

1. Introduction to the BKW Athletic Program

Victory when possible, Integrity always.

Athletic provide an opportunity to develop the qualities of sportsmanship, citizenship and personal discipline. The student-athletes of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District are expected to represent themselves, their school and community in a positive and respectful manner. The Board of Education has adopted as policy the following regulations in order to ensure that our student-athletes represent the school community to the highest standards.

(Revised August 2004)

Students should be aware that participation in the BKW athletic program is a privilege and not a right. The regulations, as outlined, are in effect 24 hours a day, every day. This period of time begins on the first day of the first sport season in which the athlete participates including any try-out period, and continues for one calendar year.

All students participating in the BKW Athletic Program and their parents are required to sign the Athletic Code of Conduct signature card. Failure to sign this card by either a student or parent will render the student ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. The signing of the Code of Conduct indicates that the student-athlete and parent have read, understand and agree to follow both the spirit and the letter of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

The responsibility of protecting the integrity of the BKW Athletic Program is a shared one. It is our stated goal that students, parents, coaches, educators, administrators and community members will work together to support the positive image of the BKW Athletic Program.

2. Participation Requirements

- a. A current (yearly) sports physical is required to be on file in the nurse's office prior to the athlete's participation in a sports season. The athlete may choose to have the exam performed by the school physician, at no cost to the student, on the designated day in August. The student may opt to have his/her private physician complete the exam at his or her own expense.
- b. All student athletes and parents of student athletes must sign the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- c. All student athletes must be in good academic standing, as outlined in these regulations.
- d. All student athletes must display school citizenship and sportsmanship, as outlined in these regulations.

3. Eligibility

According to NYSPHSAA Regulations, in order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic competition they must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a registered student in school,
- b. Enrolled in a minimum of four subjects including physical education.

Duration of competition (High School level). Students are eligible to compete for:

- a. Four consecutive years upon entry into 9th grade.
- b. Four years in one sport unless advanced by selective classification. Students reaching the age of 19 prior to July 1 may not participate during the school year.

4. NYSPHSAA/Section 2 – Code of Ethics – Sportsmanship Policy – Code of Conduct for Spectators

Code of Ethics:

It is the duty of all concerned with school athletics:

- a. to emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- b. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- c. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- d. To show courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- e. To establish a congenial relationship between visitors and hosts.
- f. To respect integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- g. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- h. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by the players on the team.
- i. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
- j. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, official, fan or community member.

Sportsmanship Policy:

- a. Learn and understand the rules of your sport. Play hard; play to win, but play fairly within the rules.
- b. Maintain self-control. Do not allow your temper to distract you from the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- c. Respect your opponent. Never taunt. Congratulate him or her at game's end.
- d. Acknowledge good play.
- e. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials. Never question the decision of an official.

- f. Be an example for your school, teammates and opponents.
- g. A player who is disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior by an official is prohibited from playing in the next regularly scheduled contest.

- h. A player who strikes or otherwise physically assaults an official will be subject to an extended suspension from athletic competition. A physical confrontation with an official is any incident, which a player strikes, bumps, or otherwise physically intimidates an official prior to, during or after a contest or game.

Code of Conduct for Spectators:

- a. Spectators are an important part of the games and are encouraged to conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- b. Spectators should at all time respect officials, visiting coaches, players and cheerleaders as guests in the community and extend all courtesies to them.
- c. Enthusiastic cheering for one's own team is encouraged.
- d. Booing, whistling, stamping of the feet and disrespectful remarks shall be avoided.
- e. There will be no ringing of bells, sounding of horns or other noisemakers at indoor contests during play. Anyone who does not abide by this rule will be asked to leave the premises.
- f. Pep bands or school bands, under the supervision of school personnel, may play during time-outs, between periods or at halftime. Bands must coordinate their play so as not to interfere with a cheerleading squad on the floor or field.
- g. The throwing of debris, confetti or other objects from the stands is prohibited. Offending individuals will be asked to leave the premises.
- h. During a free throw in basketball, all courtesies should be extended.
- i. Spectators should encourage each other to observe courteous behavior. Improper behavior should be reported to the school authorities.
- j. Spectators will observe the rules of the local school concerning smoking, food and drinking consumption, littering, and parking procedures.
- k. Spectators will respect and obey all school officials and supervisors at athletic contests.

5. BKW Athletic Code of Conduct:

When considering matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Code of Conduct, the coaches, the athletic director, the principal and the Athletic Code Review Board will consider all factors involving the report. These factors include, but are not limited to: the credibility and motivation of the reporter, the timeliness of the report and possibility of reporting error.

In the event that a school official becomes aware of or witnesses a code violation immediately prior to or during an athletic contest, the student athlete will be deemed temporarily ineligible for participation in that athletic contest pending review and subsequent disciplinary action.

Attendance at School

All students are expected to arrive at school, everyday, no later than 8:03 am and leave no earlier than 2:25pm, or at the conclusion of 13th period (if attendance is required by a teacher).

The exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- a. Absence or tardiness *pre-approved* by the administration for legal reasons as established by NYS and/or the BKW Board of Education; including but not limited to doctor appointments, religious observances, senior privileges, college visits
- b. Administrator approved absence or tardiness on the same day as the scheduled event
- c. It is the parent's responsibility to contact a representative of the school if a student will be tardy.

Athletes who do not attend school on the same day of a scheduled contest due to illness will not be allowed to participate in that day's event.

All athletes are expected to attend and participate in all classes, including dressing for and participating in physical education class.

- a. Any unexcused absence from a class is considered to be a violation of both the BKW Student Code of Conduct and the BKW Athletic Code. Students with unexcused absences will be referred to the Athletic Director and/or High School principal for disciplinary action as outlined in both codes.
- b. If a student athlete does not participate in physical education class on the day of a scheduled contest, the athlete is not eligible to participate in the contest.

Consequences for Tardiness

First Offense Within the Academic Year:

Written warning from the administrator, copy of warning provided to coach and parent.

Second Offense Within the Academic Year:

Conference required with the administrator, parent and athlete; written warning, copy provided to coach and parent.

Third Offense and Beyond Within the Academic Year:

Athlete is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest.

B. Academic Eligibility Policy (as it pertains to athletics)

The primary function of our school is to ensure that each student receives the best education possible. The emphasis on academics is reinforced by an eligibility policy that clearly informs students that their scholastic grades and appropriate behaviors determine their eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports activities.

It is a requirement of all BKW athletes that they be in academic good standing in order to be eligible to participate on an athletic team.

The Berne-Knox-Westerlo MS/HS publishes an ineligibility list at the end of each 5-week (interim) reporting period and at the end of each 10-week marking period. Students failing two or more subjects will be placed on the academic ineligibility list. If a student athlete wishes to continue participating on a sports team, the following conditions must be met:

INELIGIBILITY

If a student athlete is placed on the Academic Ineligibility List at any time the student will receive a minimum one game suspension. Suspension from competition will continue until the student returns to academic good standing or removal from the Ineligibility List. *While ineligible, the student athlete will continue to practice with the team and attend games, but not play in games/contests. The student athlete will be ineligible for all other school related extra curricular events (ex. dances, other sporting events).

- **THE STUDENT HAS A PERIOD OF FIVE WEEKS AS OF THE DATE OF PUBLISHING OF THE INELIGIBILITY LIST TO RETURN TO GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING.**
- **IF A STUDENT DOES NOT RETURN TO GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING WITHIN THE FIVE WEEK PERIOD, HE/SHE WILL BE TERMINATED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THAT INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORT (PRACTICES AND GAMES).**

***Coaches have the authority not to allow student athletes to practice or attend games if the student athlete is not making a strong attempt to remove him or herself from the Ineligibility List (passing classes, completing homework assignments, attending 13th period). INELIGIBLE ATHLETES WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE TEACHERS COMPLETE A REPORT ON ACADEMIC STANDING. (See attached)**

Student athletes are expected to utilize 13th period by staying with teachers and/or completing homework in the cafeteria or an area designated by the coach.

***Coaches will expect communication/documentation from the teachers of those subjects the student is failing. The student athlete is responsible to facilitate this communication. Coaches will need to know if homework is being completed and 13th period time is being used appropriately and a strong effort is being made to be in good academic standing.**

Once the student athlete has returned to academic good standing/passing class(es) the student

athlete is responsible to contact the athletic or guidance office to follow established procedures for removal from the ineligibility list.

TRYOUTS

Students may try out for an athletic team while on the ineligibility list; however, the one game suspension penalty will take effect when the regular season games/competition begins. Also, being ineligible may negatively affect the student's chance to make the team when cuts do occur.

***As outlined in Consequences for Infractions of Athletic Code**

C. Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

It is a documented medical fact that the use of tobacco, alcohol, performance enhancing drugs and illegal drugs is injurious to human development and athletic performance. Abstinence from the use of these drugs is mandated if a student athlete wishes to participate in interscholastic sports at BKW.

The Athletic Code of Conduct specifically prohibits the:

- a. Possession of and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages (excluding the use of wine in traditional religious celebrations).
- a. Possession of and/or consumption of any illegal drugs.
- b. Possession of and/or consumption of performance enhancing drugs.
- c. Possession of and/or use of any tobacco products (including cigarettes, chewing tobacco (also known as snuff), cigars).
- d. Distribution of any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, and tobacco products as outlined above.
- e. Attendance at a party where alcohol and/or illegal drugs are being provided to and/or consumed by students.
- f. Hosting a party, which provides and/or allows consumption of alcohol and/or illegal drugs to students.
- g. It is the expectation of the BKW Athletic Department that if a BKW athlete is present at a party where alcohol or drug use is occurring, the athlete will leave the party as soon as safely feasible, preferably immediately. Responsible decision-making would include not returning to the party and encouraging other student athletes to do the same.

Should any team member violate these regulations, the athlete will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in **Consequences for Infractions of the Athletic Code of Conduct**.

D. Citizenship and Sportsmanship

All students who participate in the interscholastic sports program represent the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District. It is our expectation that all athletes will conduct themselves in

a manner, which protects and fosters a positive reputation of our school community. Students who do not conduct themselves in such a manner are in violation of the BKW Athletic Code of Conduct and subject to disciplinary measures as outlined by the **Consequences for Infractions of the Athletic Code of Conduct**.

Examples of Conduct unbecoming of a BKW athlete include, but are not limited to:

Team

- a. Poor sportsmanship
- b. Use of vulgar language and/or gestures
- c. Being a negative influence in terms of team moral or effort
- d. Cheating

School/Community - As defined by the BKW Student Code of Conduct

- a. Multiple discipline referrals
- b. Vandalism
- c. Unexcused absences from class/school
- d. Stealing
- e. Fighting
- f. Possession/Consumption/ Distribution of alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs
- g. Possession /Use of Firearms and Other Weapons
- h. Sexual Harassment/Misconduct
- i. *Hazing/ Participation in Initiating Ceremonies
- j. Bullying/Harassment
- k. Reckless driving on or nearby school property
- l. Any behaviors resulting in suspension from school
- m. Inappropriate behaviors
- n. Any violation/convection of a NYS Law

*Hazing is defined by any conduct or method of initiation into any interscholastic team or organization, whether on public or private property. This conduct includes but is not limited to: shaving, shower pranks, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, forced consumption of food or water, alcoholic beverages, drugs or any other substances. Hazing also includes any treatment of a student, which results in mental or physical anguish.

6. Consequences for Infractions of Athletic Code

First Offense

1. Investigation of a code violation will begin with a meeting consisting of the student athlete, the respective coach, the athletic director, and an administrator will be convened to consider matters which fall under the jurisdiction of the athletic code. The student athlete's parent(s) will be

- invited to participate in this meeting. Subsequent to this meeting, the parent/guardian will receive verbal and/or written notification of any action(s) taken regarding the alleged violations.
2. Beginning on the date of the first offense, the athlete will be placed on probation for one calendar year.
 3. The athlete will be expected to attend and participate in any scheduled practices during the time period in which the game suspensions are being served. The athlete will be expected also to attend all games, but will not be dressed in uniform. Athletes will be expected to attend all scrimmages, but will not participate in the scrimmages. Scrimmages are not considered scheduled contests and therefore would not be considered towards fulfilling a game suspension.
 4. Game penalties that cannot be served and/or counseling not completed during a sports season will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates.
 5. The athlete who is on *athletic exemption for physical education* will have this privilege revoked immediately
 6. Student athletes wishing to reduce the number of game suspensions may do so by actively and cooperatively participating in counseling pertaining to the offense. Counseling may be sought in-house or out-of-school. The parameters of the counseling will be set on an individual basis by the counselor and/or social worker, in cooperation with the student athlete, coach, parents, athletic director, and the administrator. The student athlete will meet with the school social worker for a two session initial assessment. Subsequent to the assessment, the student athlete will request, in writing to the athletic director, a reduction in the game suspension and outline the agreed upon parameters of the counseling sessions. The athlete must be a willing and cooperative participant in counseling and agree to the athletic director or a designee (ie. social worker) monitoring his/her progress with the said counselor.

NOTE: The Hosting of Drinking or Drug Parties or Providing Any Controlled Substance

STUDENT ATHLETES PROVIDING ANY ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR HOSTING A PARTY THAT PROVIDES OR ALLOWS THE USE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SHALL BE REMOVED FROM PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING ON THE DATE OF THE OFFENSE.

Second Offense

If a second offense occurs during the probationary period of one calendar year, all of the provisions of the first offense will remain intact. However, the games penalty will be increased according to the games suspension chart. In addition, a new probationary period will begin from the date of the second offense.

A second drug or alcohol related offense would result in the removal of the athlete from participation in interscholastic sports for one calendar year, beginning on the date of the second offense.

Counseling, as outlined previously, remains an option for athletes to reduce the game suspension.

Third Offense

If a third offense happens during the probationary period the student athlete will be removed from participation in interscholastic sports for a period of one calendar year. Any athlete who seeks professional counseling, as previously outlined, may request a review of the penalty by the Athletic Code of Conduct Review Board.*

Fourth Offense

If a student athlete reaches their fourth offense, the athlete may forfeit his/her privilege to play on a BKW athletic team for the remainder of the time he/she is in high school.

Self-Referral

An athlete who requests assistance with a problem prior to any violation will be directed for assistance. He/she will not be removed from competition. A one-year probationary period will become effective, and a future violation will be handled as a second offense.

Failure to complete counseling will result in the athlete being subject to First Offense Consequences.

Game Suspension Chart

# Of Contests	First Offense	Second Offense
8	2	3
9	2	3
10	2	3
11	2	3
12	3	4
13	3	4
14	3	4
15	3	4
16	4	5
17	4	5
18	4	5
19	4	5
20+	4	5

It should be noted that an athlete may face immediate removal from the team if the coach and the administration deem the offense committed warrants such an action. An example of such as offense would be a conviction of a felony offense.

A decision regarding disciplinary action under the athletic code will be rendered within three (3) school days.

7. Athletic Code of Conduct Review Board

The role of the Athletic Code of Conduct Review Board is to consider matters, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Code of Conduct. The members of this board will include the athletic director, an administrator (principal or superintendent), a board of education member, a coach neutral to the team involved and a high school teacher (academic matters) or counselor/social worker (drug and alcohol, behavioral issues). Members of this board are asked to make a yearlong commitment to the position.

The primary responsibility of the Athletic Code of Conduct Review Board is to determine the eligibility of a student athlete for participation in the BKW interscholastic sports program. The board will convene at the written request of the student athlete. The board will review evidence presented by the student athlete in support of his/her reinstatement in the BKW interscholastic sports program.

Decisions rendered by the board will be final for the sports season under review. Student athletes have the right to request the board to reconvene to determine eligibility for the next sports season.

8. Team Standards

New York State sets regulations regarding daily attendance at practices and the minimum number of practices before being eligible for competition for each sport. Coaches will inform athletes of these rules.

In addition to the NYS regulations, coaches will set team standards.

Athletes are expected to:

- a. Attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach or principal.
- b. Demonstrate respect for fellow teammates, coaches, game officials and opponents.
- c. Demonstrate loyalty to team and coaches.
- d. Demonstrate control over emotions and speech.
- e. Demonstrate constant effort to improve.
- f. Report to locker room and/or fields at designed times for practice/games and behave in a responsible manner.

- g. Respect and follow all established rules of the game.

Voluntary Removal From a Team (Quitting a Team)

It is considered a violation of the BKW Athletic Code should a student decide to remove himself/herself from a team voluntarily without the knowledge and/or consent of the coach. The student will be subject to disciplinary action according to the game suspension chart in the next athletic season he/she participates in.

9. Outside Team Rule

The NYSPHSAA regulations allow outside competition during the sport seasons. If a Berne-Knox-Westerlo athlete chooses to participate in a club sport, it should be with the understanding that the commitment to the school team for practice and games will take priority over club sports.

10. Injuries, Insurance, Risk Factors in Sports

It should be noted that with any sports competition there is a certain risk of injury. The nature of athletic injury can run from minor injuries such as a bruise and scrapes to more serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, paralysis and concussions leading to death.

All injuries, no matter how insignificant in the athlete's opinion, must be reported to the coach immediately. Team members recovering from serious injury where professional medical advice has been received may not return to competition without written approval from their doctor.

Medical expenses resulting from any injury are submitted first to the athlete's own insurance carrier. Please notify the school nurse regarding any injuries resulting in medical expenses.

11. Issuance of School Clothing and Equipment

It is the responsibility of the athlete to turn back to the coach all clothing and equipment issued. Failure to do this will result in the athlete paying the replacement cost for the missing articles. Athletes not paying for the missing articles will forfeit their right to receive any school equipment or clothing in the next sports season or be eligible for any certificate, pin, or letter. A list of all violators will be sent to the Athletic Director and forwarded to the building principal. Student athletes caught stealing issued equipment will receive additional consequences.

12. Transportation

Student athletes will be expected to ride the team bus to and from away athletic contests. Under some circumstances a student athlete may receive permission from his/her coach to ride home from the contest with his/her parents. Also, an athlete may ride home with another athlete's parents if written permission has been obtained from the parents.

13. List of Offered Sports and Levels

Fall:

- Cross-Country – Boys and Girls (Varsity and Modified)
- Soccer – Boys and Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)
- Volleyball – Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)
- Golf – Boys and Girls (Varsity and Modified)

Winter:

- Basketball – Boys and Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, 7th and 8th Grade)
- Bowling – Boys and Girls (Varsity and Modified)
- Cheerleading – Girls (Varsity and Junior Varsity)
- Wrestling – Boys and Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)

Spring:

- Baseball – Boys (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)
- Softball – Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)
- Track – Boys and Girls (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified)

14. Modified Sports Philosophy

The philosophy of the BKW modified sports program for girls and boys in grade seven and eight (possibly nine), is guided by the following criteria:

- a. The program is for the students
- b. Knowledge and skills are to be developed for all of the athletes in each sport. Emphasis should be placed on building good character.
- c. Physical fitness, sportsmanship, and teamwork should be promoted.
- d. Each participant should receive some level of success, either in improvement of skills or overall playing ability in a game situation.
- e. Each participant should have substantial playing time. (It does not have to be equal, but as near as equal as possible).
- f. Winning is important, but not the first priority of the team.
- g. Each student should have a feeling of self worth
- h. Modified coach and the varsity coach will communicate with each other to foster continuity within the program.

15. Varsity and Junior Varsity Program

Berne-Knox-Westerlo understands the important role that athletics can play in the education of our student-athletes. Participation contributes to physical, emotional and social health. Student-athletes learn the values of citizenship, commitment, leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship and physical fitness. The values of healthy competition can promote unity and cooperation among student-athletes, the student body and the greater Berne-Knox-Westerlo community.

Winning is a natural goal in sports. Our teams will strive to win, but we will measure success in criteria that transcends winning and losing. Attributes like effort, determination, improvement, respect for coaches and teammates, respect for officials and learning to win with grace and lose with dignity will characterize our sports programs. Winning is emphasized more strongly at the varsity levels within the framework of healthy competition. Winning remains a goal at the sub-varsity level but is subordinate to participation and skill development.

Teamwork is the ultimate goal. Together we can create a safe, rewarding and enjoyable experience for all participants.

16. Selective Classification

Berne-Knox-Westerlo participates in the New York State Education Department approved program that can provide the opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students to participate on varsity, and junior varsity teams. This program has been designed for the exceptional few in each school who would be better served by playing on a higher-level team than age and grade might indicate. It is expected there will be very few participating under this program. Information must be collected and evaluated by the Director of Athletics before a student may tryout for a team.

Considerations that must be met include:

- a. Parental permission
- b. Medical examination and approved by school or family physician with the development or maturity level determined by the physician in accordance with established guidelines for the level of a particular sport.
- c. The six-item athletic performance test must be administered by a physical education teacher selected by the Director of Athletics. The athlete must meet or exceed the criteria established for the level of participation desired. Students who do not meet the criteria during the test may have the opportunity to try one more time.
- d. The individual's prior experience and skill level is judged on the demands of the sport at the level of play at which the student is endeavoring to qualify.

17. Athletic Awards

The Berne-Knox-Westerlo community is proud of the continuing tradition of athletic achievement by their student-athletes. Athletes participating in the BKW athletic program are eligible for a variety of awards and certificates designed to recognize athletic achievement, academic achievement and sportsmanship.

These awards include:

A. Underclassmen Awards

Ron Connors Memorial Award: This award is granted to a BKW golf team member in memory of Ron Connors. Mr. Connors was the BKW elementary principal from 1960-1985 and a member of the school board for five years. He was an avid golfer. This award recognizes an athlete who demonstrates a love and respect for the game of golf.

Julie Foley Award: These awards are granted to two female basketball players in honor of longtime teacher and coach, Julie Foley. Mrs. Foley worked diligently during her tenure at BKW to advance girls athletic programs at BKW and in Section 2. This award is based on sportsmanship and commitment to basketball.

Brian Schwenk Memorial Award: This award is granted in memory of Brian Schwenk, a former BKW student and soccer athlete. This award is presented to a male soccer athlete who has displayed the qualities of sportsmanship and commitment to the game of soccer.

Pete Shaul Memorial Award: These awards are granted to two male basketball players in memory of Pete Shaul, longtime teacher and coach at BKW. This award is based on sportsmanship and commitment to basketball.

Eric Stempel Memorial Award: These awards are granted in memory of Eric Stempel, a former BKW student and soccer athlete. One award is presented to one male and one female freshmen athlete who have excelled in sportsmanship and commitment to the game of soccer.

B. Senior Awards

Garrett Barton Award: This award is presented in memory of Garrett Barton to a senior boy who has participated in the soccer program and has shown a true dedication to the sport, as well as contribution to the team.

Robert Bishop Memorial Award: This award is presented to a senior male athlete in memory of Robert Bishop, a former BKW student and athlete. This award is presented to an athlete who has shown dedication to the BKW athletic program and has been a cooperative student to teach and coach.

Esther and Bob Conklin Sports Memorial Award: This award is presented in memory of Bob and Esther Conklin to one senior boy and girl who have participated in the sports program during their high school career.

Arlene Lendrum Memorial Award: This award is granted to a senior girl athlete in memory of Arlene Lendrum. Mrs. Lendrum served on the school board for 23 years and was a strong advocate for the girls' athletic program. This award is presented to an athlete who best exemplifies the finer qualities of athletic skill, sportsmanship and character.

Shirley Salsburg Memorial Sportsmanship Award: This award is presented to the senior girl whose sportsmanship qualities have excelled in four years of high school.

Sports Booster Club Awards: These awards are presented to a senior boy(s) and girl(s), in good academic standing, involved in at least one sport in their senior year, and who plans to study physical education in college.

Robert Morey Athletic Memorial Scholarship Award: This award is presented in memory of Robert Morey to a senior male or female athlete who participated in Basketball, Baseball, or Softball during their high school years. The recipient will have been a hard working dedicated role player who performed behind the scenes without much recognition.

C. Scholar-Athlete Awards

Capital Region Scholar-Athlete Awards: These awards are presented to scholar-athletes by the Capital Region Local Organizing Committee. Ten scholar athletes from the capital region are recognized by capital region businesses for their academic achievement, athletic ability and service to the community.

NYS Scholar-Athlete Team Award: This award recognizes a varsity team whose team average is 90% or better (the size of the team is taken into consideration when determining the team average). The members of the team are recognized with a certificate of achievement.

Western Athletic Conference Academic All-Stars: This award recognizes scholastic and academic achievement by varsity level athletes who participate in interscholastic sports programs in the Western Athletic Conference. Student athletes achieving an average of 85% or better are recognized with a certificate of achievement after each sports season.

Western Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete Award: This award is granted to four athletes (two male and two female) who have participated in interscholastic sports programs offered in the Western Athletic Conference. These athletes are recognized for their academic

achievement, sportsmanship and community service.

8. Communication of Athletic Concerns

The intent of this section is to help improve communication between parents, coaches and administrators for the ultimate benefit of the student athlete. Involvement in extracurricular activities allows student athletes to experience some of the most rewarding times of their lives. There may be moments, however, when things do not go their way or they disagree with a coach. This is also true for parents. It is important that students and parents realize that difficult situations are as much a part of the learning process as the good times. Students and parents are often unaware of the basis behind a coach's decision.

We strongly encourage the student, not the parents, to talk with the coach about any issues or problems that arise during the season. This is not only the most direct and productive means of communication but also a valuable method of teaching responsibility.

We recognize that situations may arise where parents find it necessary to raise a concern. We ask that you please adhere to the following communication guidelines.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically
- Ways the parent can help the child to improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

Protocol for registering concerns:

- Contact the coach first. If you cannot reach him/her, call the athletic director's office and a meeting will be set up for you.
- If the meeting does not provide satisfactory resolution, call
- to set up an appointment with the athletic director.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution and set both parties up for failure.

19. Student-Athlete Advocate Program

It is the goal of the BKW Athletic Department that each student experiences both academic and athletic success. In order to assist students meet the expectations of the athletic code, the coaches have established a student-athlete advocate program.

In the event that a student athlete experience difficulties in meeting the expectation of the athletic code, an advocate may be requested by the student-athletes and/or have one assigned by the athletic director to assist the student-athlete. The role of the student-athlete advocate includes assisting the student athlete to:

- Contact teachers regarding academic concerns
- Identify strategies to achieve academic success
- Access student services
- Understand and follow the procedure to establish athletic eligibility as outlined by the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Please contact the athletic director for more information.

20. NCAA Eligibility

Any senior student athlete planning to enroll in college as a freshman and who wants to participate in Division I or Division II athletics must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Applications may be obtained in the Athletic Office.