

Bath High School
2016-2017
Student Athlete
Handbook

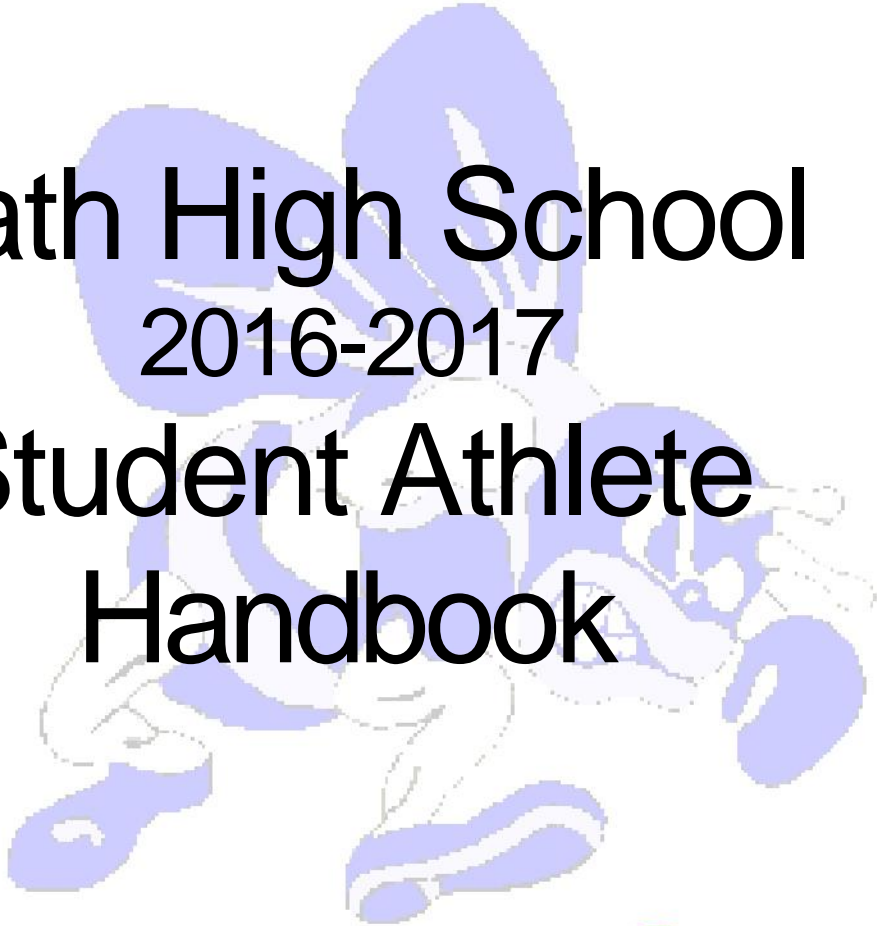


Table of Contents

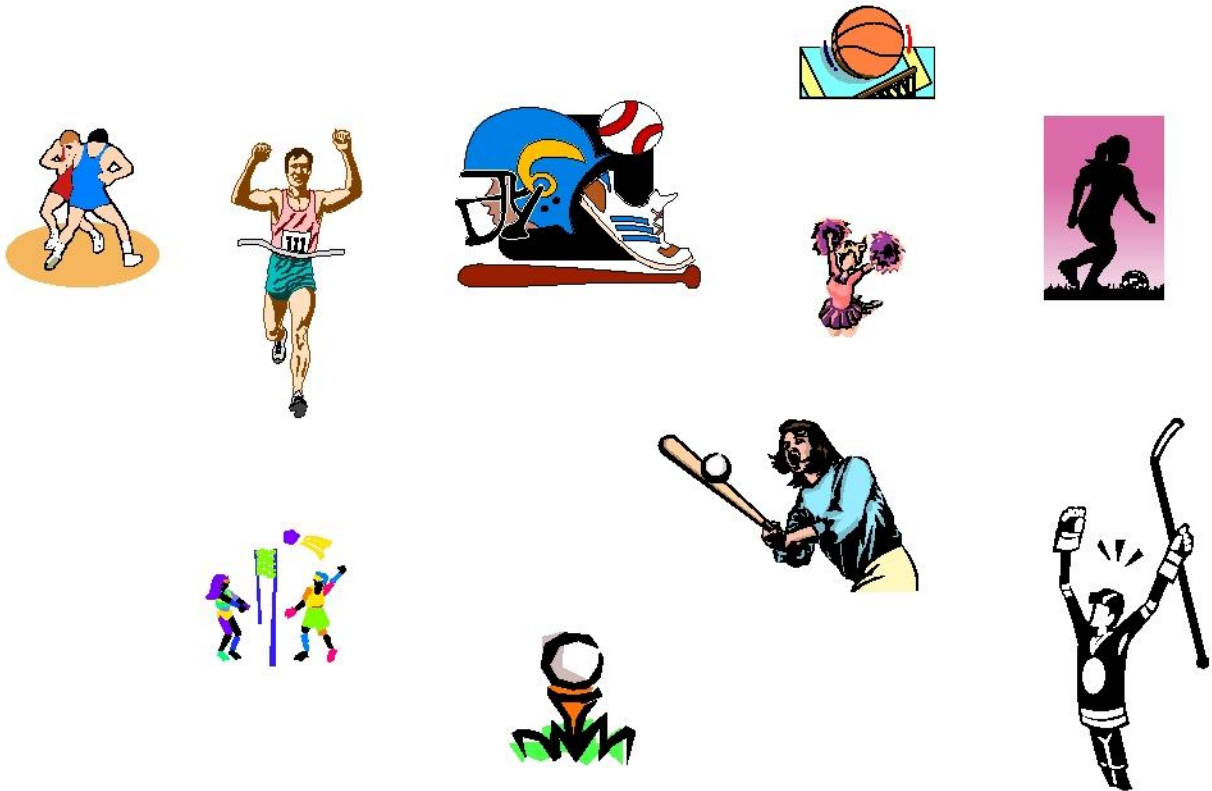
Introduction	3
Interscholastic Sports	4
Title IX	4
About Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)	5
About Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC)	5
About Bath Schools Athletics	5
Conduct of Student Athletes	6
Participation	6
Doubling & Participation	6
Eligibility	7&8
Attendance	8
Temporary Suspension or Dismissal	9
Insurance and Liability	9
Out of Season Practice	9
Elevating Players	10
Equipment	10
Game and Practice Uniforms	10
Practice	10
Team Rules	11
Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Policy	11
Appeal Process	12
Facilities & Supervision	12
Transportation	12
Emergency Procedures	13
Event Suspension Guidelines	14
Awards	14
Athletic Fee Guidelines	15
Conflict Resolution	16
Concussion Education	17
Athlete/Parent Agreement	18

To the Student Athletes and Parents of Bath High School

This handbook is meant to serve as an informational guide to the student athletes of Bath High School and their parents. Participation in sports is an earned privilege. With this privilege comes the responsibility of a high standard of behavior and academics.

STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP- Sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior characterized by respect and concern for others.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is achieved when participants play hard, play safe, respect the opponent and game officials, and accept the results of competition.



Interscholastic Sports Offered at Bath High School

Football

Varsity
Junior Varsity

Cross Country

Basketball

Varsity
Junior Varsity
Freshman (Boys)

Baseball

Varsity
Junior Varsity

Cheerleading

Hockey

Volleyball

Varsity
Junior Varsity
Freshman

Wrestling

Track

Softball

Varsity
Junior Varsity

Golf

Gymnastics

Soccer (Girls)

Title IX

All students have rights as citizens of the United States not to be discriminated against on the basis of sex. Under a special law, you are protected against being treated unfairly simply because you are a male or female. In 1972, to ensure that all educational programs and activities were open to all students and that students were not treated differently on the basis of their sex, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was passed.

Title IX states... No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The athletic programs at Bath High School follow the rules, regulations and policies as set forth by the:

- Michigan High School Athletic Association
- Central Michigan Athletic Conference
- Bath Community Schools Board of Education
- Bath Community Schools Athletic Department

MHSAA

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. (MHSAA) is a private, voluntary association for public, private and parochial secondary schools which choose to join and participate in the organization. The primary function of the Association is to conduct postseason tournaments and to help member schools have rules and guidelines to follow and enforce locally to promote equitable competitions.

CMAC

Bath High School is a member of the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC). Member schools: Bath, Dansville, Fowler, Fulton, Laingsburg, Pewamo-Westphalia, Portland St. Patrick, Potterville & Saranac.

The CMAC strives to uphold the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards should apply equally to all activities.

STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP-- Sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior characterized by respect and concern for others. The goal of the CMAC is to promote good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity within school athletics. Sportsmanship shall be promoted in actions and words. Coaches, fans and participants should be aware of the impact and influence of their behavior on others.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP-- is achieved where participants play hard, play safe, respect the opponent and game officials, and accept the results of competition.

BATH SCHOOLS

Bath High School athletics are an integral part of the educational experience, which promotes a balance of academic, social, and athletic success while developing character, integrity, leadership, sportsmanship, and commitment.

CONDUCT OF STUDENT ATHLETES

- **IN THE SCHOOL:** Refer to the Bath High School Handbook for general behavior guidelines. Athletes should be leaders and worthy of respect from fellow students and from staff. Students who violate the Bath High School Handbook are subject to suspension from athletic teams at the discretion of building administration.
- **IN THE CLASSROOM:** Academics are the primary responsibility for students at Bath High School. Athletes should strive to maintain a balance between positive attitude, academic responsibility, and good sportsmanship at all times.
- **ON THE FIELD:** In competition, athletes do not use profanity or illegal tactics, learn quickly that losing is part of competition, and are gracious in defeat and modest in victory.

Any behavior deemed detrimental to the well-being of the school may result in disciplinary action by the Athletic Director and building Principal. This policy applies to online activity as well.

PARTICIPATION

The philosophy of the Board of Education and the athletic department is to involve as many team members in meaningful participation as possible within the confines of the sport. Coaches do their best to carry as many players as possible on a team and yet stay within the limits of time, space, and meaningful activity. There is a maximum of 15 members on the basketball and volleyball teams. This does not mean that every individual who tries out for a team will make the team or that each athlete will play in every game or play equal minutes. Once an athlete has started a sport the athlete may not change to another sport without approval from the Athletic Director.

PARTICIPATION ON TWO ATHLETIC TEAMS IN THE SAME SEASON

Student athletes may participate in two athletic programs in the same season (doubling). Athletes will not be penalized for missing a practice the day of a game or meet in the other sport in which they participate. The athlete must declare a priority sport to determine participation should a scheduling conflict arise.



ELIGIBILITY

AGE- Athletes must be under nineteen (19) years of age at the time of a contest unless their birthday occurs on or after September 1st.

ENROLLMENT-

- To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the first semester of the school year, a student must be enrolled in Bath high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day.
- To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the second semester of the school year, a student must be enrolled in Bath high school not later than the fourth Friday of February.
- A student must be enrolled in at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student in the school for which he or she competes.

ENROLLMENT/PARTICIPATION- Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than four years of eligibility in any given sports season. Students cannot compete if they have graduated from high school.

TRANSFER STUDENTS- A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for an entire semester unless the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under one or more of the 15 published exceptions. Please contact the Athletic Director with questions concerning transfers.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION- Students must have on file, in the athletic office, a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15), certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. Athletes must have a physical before trying out or practicing for any sport. Physical cards are available in the athletic office.

AWARDS & AMATEURISM- Students cannot receive money or other valuable consideration for participation in MHSAA sponsored sports or national championships, regardless of the method of selection. Students may accept, for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over \$25.

LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP- After practicing or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport during the same season.

ACADEMIC RECORDS- No student shall compete in any athletic contest who does not have to his or her credit in the official records of this school, at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student for the last semester during which he or she was enrolled in grades 9 to 12. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8th grade.

WEEKLY ELIGIBILITY- Faculty members will be asked to mark a weekly eligibility list based on citizenship and/or academic factors. Academic factors include probationary ("D") or failing grades. An athlete will not be allowed to compete in an interscholastic athletic contest if he/she is failing two or more classes or has any combination of 3 academic/behavioral marks. Academic marks are measured from the beginning of the term through Friday of the week before the competition. Note: Ineligibility will include Monday through Saturday of the eligibility week. Examples of situations that result in athletes being deemed ineligible:

- 2 or more failing grades

- 1 failing grade and 2 probationary ("D") grades

- 1 failing grade and 2 citizenship marks

- 1 failing grade, 1 probationary ("D") grade, and 1 citizenship mark

- 3 citizenship marks

This list is not exhaustive, but illustrates how different factors can combine to make an athlete ineligible. An athlete will be required to practice even if he/she is not eligible for competition. Students and parents will be notified in a letter sent home by the Athletic Director of their eligibility status on a weekly basis. If a student is ineligible, the coach will meet with the athlete to discuss his/her playing status.

SEMESTER ELIGIBILITY- Students must pass five of seven classes for the semester.

A student who fails three or more classes in a semester is ineligible for 60 scheduled school days. Exception to the 60 days of ineligibility:

If the student completes, and passes summer school, correspondence courses or on-line courses which the school accepts for credit, this restores eligibility. The student will be eligible when the grades become part of the student's transcript.

ATTENDANCE

DAILY ATTENDANCE- Athletes are required to be in school the entire day of an athletic event or practice. Athletes may not participate in practice or competition if they are marked absent for any period during the day unless official documentation for the absence is provided to the athletic office. Notes from parents are not considered official documentation. Coaches will receive attendance records prior to practice or competition to ensure that the attendance policy is enforced.

SUSPENSION

First Offense: If a student is suspended from school, he/she is also suspended from athletic participation. The school suspension will also include suspension from at least one competition (game, meet, match, etc.). NOTE: If a student athlete is suspended out of season, the one competition suspension will be served during the next season of participation. This policy also applies to in-school suspensions as well.

Second Offense: If a student is suspended from school for a second time in the same season, they will be dismissed from the team.

**If a contest is cancelled, the student athlete will be suspended from the next contest.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL FROM A TEAM

- A coach may hand down a temporary suspension from a team if team rules or handbook guidelines have been violated. The coach will discuss the suspension with the athlete and a written notification from the Athletic Director will be sent to the parents immediately. If necessary, a meeting will be arranged between parent, athlete, coach and/or Athletic Director.
- If dismissal from a team becomes necessary, athletes and their parents will receive written notification from the Athletic Director. The date and reason for dismissal will be clearly stated as well as the deadline in which uniforms and/or equipment must be returned.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

- Bath Community Schools and the Board of Education do not assume any liability for injuries incurred by the student athlete while participating in interscholastic events. Any medical expenses incurred due to injury will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- Student Accident Insurance is available for purchase through First Agency Inc. (<https://www.1stagency.com/PDF/MichiganPremierVoluntaryAccidentPlan.pdf>)

OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICES

An out-of-season coach must contact the athletes' current coach to clear participation in out-of-season programs. The out-of-season coach may work with a maximum of four Bath athletes at any given time (MHSAA policy). The practice time and day is at the coach's discretion and the Athletic Director's approval.

ELEVATING PLAYERS

Players may be called up from one team to another in any of the high school sports programs. This is done at the discretion of the Head Coach and coaching staff. The coach will meet with the player and parents to discuss the decision.

EQUIPMENT

- Athletes will be held responsible for all sports equipment issued to them. Students who do not return equipment will be required to pay a replacement fee in the amount to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Students will not be allowed to begin practice for the next season's sport until all equipment has been turned in or the replacement cost has been paid.

GAME AND PRACTICE UNIFORMS

- All student athletes will be required to sign an agreement stating they have been issued a game and/or practice uniform and they are responsible for returning the uniform at the end of the season. Athletes will be uniformly dressed for all interscholastic athletic contests.
- Game uniform, practice gear, warm-up jacket, or any other clothing issued to the athlete should not be worn at any time other than at athletic contests, practices, or day of the event unless otherwise designated by the coach.
- If the coach is not able to collect a uniform, the students' name will be turned in to the Athletic Director. The parent/guardian will be sent a bill for the cost of a replacement uniform and a student will not be allowed to begin practice for the next season's sport until their uniform has been turned in or the fee paid.

PRACTICE

- The Athletic Director and the coach assign practice times/days.
- On days when inclement weather forces the cancellation of school, sports teams may practice or compete at the discretion of the Superintendent, Principal, and Athletic Director.
- Winter sports coaches will distribute copies of practice schedules once a month. Teams in other seasons usually practice at the same time daily so distribution of practice schedules is unnecessary.
- Practices on weekends and holidays are scheduled at the coaches' discretion. The coach will inform the players and parents of the practice policy prior to the season at the preseason parent/coaches meeting.
- All practices must be supervised.

TEAM RULES

- In addition to the rules in this handbook, all coaches will establish, and submit to the Athletic Director for his approval, team rules, policies, & award requirements.
- Upon approval, these requirements will be distributed to the athlete and his or her parents at the preseason parent/coaches meeting.
- Please note: Coaches team rules may be more stringent than the rules stated in the handbook.
- The athlete and his or her parents must sign the form, located in the back of this handbook, stating that they have received and read the Athletic Handbook and the team rules & policies. This form will be kept on file in the athletic office and the student may not participate until this form has been turned in.
- In the sports of Volleyball and Basketball (girls & boys), rosters will be limited to fifteen (15) players.

RULES PERTAINING TO THE USE OF TOBACCO, ILLICIT DRUGS, PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- The conduct of a student wishing to become an athlete must be above reproach from the first time he or she participates in a sport until the end of his or her high school career. Athletes are not permitted to possess and/or use tobacco, illicit drugs, performance enhancing drugs or alcohol. **This policy is in effect year round.**
- Athletes are not permitted to be present where underage drinking and/or any illicit drugs, performance enhancing drugs or activities are taking place. **This policy is in effect year round.**
- If the Athletic Director determines that an athlete has violated this policy, the athlete will be suspended from a third of the season and the parents will be notified in writing. If there is not a third of the season remaining, the suspension will carry over into the next sport in which the athlete participates. There will be an automatic and confidential referral to the counseling department for an assessment. The athlete will be expected to attend all practices, scrimmages and contests and follow the coaches' instructions. Administration may use discretion in certain circumstances.
- The student athlete must start and finish a season in order to have a suspension count. If the student athlete is doubling, the third of the season suspension is in effect for both sports.
- If an athlete violates this policy a second time, he or she will be suspended for ninety (90) school days from all athletic competition at Bath High School. If there are not a full 90 days remaining in the season, the suspension will resume the day of the first competition of the next season the athlete participates in.
- If an athlete violates this policy a third time, he or she will be permanently expelled from all athletic participation at Bath High School.

APPEAL PROCESS FOR ALCOHOL / DRUG POLICY

- An athlete and/or parent can make an appeal by contacting the Athletic Director within three (3) school days of the suspension.
- The appeal will consist of a meeting with the Athletic Director, Principal, Coach, athlete, and parents.
- The athlete will remain a member of the team until the appeal process is completed, but will not be permitted to compete in interscholastic competitions.
- A written record of all violations and subsequent disciplinary actions will be kept confidential and in the Athletic Director's office.

FACILITIES AND SUPERVISION

- The proper care of athletic facilities is the responsibility of each coach and athlete. Damage to any equipment or facility must be reported to the Athletic Director immediately.
- Members of the coaching staff will supervise all activities by athletes, formal or informal, practice or competition.
- Coaches will provide supervision in the locker room, training room and weight room when being used by athletes.
- The coach may not leave the facility until all athletes have left or been picked up by their parent. Athletes should be picked up within a reasonable amount of time following the end of a practice or competition.
- There must be direct supervision by a coaching staff member for all athletes using the machines in the weight room. The weight room must be kept locked when not in use.

TRANSPORTATION

- The Athletic Director and Transportation Supervisor will schedule all bus transportation at the beginning of the sports season. A copy of the schedule will be posted on the transportation link of the Bath Community Schools web page.
- The coaching staff must accompany the team to and from all contests.
- Being a member of a team involves traveling together to and from an athletic event on the transportation provided. If circumstances warrant the parents taking an athlete home, a form must be obtained and filled out by the athlete prior to the day of the competition.
- As an athlete, students must: be ready at departure time, keep the bus clean, close the windows at the end of the trip, treat the driver with respect, only football and softball spikes may be worn, and represent Bath in the very best possible manner.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

On the first day of practice each athlete will fill out an emergency form. The coach will have these emergency numbers with him/her during practices and at all sporting events. A report for any injury will be filled out and given to the Athletic Director to be kept on file.

In the event that an injury of an emergency nature occurs at Bath High School, the following protocol will be enacted:

AT A PRACTICE

- The coach or athletic trainer will check the injured player to determine the extent of the injury. Immediate steps will be taken to prevent such things as blood loss and shock, and to relieve the athlete's distress with the materials and equipment available. The person will be continually reassured that help is on the way.
- The coach will instruct another adult or a player to go for help.
- If the injury is of a life-threatening nature (unconscious, dilated pupils, or low pulse), the rescue squad will be contacted immediately by dialing 9-1-1. The parents will then be contacted.
- If the injury is of a less severe nature, the parents will be contacted and advised of the situation. The parents then can decide if medical attention is needed and transport them accordingly.
- If parents cannot be reached, the coach will call Administration- High School Principal, 641-6724 or Superintendent, 641-6721. The coach will also call an emergency contact listed on the athletes' emergency card. If no one can be reached, the coach will call for an ambulance, cancel practice, and ride in the ambulance with the injured athlete.

AT A HOME CONTEST

- Football games and large Track and Cross Country Invitationals- rescue squad personnel are on site and will give medical attention to any major injury. Rescue personnel have the ability to contact ambulance service if one is required.
- At all other sporting events the coach will follow the steps used when injuries occur at a practice except that the game manager will handle calling emergency personnel.

AT AN AWAY CONTEST

- In the event of an injury serious enough to warrant transportation to a local health care facility, the parents will be contacted as soon as possible. The coach will remain with the team and have emergency personnel at the host school transport the athlete. Bus drivers and/or parents may not supervise the team.

EVENT SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

LIGHTNING / THUNDER- When lightning or thunder is observed, the contest will be suspended and contestants will not be allowed to return to competition until lightning and thunder has been absent from the sky for 30 minutes. An announcement will be made regarding the suspension of the game, and spectators will be advised to seek shelter. The decision to continue or cancel the contest will be made by the Athletic Director or Game Manager, in conjunction with the game official(s). If a varsity conference contest is cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule it, all other contests will be rescheduled if possible.

TORNADO- When a tornado watch is in effect, conditions will be monitored and if conditions worsen appropriate actions will be taken. If a tornado warning is issued, contest participants will enter the school and go to the designated tornado shelter area. Students will not leave the school until an all-clear signal has been given.

- When a tornado watch or warning is issued, parents have the option to prohibit or remove their child from the competition. The parent must notify coaches before the child is released. This allows the coach to account for all participants.

AWARDS

Prior to the beginning of the season, coaches will submit in writing to the Athletic Director requirements for earning varsity letter/certificate.

Athletes and parents will be made aware of these requirements, in writing, at the preseason parent/coaches meeting.



- In each varsity sport, the head coach will select the Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, and Coaches Award. There is no limit to the number of times a student may earn these awards. Co-awards are permitted with Athletic Director approval.
- All awards will be presented at a banquet at the end of the season.
- Athletes qualifying for awards in the interscholastic athletic program at Bath will receive awards based on the following criteria:
A certificate will be awarded to each team member who completes the season on any Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Freshman team.
The athlete who wins a varsity award is entitled to receive a 6" chenille letter "B", year of graduation numbers, and miniature sports pin. Only one letter will be issued to an athlete during his/her high school career.
- Coaches will submit nominations for All-League Honors and attend the All-League selection meeting in their sport.
- Four-year certificates will be awarded at the annual Senior Night to athletes who have competed in the same sport at Bath High School all 4 years of high school.

Athletic Fee Guidelines

1. A yearly fee of \$100 per student will be charged if he/she is involved in any sport. No student will pay more than \$100 per year. No family shall exceed payment fees of \$200 per year (middle and high school students included).
2. Fees for students will be ongoing, and the athletic administrator and/or the building principal will set the deadline dates. All fees will be paid to the athletic director.
3. The fee paid does not guarantee playing time for the athlete.
4. Scholarships will be available to students who can show financial need based on free and reduced lunch applications. Students need to speak to their building principal or counselor about this possibility.
5. An athletic fee contract will be signed and turned in before the student will be allowed to participate in any sport.
6. The athletic administrator for each sport will establish a minimum number of participants. If these numbers are not met, the sport may be cancelled and the money for the athletic fee will be refunded.
7. All athletes must turn in their physical card before they will be allowed to practice.
8. There will be no refunds unless the athlete does not make the team.
9. A student must meet eligibility guidelines to be able to participate in any sport. Becoming ineligible after the start of the sport will not result in the refund of the athletic fee.

Adopted by the Bath Community Schools Board of Education: July 8, 2002;
Revised: June 22nd, 2009.

Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process

- All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur.
- A 24 hour “cooling off” period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.
- Complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it.

- Step 1 **Start with the Source**
The player will speak directly to the coach. A cooling off period will be granted for all parties before a resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present; however, the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.
- Step 2 **Move to program head**
This step is necessary only if the issue involves a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the “source” is the head of the program, move to step three.
- Step 3 **Contact Athletic Director**
If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.
- Step 4 **Contact Principal**
If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.
- Step 5 **Notify the Superintendent**
At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the school superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.
- Step 6 **Request non-partisan School Board mediation**
This final step is appropriate only in extreme circumstances and shall follow the same process laid down for the superintendent.

We have read and understand the information given in this Student Athlete Handbook. We agree to the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

Student Name

please print

Student Signature

Parent Name

please print

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

<u>Athletic Fee \$100</u>	
Amount Paid	_____
Check Number	_____
Cash	_____