

**Interboro School District  
Athletic Handbook  
2019-20**

**FOR  
Student-Athletes  
AND  
Parents/Guardians**

**Interboro School District**  
**900 Washington Avenue**  
**Prospect Park, PA 19076**  
**610-461-6700**

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The **Interboro School District** is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, handicap/disability, union membership, or other legally protected classifications. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

This handbook is also available online at [www.interborosd.org](http://www.interborosd.org)

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# **INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT**

**The interscholastic athletic program of the Interboro School District is committed to the pursuit of excellence.**

**The Interboro Athletic Department is committed to the pursuit of excellence both on and off the field. Our program is designed to:**

- Promote the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of our student athletes.
- Maintain the tradition of sportsmanship and comradery among our student athletes.
- Foster an environment of parental and community support for all teams.

We believe our success stems from the cooperation of all members of the athletic community.

## **GOALS:**

The Interboro School District interscholastic athletic program includes coordinated programs at the middle school and high school levels. These programs provide students with the opportunities to:

- Experience a feeling of self-worth and to develop self-confidence through individual and team achievements.
- Develop leadership, self-discipline, self-motivation, and a sense of commitment.
- Experience working as a member of a team.
- Engage in competitive activities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Hone problem solving and decision-making strategies.
- Understand and practice the principles of sound health, safety, and physical fitness.
- Engage in organized activities that generate unity among students, faculty, and community which provide a positive rallying point for school spirit.
- Practice and compete using facilities that promote a safe, competitive program, and that generate school and community pride.
- Receive coaching in the rules and skills of interscholastic sports from knowledgeable individuals who exemplify high standards of professionalism, and who support the District's educational mission.

# INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Nickname: Buccaneers

Colors: Black and Gold

Conference: Del-Val Athletic Association (Academy Park, Chester, ChiChester, Interboro, Penn Wood)

PIAA: District One (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS (BY SEASON)

<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Softball
Field Hockey	Wrestling	Girls Lacrosse
Boys Soccer		Boys Lacrosse
Girls Soccer		

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS (BY SEASON)

<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Softball
Field Hockey	Boys Swimming	Girls Lacrosse
Co-Ed Golf	Girls Swimming	Boys Lacrosse
Boys Soccer	Wrestling	Boys Tennis
Girls Soccer	Cheerleading	Girls Track & Field
Girls Volleyball	Boys Winter Track	Boys Track & Field
Football	Girls Winter Track	
Cheerleading		

## **PARTICIPATION IN INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS**

Participation in the Interboro School District athletic program is a privilege accorded to students who meet all eligibility requirements, are selected after a try-out period, and who represent their school responsibly. Playing time is not guaranteed and will be determined at the discretion of the coach. In this handbook, student-athletes and their parents will find information related to the Interboro School District Athletic Program. Please read it carefully.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Interboro School District, is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), which has established certain eligibility requirements. Any student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a PIAA member school must adhere to all PIAA rules. Failure to comply with PIAA rules will result in loss of eligibility to represent the Interboro School District in interscholastic athletics. Additional eligibility requirements are set by the Del-Val Athletic Association and Interboro School District. These requirements must also be met by all Interboro student-athletes. These requirements are summarized in this Handbook for student-athletes and their parents. Additional requirements are noted in PIAA and Del-Val publications. Questions regarding PIAA, Del-Val, or Interboro School District regulations should be referred to the Director of Athletics and Student Activities.

## **Pre-participation Requirements**

Each student-athlete must turn the following into the Athletic Office before participation in any practice or games for any interscholastic sport:

### **Turn these in every school year:**

1. Interboro School District Athletic Code of conduct sheet.
2. Section 1—PIAA Emergency Information including medical insurance information.
3. Section 2—PIAA Certification of Parent/Guardian.
4. Section 3—Understanding Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury
5. Section 4—Understanding of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs.
6. Section 5—PIAA Health History.
7. Section 6—PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE). The CIPPE form may not be authorized earlier than June 1st and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year, until the next May 31st.
8. Interboro School District ImPACT Testing administered by Crozier Keystone Health.

Following completion of a CIPPE, the same student seeking to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/ or Contests in subsequent sport(s) in the same school year, must complete the following:

- 1) Section 7—PIAA Parent Re-Certification form—required before every subsequent season, signed no earlier than six weeks prior to start of season.
- 2) Section 8—PIAA Physician Re-Certification form—Athletic Trainer will determine if this form is necessary based on Section 5 information.

### **For Wrestlers Only:**

- 1) Section 9— PIAA CIPPE Minimum Wrestling Weight— this will be completed by one of the Interboro School District athletic trainers with the student.

## **Age Requirements**

High school age students, are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. If a student turns nineteen (19) on or after July 1, the student shall be eligible, age wise, to compete through the following school year.

## **Academic Requirements**

A student-athlete must meet the following academic requirements:

- A student-athlete must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum.
- Every student-athlete is required to do satisfactory schoolwork.

### **The following regulations govern academic eligibility:**

- Grade averages are based on the student's cumulative average to date during the marking period.
- During the season, coaches are notified on a weekly basis by the Director of Athletics and Student Activities about the academic status of their student-athletes.
- If a student-athlete is FAILING a course(s) during the athletic season, he/she will meet with the coach or Athletic Director to discuss his/her academic situation, but may continue to practice and play that week. If the student is FAILING two or more courses then the student will be immediately ineligible in games and practices for the following week (Sunday through Saturday).
- If a student athlete is FAILING any course for a second week during this/her respective season, they will be suspended from games for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). The student athlete may continue to practice that week. The purpose of the weekly ineligible PROBATIONARY period is to give students time to improve their grades. A student remains on Ineligible PROBATION for the entire week.
- If a student athlete is FAILING a course for a third week during his/ her respective season, he/she will be eliminated from participation in practice and games/performances for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). The purpose of the weekly Ineligible PROBATIONARY period is to



give students an opportunity to improve their grades. A student remains on Ineligible PROBATION for the entire week.

- Students are allowed THREE chances during the season to improve their grades. A fourth weekly ineligible infraction, whereas a student-athlete is FAILING ANY COURSE(S), will result in the student-athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Any student-athlete failing a course(s) for a marking period is ineligible for ten (10) school days starting the first official PIAA date of the next sport season. Students failing a subject(s) at the end of a school year will be ineligible for twenty (20) school days. In that case, the ineligibility starts the first official PIAA date of Fall Sports.
- Students passing summer school courses may become eligible at the start of the new school year.

**Students experiencing academic difficulty are encouraged to seek help by contacting their teachers and guidance counselors.**

### **Attendance Requirements**

- A student-athlete must be regularly enrolled as a full-time student in the Interboro School District or attends a charter or cyber charter school which does not offer the same activity or be homeschooled.
- If a student-athlete is absent from school for a total of twenty (20) or more days during a semester, a student-athlete will lose eligibility until he/she has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student-athlete's twentieth (20) day of absence.
- All students are expected to arrive on time to school. Any student who is late to school and does not have a Doctor's note or administrative approval, may not attend or participate in any after school activity that day. This includes clubs, games, practices, rehearsals, performances, as well as building events, dances and proms. Exceptions will only be made for doctor's appointments, funerals, or other emergencies as approved by the building administration. Exceptions must be pre-approved in writing by the Director of Athletics and School Principal.
- This attendance requirement is in effect for all regular school days, including the days when quarterly exams are scheduled.

- Students who are excused from PE class or **choose not to participate** in PE class on a given day are ineligible for athletic participation (competition or practice) for that day.

## **Transfer Student Requirements**

A student-athlete is treated as having transferred whenever a student-athlete changes schools, even if a student-athlete is out of school for a period of time before entering the new school.

If a student-athlete transfers from one school district to another, a student is eligible immediately at the new school:

- When a student-athlete lives with a student-athlete's natural or adoptive parents in the new school district.
- When a student-athlete lives with a court-appointed legal guardian in the new school district, upon approval by the PIAA District Committee.
- Other situations are possible and are listed in their entirety at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org).

If a student-athlete transfers from one school to another for athletic purposes, or if a student-athlete was recruited, a student-athlete will lose athletic eligibility for a period not to exceed one year. This requirement applies even if a student-athlete would otherwise be eligible at the school to which a student-athlete transferred.

## **Amateur Status**

To be eligible to participate in a sport, a student-athlete must be an amateur in that sport. A student-athlete will lose amateur status in a sport for at least a year if:

- A student-athlete, school, or an organization which a student-athlete represents, receives money or property for or related to student-athlete's athletic ability, performance, participation, or services.
- A student-athlete accepts compensation for teaching, training, or coaching in a sport. A student-athlete must receive normal and customary compensation for acting as an instructor in or officiating recreational activities, or for serving as a lifeguard at swimming areas.
- A student-athlete may receive awards only from a student-athlete's school, a PIAA sponsored athletic event, the news media, or a non-profit service organization approved by the school principal.
- Permissible awards are a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, jersey, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, metal plaque, or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification. The fair market value of the item must not exceed \$500.

## **All-Star Contests**

Student will lose eligibility in the involved sport for one year if they compete in a “closed” all-star game where participants are chosen based on “reputation” of the athlete or referral/recommendation of others and where there is not a “tryout” process or uniformed standard of qualification. Participants do not represent the school and may not wear any school-affiliated uniform and/or apparel in the contest. If uncertain about participation, please contact the Director of Athletics and/or the High School Principal.

## **Transfer Students**

Student-athletes who transfer after the start of a season and participated in a PIAA sponsored contest at a previous school will not be eligible to participate in that sport without obtaining a participation waiver from the PIAA. Students should contact the Director of Athletics and Student Activities to assist in the process of applying for a waiver. This process includes the school principal sending the waiver and the appropriate letter to the PIAA Executive Director. The decision will be rendered by the PIAA.

## **Communication**

The coaches and administration of Interboro School District welcome communication with student-athletes and their parents/guardians regarding athletic issues. All coaches, the Director of Athletics, and the Sports Boosters Organization can be reached by leaving a message with the athletic office or the main office. Coaches may also inform student-athletes of other work numbers or e-mail addresses, or twitter handles where they can be reached. Refer to the written team rules given out at the beginning of each season for this information. Contact Coaches to discuss any issue regarding an individual student-athlete, including skills development and performance, team policies and regulations, and excuses for missed practices or contests. Contact the Director of Athletics to discuss any health or safety concerns, the overall athletic program, transportation and attendance exemptions, academic or eligibility matters, or any concern that is not resolved through a parent-coach conference.

Contact Sports Boosters to volunteer as a team parent, participate in fundraising events and Homecoming activities. Check the district calendar for Booster meeting dates.

Follow Interboro School District Athletics on twitter @GoBucsSports and the Athletic Director @klossiboroad for updates on athletic contests and sports news.

**For any other information refer to the following websites:**

<http://www.interborosd.org/Page/236>

<http://www.piaad1.org/>

## **Transportation**

Riding together as a team to and from an athletic contest is part of the athletic experience. The following regulations govern athletic transportation:

- All members of an athletic squad must ride to and from scrimmages and contests on school-provided transportation.
- Exceptions to the above policy, which will make it possible for a student-athlete to compete and still meet other school or family commitments, may be granted at the discretion of the head coach and should be pre-arranged. School or family commitments are the only grounds for exception.
- To be granted exception, the student-athlete must present a written request in advance from a parent or guardian setting forth the reason(s) for the exception. The request from a parent/guardian must include the method of transportation to be used, a statement of the responsibility for the student-athlete's safety, the date(s), and the event(s) for which the exception is requested. Written requests for exemption from student athletic transportation must be signed by a parent/guardian and must be hand delivered to the head coach by the parent/guardian. It will be the responsibility of the coach to bring the transportation notes to the main office.

## **Injuries**

Every effort is made to insure that injuries do not occur. Students are required to follow their coaches' procedures for conditioning, warm-up, and stretching, cool downs and to exercise caution when using athletic equipment.

- In the event of an injury all students-athletes must report all injuries to the coach immediately so that proper treatment may be given. Do not leave a practice or contest without notifying the coach.
- There is an athletic trainer on duty after school and at home athletic contests. Athletes are encouraged to see the athletic trainer for proper care of all injuries.
- Any student that sees a physician for any injury must turn in a clearance note to the athletic trainer from the treating physician.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

Student-athletes are responsible for equipment and/or uniforms issued to them. They will be required to pay for any equipment and uniforms not returned. Students are to return equipment and/or uniforms to their coach. No equipment/uniforms can be accepted by the main office personnel.

Bills will be issued for any unreturned items, and student-athletes may not: participate in the next sports season, receive a parking permit, yearbook, graduation tickets/graduation ceremonies or athletic awards, purchase prom tickets, go on senior and school sponsor trips, or attend school dances until bills are paid or items are returned.

## **The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

The following regulations are necessary for the operation of any good sports program. Other rules and regulations are described in the Interboro School District Student/Parent Handbook. All athletes are encouraged to be enthusiastic about the game and to exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanship.

### **Violations of the Discipline Code**

Violations of the Discipline Code as stated in the Interboro School District Student Handbook may cause a student-athlete to lose playing time or other athletic privileges, or be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season. Student Athletes and their parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with district policies. Below are major examples that will lead to the accountability mentioned above.

#### **Hazing**

Hazing will not be tolerated by any person. No student, coach, sponsor, or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, permit or engage in any hazing. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with district policies.

#### **Suspension from School**

Any student-athlete who is placed on suspension may also be disciplined by the coach and may return to the team when the suspension has been served. A second suspension for any reason will not be accepted and the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. Notwithstanding the foregoing, district policies including mandate removal from the team upon the first offense. Such policies supersede this provision.

#### **Fighting:**

Fighting will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with by the administration and may incur suspension from school. Any student suspended from school for fighting will also be removed from the team they are playing on at the time of the suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Profanity:**

Profanity and gestures on the part of the student-athlete will not be tolerated at any time. Violations may be dealt with by the coach or by the administration, depending upon the severity of the offense. Student-athletes are expected to treat officials, visiting teams, and spectators with courtesy and fairness always.

**Other Major Offenses:**

Any and all offenses listed as Tier 3 in the student handbook will lead to immediate suspension of all co-curricular activities

**Use of Illegal Substance, Alcohol, and Tobacco Products**

- Students who violate the Interboro School District Controlled Substance Policy will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season on the first offense.
- Student-athletes who violate school regulations regarding drugs and alcohol and possession are subject to the same penalties outlined in the Interboro School District Student/Parent Handbook.
- The use of performance-enhancing substances/anabolic steroids is prohibited and shall be removed from the team consistent with PIAA and District Guidelines. Violators may incur suspension from the team for all or part of the remainder of the season and the following season for a second offense.
- A student-athlete may not smoke or use tobacco products while an active member of the team. Violators may incur loss of playing time or other athletic privileges, or suspension from the team for the remainder of the season. Student-athletes who violate school regulations regarding tobacco use and possession are subject to the same penalties outlined in the Interboro School District.



## **Athlete Attendance at Practices and Athletic Contests:**

- A student-athlete is expected to be committed to the team. Practices and attendance at athletic contests are an essential part of that commitment.
- A student-athlete is required to attend all practices unless excused by the coach.
- Each coach has specific practice times. Student-athletes should check with their coaches about practice times, and should listen to announcements for schedule changes.
- If an emergency arises making it necessary for a student to leave school and the coach is not available, word may be left with the Director of Athletics, the school building principal or counselor.
- If for any reason the student is to be excused from any particular practice, a written request from the parent/guardian is to be presented to the coach.
- It is the policy of Interboro School District that a student will be excused from practice, or may be excused for lateness to practice, to obtain assistance with school work or to make up quizzes, tests, and labs. Students must bring a note to practice stating the time they left these extra help sessions.
- Any lateness to practice or missed practice as the result of a discipline infraction, including the serving of a detention, will be dealt with according to each coach's stated policy.
- A student must attend and participate in seven (7) practice sessions before participating in interscholastic competition.
- A student-athlete is required to attend all games unless excused by the coach.
- Any student-athlete who has left a team (other than for medical reasons or first time academic ineligibility) shall not be permitted to return.
- Shoes with cleats must be removed before entering the school, gym, locker rooms, and sport buses.
- An athlete who fails to complete the full season including playoffs, district competition, etc., will not receive a varsity letter, or any other award or form of recognition.

## **Student Spectator Code of Conduct**

Sportsmanship is a key component of the athletic program. Student-athletes are frequently spectators at athletic events, and are expected to follow the same spectator code of conduct that governs all Interboro School District students and fans. Such rules apply to all athletic events regardless of venue.

- No smoking on school property.
- Students should make arrangements to be picked up promptly from athletic events.
- Students must be in attendance at school during the day of an athletic contest.
- Any student leaving before the completion of the athletic contest may not re-enter and must leave school property promptly.
- You are encouraged to cheer under the direction of the Interboro Buccaneer cheerleaders at the proper time.
- Do not distract any player while in the act of shooting a foul, taking penalty shots, etc. This is considered un-sportsmanlike conduct.
- No artificial noisemakers of any kind are permitted at games (bells, horns, whistles, clappers, etc.). Signs and posters other than the approved signage by the administration are not permitted inside the gym. Cheerleaders and members of the Interboro Army or Cheerleading Squad in the lobby and the gym hallway with the permission of the administration.
- Keep in mind that the visiting team, coaches, and fans are guests of the Interboro School District. This also applies to the officials. Treat them with the same courtesy and respect with which you would want to be treated.
- Do not boo a referee's decision or an opposing player.
- Any disruption of the contests will be dealt with by the administration. Violators will be removed from the gym and/or school property. If a student is removed from an athletic event, the student will not be allowed admittance for the remainder of the sports season and/or to place the student on disciplinary probation.
- Assault on a sports official is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Violators will be prosecuted by the local authorities.

## **Admission Fees**

Admission fees will be charged for most evening and weekend athletic contests. Fees are set by the Interboro School District.

### **Interboro School District Ticket Prices:**

Adults: \$5.00      Students: \$5.00      Seniors Citizens Free

### **Play-Off Ticket Prices**

Playoff ticket prices are set by the PIAA. No passes (including staff and senior citizens) can be used for District 1, post-season contests, or PIAA state playoff games.

## **Sporting Event Rules**

- Spectators must purchase tickets before entering the athletic contests. Spectators who exit our facilities may not re-enter and must leave.
- No artificial noisemakers of any kind are permitted at indoor games. (bells, horns, whistles, clappers, etc.) Signs and posters other than the approved signage by the administration are not permitted inside the gym. Cheerleaders and members of the Interboro Army or Cheerleading Squad in the lobby and the gym hallway with the permission of the administration.
- No one will be permitted to loiter in the parking lots.
- Spectators will not be permitted to bring outside food or beverages into school athletic contests.

## **Collegiate Athletics**

All students interested in playing intercollegiate sports at a Division I or II College must register with NCAA Eligibility Center during their senior year in high school. Forms and instructions may be obtained in the guidance office or contact the Director of Athletics and Student Activities. Information on athletic scholarships is periodically given to students, and is also available in the guidance office.

- To register and complete appropriate paperwork for the NCAA Eligibility Center, you must register online at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>.