents it in an interscholastic athletic competition. The student must provide documented proof of his/her age for this purpose. A student who is unable to provide documented proof of his/her age cannot participate.
- **FHSAA Bylaw - 9.6.4.1** What is Documented Proof of Age? Documented proof of age is one or more of the following:
 - An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born; or
 - A passport, visa, or "Employment Authorization Document" (EAD Card) that lists the student's date of birth; or
 - An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

Middle School Eligibility

- **FHSAA Bylaw - 16.1.1** Middle School GPA Calculation. For grades 6 through 8, the semester GPA will be calculated on the first day of each semester by taking the sum of quality points earned (as per Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of credits attempted during that semester.
- Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 from the previous quarter to be eligible for athletic participation during the current/following school quarter.
- A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically eligible for that entire semester. Likewise, a student who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically ineligible for that entire semester, except as provided in Bylaw 9.4.5.1.2.
- Middle School students may not have a failure in more than one (1) subject during a given nine-week grading

period.

- Students who have a failure in more than one subject during a given nine-week grading period will be ineligible to practice and compete during the following nine-week grading period.
- Grades earned during summer school will be calculated with grades for the last marking period of the previous school year to determine eligibility.

Transfer and/or New Students

- Must have an official transcript on file with the school prior to participating in any athletic activities to ensure that academic eligibility has been established.
- Students who transfer schools during the school year may be “authorized for good cause” to participate in the same sport at a new school if certain “good cause” circumstances are met to the satisfaction of the President or President's designee. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - Move to a new residence by the student (with a person/persons with whom he/she has been previously living)
 - Transfer of school within the first twenty days of school
 - Undue hardship

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- **FHSAA Bylaw 9.6.3** - Middle School Age Limit. A student who reaches the age of 15 prior to July 1st shall become ineligible to participate at the middle school level.
- **FHSAA Bylaw - 9.6.3.1** School Must Verify Age of Student A school must verify the age of each student who represents it in an interscholastic athletic competition. The student must provide documented proof of his/her age for this purpose. A student who is unable to provide documented proof of his/her age cannot participate.
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 - An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born; or
 - A passport, visa, or “Employment Authorization Document” (EAD Card) that lists the student's date of birth; or
 - An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

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High and Middle School Non-Traditional Student

Non-traditional students are categorized by Florida House Bill 225. These student types fall under the following categories: Charter School Student – School the Student Attends for Class Does Not Offer the Desired Sport, Home Education Student, Non-Member Private School Student, FLVS Part-Time, FLVS Full-Time, and FLVS Franchise District Virtual Student, and Traditional Public School Student (School the Student Attends for Class Does Not Offer the Sport the Student Wishes to Participate In).

The information below serves as general guidelines for those students who are categorized as non-traditional students and wish to participate in interscholastic athletics at the middle or high school level within Babcock Schools. Additional information and documentation may be requested by BMS/BHS Director of Athletics or the school's

Principal, or other School Administrator in order to determine the eligibility of a non-traditional student and ensure the compliance of the school's athletic program.

FHSAA Bylaw 2.4.3 - Students who participate in interscholastic and intramural extracurricular activities for, but are not enrolled in, a public school pursuant to § 1006.15(3)(c)-(e) and (8), F.S. (i.e. nontraditional students, reference Bylaw 1.4.31), are subject to the CCPS, charter or private school board's code of student conduct for the limited purpose of establishing and maintaining the student's eligibility to participate at the school.

In addition to meeting the CCPS and the FHSAA's eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics, a non-traditional student will also need to submit the following FHSAA paperwork to the school's Director of Athletics depending on what type of school they attend:

1. **EL4** –Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International Student or Immigrant Student.
2. **EL7** –Registration Form for Home Education Student.
3. **EL7V** –Verification of Student Registration with SLPS Home Education Office.
4. **EL12** –Registration Form for Non-Member Private School Students.
5. **EL12V** –Verification Form for Non-Member Private School Students.
6. **GA4** – Affidavit of Compliance with the Policies on Athletic Recruiting & Non-Traditional Student Participation.
7. **EL14** – Controlled Open Enrollment Placement

Non-Traditional Student-Athlete Participation Fee

In accordance with Florida Senate Bill 538 and district athletic participation requirements, any non-traditional student-athlete who earns a position on an athletic team roster will be assessed a **\$400 athletic participation fee.**

The athletic participation fee must be paid in full prior to the student-athlete's first scheduled competition.

Student-athletes who have not satisfied this financial obligation by the established deadline will be ineligible to participate in competitions and may be removed from the team roster until payment is received. Failure to remit the required fee may result in permanent removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

For purposes of this policy, a "non-traditional student-athlete" includes students who participate in interscholastic athletics at the school under the provisions of Florida law but are not enrolled as full-time students at the school.

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).

Health and Safety

In alignment with Florida Statute, the FHSAA, in conjunction with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors, have released the new ECG screening form(s) on www.fhsaa.com. The form(s) can be found by selecting the "Parents" tab.

Summary of new documents and changes to existing documents:

1. **EL1** ECG Screening form - required form starting July 1, 2026 for all incoming 9th graders and new student athletes in grades 10-12.
2. **EL1/2s** - this form replaces page five of the EL2 and is for use when a follow-up is required for either the EL1 or the EL2
3. **EL2** - Page five of the EL2 was removed. The first four pages of the EL2 did not change in any way and the previous version can still be used.
4. **EL3** - Information, including vital State Statute language was added to the EL3. This new version of the EL3 will need to be used by parents moving forward.
5. **ME1** - For use by Medical doctors to exempt a student athlete from the ECG requirement.

Who Must Obtain an ECG:

- All incoming **9th-grade student-athletes**.
- Any student in **grades 10–12** who has never participated in an FHSAA-sanctioned sports. Returning athletes are not required but strongly encouraged to obtain an ECG. The goal is to identify undetected cardiac risk factors and enhance athlete safety.

Documentation:

A one-page standardized form (EL1) will confirm ECG completion, including:

- Parent/guardian attestation
- Clinician verification
- Referral information, if needed

Any follow-up that is requested by the medical professional will require the completion of the EL1/2s.

An ECG performed on or after July 1, 2024 will satisfy the requirement.

Emergency Preparedness

1. Babcock School maintains an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).
2. AEDs are required on-site for all athletic events and practices.

Concussion Protocol

1. Immediate removal from play if a concussion is suspected.
2. Return to play only after written clearance from a licensed medical professional.

Heat and Hydration Policy

1. Coaches must monitor WBGT and modify practices accordingly.
2. Water must always be available.

The **Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)** measures heat stress in direct sunlight by factoring in temperature, humidity, wind, sun angle, and cloud cover, unlike the heat index, which only considers temperature and humidity in shade. WBGT is widely used by military agencies, OSHA, and other organizations to manage workloads in the sun.

- [Zach Martin Foundation Resources](#)
- [FHSAA Standards for Wet Bulb Thermometer](#)
- [NATA Signs of Minor Heat Illness Handout](#)
- [NATA Nutrition Clock Handout](#)

NOTE: This manual will be updated as federal, state, local, CCPS, and Florida High School Athletic Association guidelines, laws, or policies change regarding education-based athletics in Florida and Babcock Schools.

Athletic Rules & Requirements

Attendance

A student-athlete must be in school a minimum of 50% of the day in order to participate in an athletic event or practice scheduled for the same calendar day. Students involved in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to both their academics and their team by maintaining consistent attendance. **Students must have no more than five (5) unexcused absences or tardies per semester** to remain in good standing.

Excessive unexcused absences or tardies can impact a student's eligibility. If this threshold is exceeded, school administration will review the circumstances and determine appropriate next steps, which may include placing the student on an attendance contract or removal from the team or activity.

We understand that occasional absences may occur; however, consistent attendance is essential to personal responsibility, team cohesion, and overall success.

Early Dismissal: For some athletic events, students must be dismissed from school before normal dismissal time. Early dismissal from classes for athletic reasons does not release student athletes from class work responsibilities. Each athlete must make arrangements in advance with the teacher to take missed quizzes or tests, or to hand in assignments.

Referrals

To remain eligible for participation, students must maintain **three (3) or fewer disciplinary referrals per semester**.

Should a student exceed this threshold, the situation will be reviewed by school administration. Based on the nature and frequency of the incidents, the administration will determine whether the student remains eligible under a behavior contract or is dismissed from the team or activity.

We recognize that student-athletes are still growing and learning, and that mistakes will happen. Our goal is to support their development while maintaining high expectations for conduct and representing our school with pride.

Practices

The coach will schedule practices. It is imperative that all team members be at practice when scheduled and be on time. If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, it is your responsibility to notify your coach the day that you will not be at practice. If you are not in school, it is your responsibility to make sure that your coach is aware. Consequences for missed practices will vary for each sport and will be outlined by the individual coach in his/her team policies.

- Middle School teams will generally practice 3 - 4 times per week. The exact schedule will be communicated by the Head Coach.
- Junior Varsity & Varsity teams will generally practice 4-5 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 Commitment

An athlete must understand that playing a sport is very demanding on his/her time for practice and games. Many of these practices and competitions occur during holidays, on Saturday, etc. The coach and team expect you to be there. An athlete missing any contest during holidays for club/travel type teams will be considered unexcused and subject to the coaches policy regarding unexcused absences. Any other absences must be pre-arranged and approved by the Head Coach. If, for some reason, a student-athlete decides to stop participating on a team, or is dismissed from a team, he/she will not be permitted to join or participate in any other sport for the duration of that sport season (Fall/Winter/Spring). Any student-athlete who decides to quit a team after learning of their placement on a team will not be permitted to try-out for that team the following year without the approval of the head coach.

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 Parent Square. All parents must choose the option to have Parent Square to send them notifications. This will allow everyone to know immediately when a game has been changed/cancelled, location moved or time altered.

If your child comes home with a story that appears to be completely uncharacteristic when compared to Babcock 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 Schools 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.

Uniforms and other issued equipment

Students are responsible for the proper care of all equipment issued to them. It is their responsibility to properly care for these items and return them at the end of the season in proper condition. Any of these items not returned must be paid for at the current replacement price (It is standard manufacturer's policy that, when replacing fewer than six uniforms, the cost of each equates to roughly 200% of original cost). Any awards, letters or honors will also be withheld until the student has cleared all debts or uniform responsibilities. WHEN WASHING UNIFORMS, AT NO TIME SHOULD BLEACH BE USED! Dry on Low Heat!

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, Theater, Rotary, Interact, Student Ambassador, 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.

Multiple Sport Participation

Babcock Athletic Department firmly believes in developing a well-rounded student-athlete. As such, coaches should encourage athletes to participate in multiple sports. Student-athletes should feel free to participate in as many sports as they would like to pursue that complement the academic load they are carrying.

Same Season Dual Sport Athletes

In light of the unique nature of the Babcock 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 game scheduling conflicts between the two sports, the student-athlete must attend the primary sport game. The Head Coach of the primary sport **does not** have the authority to excuse the student-athlete from their game to attend the secondary sport game. The two coaches can work out an amicable practice schedule for the athlete, as long as both coaches are in agreement.

The secondary sport coach may deny participation on a 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.

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 or club 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.

Playing Up Policy

The athletic department may, in some instances, permit younger student-athletes to "play up" onto High School teams.

No athlete will be forced to play up. Playing Up must be agreed upon by the parents, the athlete, the coach, and the Athletic Director. Parents and younger players should understand that playing up is both an honor and a privilege. However, please note that coaches often prioritize playing time in games for older athletes. Consideration should be given to the fact that practices, games and seasons become increasingly demanding both physically and emotionally at higher levels. Parents and young athletes should consider both the short and long term physical and emotional impact of playing up.

Transportation

Depending on availability, all teams will travel to away games using the athletic department 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 form will be provided to you via ParentSquare.

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.**

If school transportation is not available for a game, your coach will communicate this in advance. In such cases, it becomes the responsibility of the family to arrange transportation for the student-athlete to and from the event.

Off Site Practices: In some sports, we might have the need to use off campus facilities. We do not provide daily transportation for these events. Parental assistance may be necessary.

After School Supervision

It is not the school nor the coaches responsibility to supervise student-athletes in between the end of school day or tutoring sessions until the start of practice. Athletes should be enrolled in the after school care program if families are not able to provide transportation during this period of time. No student should be expected to sit in the gym or remain inside the school waiting for practice unless arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director.

Injury Policy

Babcock High 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. ALL INJURIES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE COACH BEFORE LEAVING PRACTICES OR GAMES. Do not wait until the following day to report your injury.

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.**

Sportsmanship

The following guidelines are set forth to assist our administration, parents, students and staff with the monitoring of the Babcock Schools Athletic program.

- **Article 8.1.1** of the Florida High School Activities Association By-Laws; students, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics at all times directly or indirectly related in any manner to interscholastic relationships or events, whether prior to, during or following such relationship or event. It shall be the responsibility of each member school principal to ensure that those

individuals connected with his/her school adhere to these standards. The Commissioner shall have the authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests. The Commissioner shall have full authority to invoke penalties against a member school and/or individuals whose conduct in connection with an interscholastic contest violates these principles or ethics.

- **Article 11.11.2** A student who, prior to, during or following an interscholastic athletic contest, commits an act of a malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official or an opponent, shall be guilty of gross unsportsmanlike conduct and be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of six weeks. Such malicious acts shall include, but not be limited to, cursing, striking or threatening a contest official during a contest or at any other time because of resentment over occurrences or decisions during a contest; physical contact with an opponent that is beyond the normal scope of competition and which appears to be with the intent of inflicting bodily harm on the opponent; spitting on a contest official or opponent/ directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official or opponent; or other such acts which may be deemed as unacceptable conduct either by the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association. The Commissioner, the Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors on appeal, may restore the eligibility of such a student prior to the expiration of the six weeks when in his/their opinion the student has been properly disciplined by the authorities of the school which he/she attends and the student signs a written statement of his/her intention to comply with the provisions of Articles 8.1.1 and 11.11.1 of these Bylaws in the future. Babcock Schools may lengthen the suspension if deemed necessary.

*Note - FHSAA By-Law 9.7.4 The FHSAA has mandated that the home school is responsible for the control of spectators during athletic contests. If in the event that a spectator or spectators create a distraction, they will be removed from the facility and face possible suspension from future athletic events. In the event that a student is assigned in-school suspension during a particular sport season, the student will be suspended for a minimum of one contest. We at Babcock Schools insist that all our supporters and athletes exhibit sportsmanship and respect for our opponents, their fans, and the officials who are working our contests.

Awards & Recognition

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 can be awarded to each varsity team captain.
- Medals – medals 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 champions and beyond will also be distributed.
- 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) Letter - Athletes shall be considered for an athletic letter or 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 chevrons. Therefore, a student-athlete who participated on the varsity basketball team for four years will have a varsity letter, one basketball pin and three chevrons.
- 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.

At the end of every season, all teams will celebrate their season with the student-athletes. Trailblazer Athletic Boosters can assist with planning and financial support. Athletic Awards night, student-athletes at all levels will be recognized.

Senior Night

This is a night organized and prepared for by coaches and parents. Senior Night for each sport is a very important opportunity for coaches and parents to show their appreciation for their senior team members and players. 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. Parents and/or coaches may gather small gifts to 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, but this is the Coach's decision. A victory should not be sacrificed for the sake of senior night.

College

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 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.

NCAA requirements for scholarship athletes

The NCAA has requirements for Athletic Scholarships and should be of interest to all parents. It is suggested that you familiarize yourself with these requirements and keep them in mind throughout your high school days, especially when scheduling classes from year to year. All NCAA member schools strictly adhere to these requirements. NCAA Clearing House must be completed.

Expectations

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. 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. Please do not engage in a confrontation during a time when the coach is responsible for student-athletes.

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.

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!

Facilities

Babcock schools are 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.

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

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.

Off-Season Guidelines

The Babcock Schools Athletic Department policy regarding off-season programs is:

1. Off-season programs during the regular school year will be limited to those agencies recognized by the FHSAA.
2. Summer programs will be limited to those agencies recognized by the FHSAA.
3. An open gym in the summer must follow the guidelines set forth by the FHSAA and school administration.
4. FHSAA - Policy on summer participation will be strictly enforced.

Off-Season programs are voluntary and participation is not a requirement

Strength and Conditioning and Sports Performance

The weight room is open to all athletic teams. In-season sports do take precedence over weightroom and facility use. Please make sure that you read and review the Weight Room Rules and Expectations listed below. If a student-athlete is seen breaking any of the rules, he/she will be asked to leave.

- Prior to participation, all student-athletes must undergo an orientation on the proper execution of various exercises and on the possible consequences if proper technique is not employed.
- If a student-athlete has an injury that in any way inhibits a portion of the workout, the student-athlete will receive a modified program outlining which movements are to be avoided and which ones may be substituted. The Athletic Trainer will collaborate on this comprehensive program.
- Student-athletes are required to use collars once there is any weight on the bar.
- Student-athletes should return dumbbells to the rack in the proper order. They should not drop or throw weights or dumbbells.
- Student-athletes should show respect for equipment and facilities at all times.
- The weight room requires concentration. Horseplay, loud and offensive language or temper tantrums are not permitted.
- Anyone in the strength and conditioning room should wear proper training attire, particularly shirts and athletic shoes.
 - No jeans or mid-riffs are allowed.
 - Shoes should be tied at all times.

- Student-athletes should utilize spotters when necessary.
- There will be no use of equipment without the supervision of a staff member.
- No food, soda or gum is allowed in the strength and conditioning. Water only!
- All equipment removed from the closet must be returned before leaving. No equipment should leave the weight room.
- Report any injuries to the supervisor immediately.
- All cardio and weight equipment must be wiped down after each use. Towels and disinfectant spray are available throughout the weight room.
- Report any broken equipment to the staff member.
- Please use all equipment properly. If you have ANY questions, please see the Athletic Director. SAFETY FIRST!

TEAM TRIPS (Special Events)

Babcock 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.

Athletic Code of Conduct

The following Expected Standards of Conduct for Student Athletes and the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes are the standards by which Babcock schools and its athletic department expect our student athletes to abide by. Participation by student athletes is a privilege, not a right. It must be earned through demonstrated commitment, honesty, loyalty, and hard work. The coaches of each sport, with the authority of the athletic department and the high school principal, will enforce the specific elements of the Code of Conduct. The policy is in force for the full year for student athletes.

Babcock athletes are expected to present and to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of respect and honor at all times both in and out of season. What is best for the team should be foremost in the mind of each athlete and not until the team has been eliminated from competition should the advancement of the individual take precedence. Athletes are also expected to place good sportsmanship ahead of the desire to win and should not engage in any tactics that might provide an unfair advantage over an opponent. Good sportsmanship also applies to the treatment of officials and is expected when athletes attend other sporting events as spectators and supporters. Athletes should refrain from engaging in negatives such as vulgar language, disrespectful and violent behavior, use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, theft, vandalism, and other behaviors that will bring discredit upon themselves, their teams, their families, and their school. Babcock athletes are expected to maintain a higher standard of conduct than that of those not involved in athletics.

We hold our student-athletes to a very high standard as they are very visible representatives of what Babcock schools stand 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.

Consequence for Behavior & Fines

This list is not exhaustive, and Babcock administration reserves the right to review any incident that reflects poorly on the school even if such an incident is not specified. 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** Babcock Schools prohibit 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 schools. 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 Babcock schools. "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.

Babcock Athletic Department Guidelines, Rules, and Consequences

Without limiting the applicability of the Conduct of Character section above, the following specific rules apply: Athletic rules and consequences are cumulative and in effect year round. In the case of a one calendar year suspension, the Principal and AD will determine the date on which the suspension will end. The athletic season

is defined as commencing with the first practice and ending with the last contest. All consequences take effect immediately upon declaration by the AD and will include contests in succession. An athlete who does not complete the season in good standing, or is in violation of a rule between the last contest and the awards ceremony, will forfeit any awards earned. When an athlete is serving a percentage of a season suspension, it is at the discretion of the coach to determine the athlete's attendance at athletic contests and practices involving the team. An athlete must adequately fulfill the terms of the suspension for credit to be given.

RULE 1: Athletes shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any Over the Counter, Narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, stimulants, depressants, marijuana, steroids, or alcohol. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician shall not constitute a violation of this rule.). The manufacture, distribution, dispensation possession or use of controlled substances; including alcohol, is prohibited on School property or at any sanctioned activity. This offense is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in the expulsion of the student from Babcock Schools.

Consequences:

- 1st offense – Suspension from 20% of the total number of remaining regular season games. Suspended athletes may not dress for any competition or be involved in any recognition ceremony during the suspension. If less than 20% of the regular season remains, the athlete will be removed from the team, forfeit any awards, and will serve the remainder of his/her suspension in the next sport season in which he/she participates.
- 2nd offense – One calendar year suspension from athletics.
- 3rd offense – Removal of all athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

RULE 2: Athletes shall not possess or use any tobacco product including vaping, DAB, or any other paraphernalia.

Consequences:

- 1st offense - Suspension from 20% of the total number of regular season games. Suspended athletes may not dress for any competition or be involved in any recognition ceremony during the suspension. If less than 20% of the regular season remains, the athlete will be removed from the team, forfeit any awards, and will serve the remainder of his/her suspension in the next sport season in which he/she participates.
- 2nd offense – One calendar year suspension from athletics.
- 3rd offense – Removal of all athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

RULE 3: An athlete who commits an act that would otherwise constitute a felony, misdemeanor, act of delinquency or status offense may face the following:

Consequences:

- 1st offense – If a student has been arrested on or off campus and charged with a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation as defined in F.S. 775.08 or a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that student will receive a four week suspension from practice and competition the first day the school administration becomes aware of said violation(s). After the suspension expires, the coach and administration will make a decision as to whether that student remains eligible or extend the suspension up to four additional weeks based on supportable information obtained from the police or the state attorney's office. The suspension will be immediately lifted should the charges be dropped. If the student is adjudicated guilty of a misdemeanor (F.S. 775.08), the student will be ineligible for a period of four weeks from the date of conviction. The four weeks must be part of the regular school year and will not include summer school. If the student enters a plea of "no contest" and adjudication is withheld, then the student will be ineligible for a period of four school weeks from the date the plea is entered into the court records. If the student is found to be "not guilty", the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or that the "not guilty" is entered into court records. If the student is adjudicated guilty of a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date of conviction. If the student enters a plea of "no contest" to the felony charge, the student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records. If the student is found "not guilty" to the felony charge, the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or a "not guilty" is entered into court records.
- 2nd offense – One calendar year suspension from athletics.

- 3rd offense – Removal of all athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

RULE 4: Stealing and vandalism – an athlete shall not vandalize property at school or at other schools or have in their possession any stolen item from any source, including uniforms or equipment from BNS or other schools. An act of theft will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal from the team and may affect future athletic participation. An athlete who commits these acts may face the following consequences:

Consequences:

- 1st offense – The penalty is to be determined by the Principal and Athletic Director with the minimum penalty being suspension from 20% of the total number of regular season contests and maximum penalty of removal from the team. The suspension will begin after it is determined that the athlete was in violation of this rule. If less than 20% of the season remains, the athlete will be removed from the team, forfeit any awards earned, and will serve the remainder of his/her suspension in the next sport season in which he/she participates.
- 2nd offense – One calendar year suspension from athletics.
- 3rd offense – Removal of all athletic privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career.

RULE 5: Any athlete that is in violation of school rules will be punished according to the Student Handbook. The athlete may be subject to further disciplinary action in accordance with the rules of each sport. If an athlete is suspended out of school for any reason, he/she will be ineligible for all contests during the term of suspension. Out of school suspended athletes cannot practice or attend athletic events during that time.

RULE 6: Specific team rules may be set forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties for violations will be given to the athletes by the coach at the mandatory parent meeting of that sport. These written regulations will be on file in the athletic office.

******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 HIGH 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 schools. 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 school website, Facebook account, Twitter account and Instagram account 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 Parent Square 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 schools are 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, as a combination school, all 8th - 12th grade students may participate on varsity teams. All 8th - 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 each sport. There are some stipulations to these rules per sport.

Question: *What time are practices?*

Answer: Middle School teams will generally practice three to four times per week. 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 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 High 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 Babcock schools, 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 High 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 \$3.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults. Admission for Home JV and Varsity games are \$4.00 for students and \$6.00 for adults. 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 High School athletics offer season and 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 ECG & Physical EL1/EL2, of proof of health insurance, and signed the Student Athlete Handbook. Furthermore, student-athletes must have completed the following NFHS online courses: Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Concussion for Students, Heat Illness Prevention, Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior and Sportsmanship. These courses can be found at nfhslearn.com/courses. These documents must be on file before he/she begins participating in athletics at Babcock schools, 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 via [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: _____

Head Coach: _____ Date: _____
Signature

PART 2

I choose my Secondary Sport as:

Secondary Sport _____ Date: _____

Head Coach: _____ 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 _____



*****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 Day _____ 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: _____