

THE BALDWIN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The Baldwin School Challenges its students to pursue personal excellence. Pursuit of excellence means scholarship, leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and service to others valuing tradition and diversity. By balancing the academic and co curricular curriculums in particular athletics, Baldwin provides an opportunity for young women to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. It is our goal to not only provide a wide variety of athletic experiences, but to help each young woman and each team to have the opportunities to reach a high level of success in terms of progress and winning.

QUALITIES OF A BALDWIN STUDENT ATHLETE:

The following are primary elements of character the athletic department hopes to nurture through the Baldwin athletic experience:

Commitment – to improving yourself, your teammates and the team through persistence and dedication. This can be extended to improving your school and community.

Attitude – toward the game, toward practice, toward the important lessons learned in success and failure. The perspective from which a young woman approaches her daily life is vital. A Baldwin student athlete is a problem solver.

Respect – for your teammates and coaches, opponents, officials and yourself as an athlete.

Excellence – as the hallmark of your efforts, your goal both on and off the field. All efforts are aimed towards doing your best.

Integrity – you are your own judge at all times. Be responsible for all of your actions and words. A Baldwin student athlete is accountable.

Sportsmanship – respect and appreciation of the challenge the opponent provides, playing hard but fair at all times. Doing your best is the paramount of showing respect for your self and your opponent.

INTERAC LEAGUE COMPETITION

The Baldwin School competes in the InterAc League for Middle and Upper School competition. The InterAc League consist of the following schools; Agnes Irwin, Episcopal Academy, Germantown Academy, Academy of Notre Dame, Penn Charter, and Springside School. We also compete with various schools in

the ISCA league, which includes Friends schools, as well as with various other parochial and independent schools at both levels. Local public schools are often found on our schedule varying from sport to sport.

THE INTERAC LEAGUE AND BALDWIN SCHOOL CODE OF ATHLETIC CONDUCT

Coaches, players, and spectators are at all times representing the Baldwin School and should remember that their actions will influence others.

Coaches:

1. Respect each player as an individual with unique needs, experiences, and characteristics and develop this understanding and respect among the players.
2. Take pride in being a good example of a coach in appearance, conduct, language, and sportsmanship. Teach the players the importance of these standards.
3. Demonstrate and instill in players respect for and courtesy toward opposing players, coaches, and officials.
4. Exhibit and develop in players the ability to accept defeat or victory gracefully.
5. Teach players to play within the spirit of the game and the letter of the rules. Coaches should be well versed in league rules and competitive situations.
6. Emphasize the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play in all competitive situations.
7. Encourage spectators to show respect for opponents and officials and to recognize good play and sportsmanship. When spectators behave inappropriately, the coach should assist in curtailing the crowd reaction.

Players:

1. Value one's personal integrity.
2. Strive for excellence.
3. Willingly abide by the spirit of the rules as well as the letter of the rules throughout all games and practices.
4. Treat all players, officials and coaches with respect and courtesy.
5. Graciously accept constructive criticism.

6. Exhibit dignity in manner and dress when representing one's school both on and off the court or playing field.
7. Recognize and value the contribution of each team member.
8. Keep the importance of winning in perspective with regard to other objectives.
9. 9. Emphasize the importance of the team over the self.

Spectators:

1. Recognize the official as a person of integrity and qualification, and respect the decisions accordingly.
2. Spectators should not interact with an official at any time for any reason.
3. Respect the spectators of the opponent.
4. Refrain from creating disturbances, which would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or the safety of the participants involved.
5. Show respect for all players, coaches, and officials regardless of their own team loyalty. This is essential for raising the standards of good sportsmanship.
6. Cheering should be limited to encouraging words; spectators should refrain from taunting officials or opponents.
7. Spectators who do not follow the code of conduct may be asked to leave an athletic contest.

BALDWIN ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Fall Sports

Upper School

Cross Country
Field Hockey V, JV
Soccer V, JV
Tennis V, JV

Middle School

Field Hockey A, B
Soccer A, B
Soccer Intramurals
Tennis A, B

Winter Sports

Upper School

Basketball V, JV
Dance Company V
Indoor Track V
Squash V
Swimming V
Volleyball V, JV

Middle School

Basketball A, B
Dance
Squash
Swimming A, B
Volleyball A, B

Spring Sports

Upper School

Crew V, Novice
Golf V
Lacrosse V, JV
Softball V, JV

Middle School

Lacrosse A, B
Lacrosse Intramurals
Softball A, B
Softball Intramurals

BALDWIN ATHLETIC PARTICIAPTION GUIDELINES

It is a privilege to be a member of a Baldwin athletic team. Baldwin athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner in the classroom and on all competitive sites. As members of the Baldwin community, athletes must respect community policies and rules. As members of a team, athletes are expected to demonstrate dedication, commitment and sportsmanship. It is assumed that Baldwin athletes will behave in ways that will maximize their health and athletic performance.

EXPECTATIONS OF BALDWIN ATHLETES:

1. Athletes are expected to avoid lateness to school, excessive absences from school, accumulated detentions or suspension from school.
2. Athletes are expected to realize that the use of tobacco, alcohol and other illegal substances is counterproductive to the achievement of good health and the realization of full athletic potential. The use of such substances demonstrates a disregard of one's own body as well as one's team members.

3. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. Attendance in school requires attendance at practice.
 - Any absence can only be excused by the coach in advance. It is our expectation that athletes attend all practices and games. Any unexcused absence puts an athlete's position on the team in jeopardy.
4. Varsity players are expected to remain for the Junior Varsity game. Unless otherwise instructed by their coach. Transportation arrangements should be made accordingly.
5. Athletes are expected to ride on team busses when provided. Athletes may leave a game with a parent. The coach must be notified at the game. No student may leave a game with anyone other than their own parent.
6. Athletes are expected to return school uniforms and equipment promptly at the end of the season.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in diminished playing time, suspension from the team or dismissal from the team. In the case of suspension or dismissal, a decision will be made by the coach and Director of Athletics.

Participating in Interscholastic Athletics is a rewarding and demanding experience. Being mindful of the above Guidelines will contribute to your own, as well as your team's success.

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MEMBERSHIP ON TEAMS

Due to limited space we will on some teams in the Middle and Upper School be forced to cut squads to a specific size when numbers exceed that which would make for an optimal experience for all the players involved. Every attempt will be made to allow for the maximum participation at both levels.

- The head coach will make cuts after conferring with her/his staff.
- Every effort will be made to notify an individual being cut in person. An explanation of ways to improve will be provided.
- Concerns about these decisions should be made by the player in question. The player should set up an appointment at a mutually convenient time to meet with the head coach.

MEMBERSHIP OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ON UPPER SCHOOL TEAMS

Membership of a middle school student on an upper school team is by invitation only. A coach who believes that a MS student will be able to contribute whether at the JV or varsity level should first discuss the idea with the Director of Athletics. All decisions will include the parents, student, and middle school coaches, Director of the Middle School and the Director of Athletics. Taken into consideration will be the MS student's skill level, potential to compete against stronger players, academic standing, and social maturity.

PLAYING TIME

Middle school: Every effort will be made to play each girl in every game.

US-JV level: Every attempt will be made to play every girl in each contest, this is not a guarantee. As this experience on JV is to train Varsity talent, the stronger players will receive more playing time. Athletes should work harder at practice to improve their performance and earn a potentially more significant role on the team.

US-Varsity level: Every player has equal access to playing time at practice, therefore having an opportunity to improve. Because we are trying to win games at this level, playing time will most likely be unequal.

PARENTAL / ATHLETE CONCERNS

If you or your student athlete has a concern, it should be voiced by the athlete to the coach first. If the athlete makes a sincere effort to work through the problem she will grow immeasurably whether she realizes success or failure. If after this attempt to remedy the concern, the athlete believes the issue still exists; she should come see the Director of Athletics.

Parents should refrain from approaching the coach initially. Allow time for the player and coach to work through the issue. After that time parents wishing to express concern should call the Director of Athletics. In this way our student athletes and your daughters learn to work through problems in an established process.