

BISHOP LUERS KNIGHTS



**2023-2024
PARENT - STUDENT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
333 E. Paulding Rd
Fort Wayne IN 46816**

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Introduction

School Mission Statement: Bishop Luers High School is a Catholic educational community that instills in each student dignity, integrity, respect, and responsibility. Nurtured by Catholic truths each student is able to face challenges in his or her own life spiritually, academically, and socially while serving God and others in a global and changing society.

It is the goal of Bishop Luers High School to provide sound, educational based athletics to the students within our school. We will always strive to organize and administer programs that benefit all student-athletes. It is also our goal to provide programs and activities that have a positive effect on the development of constructive attitudes for citizenship, life skills, and have a positive impact on both our school and community.

No person shall, on the basis of race, creed or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the athletic programs of Bishop Luers High School.

The policies for all the athletic programs at Bishop Luers High School are listed in the following pages of this document. These policies and procedures are compiled and written by the Athletic Director and Athletic Department. These materials are provided for the guidance and assistance of all connected to the Athletic Department of Bishop Luers High School.

Bishop Luers High School Staff

Principal	Scott Kreiger
Assistant Principal	Seth Coffing, Mandy Allen
Athletic Director / Dean of Students	Kevin Mann
Athletic Administrative Assistant	Michelle North
Athletic Trainer	Claire McFarland, Dave Kuhn – Indiana Physical Therapy

Philosophy

The educational philosophy of Bishop Luers High School provides the foundation for the program, the organizational structure, and the existence of all extra-curricular activities for students. The athletic department offers a variety of activities that may help students realize their maximum potential for physical, social, and emotional growth. It is the goal of this department to promote success and growth while always respecting others.

We believe that interscholastic athletic competition should be an integral part of the total school program and serve as a reflection of the needs of students and the school community.

We believe participants can be taught to win in a gracious manner and lose in the same fashion.

We believe participants can find purpose in their school- work and carry that purpose forward in their lives because of a sound athletic program in the schools.

We believe athletic competition provides real value for the student body and school community. We feel a sound athletic department based on a sound philosophy can improve school and community morale and become a positive outlet for energy and enthusiasm.

We believe the welfare of the individual is always the primary concern. The competition exists for the student-athlete. The student-athlete does not exist for the game.

We believe the community should realize that control of, and responsibility for high school athletics rests entirely with the administration of Bishop Luers High School and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Objectives

A sound, educational based athletic program must provide for all student-athletes:

1. The opportunity to learn and improve skill levels in a competitive environment.
2. The development of physical vigor, desirable health habits and safety.
3. The opportunity to make lasting friendships with squad members, opposing players and to visit and compete in other communities.
4. A chance to observe and exemplify fair play and healthy competition.
5. The realization that interscholastic athletic competition is a privilege that carries varied and definite responsibilities.
6. An association with ladies and gentlemen who exemplify well-rounded competitors in the person of our athletic coaches.
7. A chance to learn that the violation of rules during athletic competition brings penalties, just as in life.
8. Assurance that the degree of success depends upon hard work, devotion to task, and enthusiasm for the game, as well as the innate ability of everyone.
9. An opportunity to exercise judgment, think quickly, to take directions, and to carry those instructions out during great stress and to the best of one's ability.

Profile of the Bishop Luers High School Athletic Program

Bishop Luers High School has a strong tradition of athletic, academic, and extra-curricular excellence in a wide variety of activities. These traditions are a great source of pride for the school and community.

Bishop Luers High School is a member of the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC). Other members of the SAC: Bishop Dwenger Saints, Carroll Chargers*, Concordia Lutheran Cadets, Homestead Spartans*, North Side Legends, Northrop Bruins, Snider Panthers, South Side Archers, Wayne Generals (*Football / Basketball Only)

Male athletes are offered ten sports that include cross-country, tennis, soccer, and football in the fall season. Basketball, swimming, and wrestling are provided in the winter. Baseball, track, and golf are offered in the spring. Female athletes are offered nine include cross-country, tennis, soccer, and volleyball in the fall. Basketball and swimming in the winter season. Softball, track, and tennis in the spring.

Cheerleading is available in the fall and winter seasons for both males and females.

All students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, provided they meet scholastic standards and conduct requirements set forth by Bishop Luers High School and Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Luers High School is also subject to all rules, regulations, and procedures of the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Eligibility Rules

To represent Bishop Luers High School in any interscholastic competition, all students must meet eligibility requirements set forth by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Luers High School, and the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Academic Eligibility

To be academically eligible, students must have received a passing grade at the end of their last grading period in at least five solid subjects or equivalent (70%). Freshman physical education is counted as a solid subject for the purpose of eligibility. Semester grades take precedence over nine-week grades and summer school grades are considered part of the second semester.

Age

A student who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state championship in his/her sport shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for that entire sports season.

Amateurism

Students shall not play under an assumed name or accept payment directly or indirectly for any athletic participation. Students may not participate in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices and/or games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs, or any of their representatives.

Athletic Transfers

Parents of students who wish to participate in athletics at Bishop Luers High School but, did not attend BLHS during their intended sports season during the previous year of high school, are required to complete an IHSAA Athletic Transfer Form. The student and parent in the Admissions Office of Bishop Luers High School must fill out this form. Students do not become eligible to participate in contests until both schools and the IHSAA have approved the transfer.

Students who transfer without a corresponding change of address may be granted “**Limited Eligibility**” to compete below varsity levels for 365 days.

Attendance

Students must attend school on the day of an event in order to participate in any extra-curricular event that occurs after the school day. Approved field trips or school activities will constitute attendance. The school Principal or Athletic Director must approve all exceptions to the attendance rule. Any athlete that misses school for a period of 5 or more days due to an injury or illness must have written permission from a doctor to resume participation in practices and/or games.

Awards and Gifts

Athletes may not receive any award for athletic performance that is not approved by the IHSAA or Bishop Luers High School. Athletes may not accept awards, medals, recognition, gifts or honors from colleges, universities, or their boosters.

Bullying / Harassment

Intimidation of students or staff members will not be tolerated. Bishop Luers High School will not tolerate the bullying or harassment of other. These are considered in violation of the policies of Bishop Luers when they are committed on campus, on buses to and from activities, at extra/co-curricular activities, or off campus, such as indicated in the blogging/social networking policy. See BLH Student Handbook page 27-28; 41-42

Changing Sports

Any athlete cut from a team may join another sport immediately. Any athlete who quits a team cannot join another team until the first team has completed competition for that season. Athletes may transfer from one sport to another during the same season only if the head coaches of the two sports involved are in mutual agreement about such a move. Off-season conditioning and open gyms are open to all athletes at Bishop Luers High School not in a current sports season.

Communication

The Athletic Department of Bishop Luers High School strives to keep open lines of communication between athletes, parents, coaches, and the public. Much of the information needed to keep current with the events and policies of Bishop Luers High School can be accessed by using the Bishop Luers High School website at www.bishopluers.org

Communication between parents and coaches should follow standard operating procedure and should follow the athletic chain of command – start with an appointment with the coach (do not confront a coach prior to, during, or immediately after a contest); if not satisfied after meeting with the coach, contact the Athletic Director (playing time will not be discussed).

Conduct and Character (See IHSAA Rule 8-1 and 8-3)

Athletes’ conduct both in and out of school shall be such as (1) Not to reflect discredit upon their school or the IHSAA, or (2) Not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment of the school. Athletes who violate this rule may be excluded from representing Bishop Luers High School in interscholastic competition.

Enrollment

To participate in any athletic competition, a student must be enrolled at Bishop Luers High School. After **15** days of enrollment, Bishop Luers High School becomes the school of record. Once enrollment is completed, athletes have eight **(8)** consecutive semesters of eligibility.

Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the care and return of equipment owned by the school. Lost equipment must be replaced at the purchase cost plus 20%. All equipment owned by the school will be worn in a manner determined by the coaching staff of each of the respective sports.

Extended Breaks (i.e., Christmas Break and Spring Break)

If an athlete misses 8-14 consecutive days (excluding Sundays) of practice/contests, then the athlete must attend and actively participate in 4 school-supervised Practice sessions of normal length, which shall occur on Four (4) separate days prior to be eligible to play in the next contest. If an athlete misses more than 14 consecutive days of practices/contests, then the athlete must attend and actively participate in 6 school-supervised Practice sessions of normal length, which shall occur on Six (6) separate days prior to be eligible to play in the next contest (IHSAA Rule 9-14 c.)

Fees to Participate in Sports

This fee is not the same as the student activity fee. Subject to increase each year as needed.

<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$70.00</u>
Basketball	Baseball	Football
Cross Country	Soccer	Golf
Track	Softball	Swimming
Volleyball	Tennis	
Wrestling		

Final Forms Athlete Registration

Athletes must be registered on Final Forms, all required paperwork signed by both parent & athlete, physical uploaded and **sports participation fees must be paid by the first competition.**

Inherent Risk

Any student who participates in athletic competitions must understand that a risk of injury always exists. The athletic staff at Bishop Luers High School will do everything possible to minimize risks for student-athletes, both in practice and competition. Report all injuries immediately to the athletic trainer.

Insurance

Bishop Luers High School has great concern for medical care and insurance protection for all those participating in interscholastic competition. As a result, students participating in athletics at BLHS are required to carry insurance coverage. Bishop Luers high school does not carry any kind of first dollar insurance for athletic injuries. Secondary insurance is available through K & K Insurance provided by the athletic trainer. The IHSAA does carry a catastrophic insurance policy on all athletes. **Parents are responsible for communicating with the athletic trainer when outside medical care is sought for athletic related injuries. Parents are responsible for filling out K&K insurance forms within the instructed deadline.**

Non-School Teams

Participation in organized sports competitions during the authorized contest season of that IHSAA sport shall cause the student-athlete to become ineligible for their school team.

Participation in non-school competitions while on a school team of another sport shall be subject to the approval of the school coach. Any athlete who violates an understanding with a school coach will be subject to dismissal from the school team with a loss of all honors.

Parent Pre-Season Meetings

All athletes and parents are required to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff of that sport. The meeting shall be held before the first contest. Parents will be informed of all rules for their sport, and coaches as well as the rules of Bishop Luers High School and the IHSAA.

Physical Examinations

Students wishing to participate in athletics in any IHSAA sanctioned sport must undergo a physical examination by a doctor holding a limited license to practice medicine. The physical examination form must be completed on the IHSAA form and be signed by the physician, parent, and student-athlete. The IHSAA physical examination form is good from April 1 of each year, will be in effect for all activities in the next 365 days of practice and/or competition and expire on May 31 of each year.

Practices

The class day at Bishop Luers High School begins at 7:45 a.m. and concludes at 2:45 p.m. Practices may begin at 3:00 p.m. daily. In cases of inclement weather that results in school being dismissed early, all practices for that day will be postponed. Exceptions to this rule will require the approval of the Principal and the Athletic Director.

Days on which coaches have responsibilities and students are not required to attend classes will result in a 3:00 p.m. start for all practices. If the coach does not have teaching duties on such days, practices may be scheduled at an earlier time with approval of the Athletic Director.

There shall be no school practices, games, scrimmages, film sessions or meetings held on Sundays. Calling one or more team members together for scouting reports, film viewing and/or the treatment of injuries are also violations of the basic IHSAA rule.

All athletes are expected to be at practice on time. All illnesses and injuries should be reported to a coach and trainer immediately. The head coach has the discretion to determine if a missed practice is excused or unexcused. Athletes should inform coaches in advance of known absences for practices and/or competition.

The head coach is responsible for informing the team of practice dates and times well in advance. Athletes will not be allowed to practice if they do not attend school that day. All exceptions to this rule must be cleared through the Principal and/or Athletic Director.

Public Relations

The community often judges its schools by the people representing them. The administration, coaching staff, athletes, cheerleaders, patrons, fans, and student body serve as public relations agents at games both at home and away from home.

Athletic department personnel occupy a strategic and sensitive role regarding public relations on behalf of Bishop Luers High School and Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Good public relations begin with a common sense approach and the extension of good manners and common courtesy to all with whom our student-athletes and their supporters come in contact.

Social Media/Social Networking/Blogging

Our student athletes are not restricted from using social media; however, each team/coach has the discretion to establish rules and penalties as they see fit. See BLHS Student Handbook pages 23-26.

Travel / Transportation

Bishop Luers High School athletes are required to travel to and from athletic events in school approved vehicles and under adult supervision provided by Bishop Luers High School. Extreme circumstances must be cleared by the Principal or Athletic Director. Students may be released to their parents (if the head coach agrees) after a road contest if written permission from the parent is received at least 24 hours in advance of the contest. Students will never be released to ride home from a contest with other students, friends, or parents of other athletes.

Athletes represent Bishop Luers High School on all road trips. Appropriate dress will be determined by the coaching staff. Athletes will act in an acceptable manner while on all school trips. Equipment, facilities, fans, opponents, and staff members at opposing school sites will always be treated with respect. Any damage or improper behavior on the part of BLHS athletes and/or support staff will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Early release time from class for athletic activities is not part of the structure of the Bishop High School Athletic Department. Special exceptions will only be granted with the prior approval of both the Principal and Athletic Director.

Violations of Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy

There are specific and distinct penalties for athletes, cheerleaders, and athletic club members caught using or possessing alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vape pens, and related paraphernalia. Athletes should remember that they are subject to consequences regarding the use and/or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and paraphernalia 12 months of the year, on and off campus. Coaches and club moderators may have higher expectations and sanctions at their discretion. See the BLHS Student Handbook page 22 for the full minimum sanctions.

The discipline administered for a student athlete's violation of an applicable rule or regulation may, but need not be, confined within the athletic program. Violation of rules and regulations outside the athletic program may include discipline within that program.

Bishop Luers High School and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recognizes that substance addiction (drug and alcohol) is a disease and not manifestation of character weakness. Persons afflicted with the disease are entitled to the same compassion and treatment as anyone afflicted with any other disease.

Weight Room & Gym Policy

The following guidelines must be observed when students are using the weight room, gymnasium, and any other athletic facilities at Bishop Luers High School.

1. Students may use the weight room, gymnasium, and other athletic facilities only while under the direct supervision of a Bishop Luers High School staff member.
2. Students working out in the weight room, gymnasium, and other athletic facilities must be dressed in proper attire. **Shirts and shoes are always a requirement.**
3. **No food is allowed in the weight room at any time or for any reason.**
4. Weights and other equipment should be returned to the proper racks or storage areas before students and coaches leave the area.
5. All facility usage shall be scheduled in advance and placed on the school calendar by the head coach in cooperation with the Athletic Department.
6. No usage of any athletic facilities by IHSAA sponsored teams will ever be allowed on Sundays.

Questions and Concerns

All questions and concerns should be addressed to the head coach in the sport in question. If this does not resolve the issue, a meeting with the Athletic Director may be scheduled.

Individual Athletic Awards

- I. Varsity Athletic Letter Award
 - A. Athlete must Finish the sport season in good standing with coach/administration
 - B. Remain academically eligible (IHSAA requires athletes pass 70% of their classes)
 - C. Observe the Athletic Code of Conduct – page 21 BLHS Student Handbook and Rule 8 IHSAA By-laws
 - D. Recommended for an award by the coach or the Athletic Director
 - E. Athlete must return all equipment issued
 - F. **Varsity Letter** is earned when athlete participates in varsity level contests - not just dressing for the team - for at least 50% of the contests. The letter “L” , numerals*, and chevrons (earned each year after receiving “L”) will be award. * first year athletes automatically receive numerals
 - G. Patches will only be given for team accomplishments; **not individual accomplishments** – i.e., Conference or post season champions; **not** 1st Team All-SAC, All-Area, etc. (exception is Academic All-State and Qualifiers)

- II. Reserve and Freshman Award
 - A. Reserve players who finish the season in good standing will receive a participation certificate. First time award winners receive numerals.
 - B. Freshman players who finish the season in good standing will receive a participation certificate. First time award winners will receive numerals.

- III. Bishop Luers High School Senior Athletic Ring
 1. Participate in at least three sports all four years
 2. Earn at least eight (8) Varsity letters in an IHSAA sanctioned sport
 3. Be a student in good standing for all rules and regulations of BLHS.

PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Selecting a college and making career plans are two of the most important decisions to be made by high school student-athletes. Student-athletes and their parents must make the initial effort in the selection process, follow through, assert themselves, and work primarily on their own behalf. Guidance counselors, coaches and the athletic department can help. They can serve as resources as well as references.

The best preparation for collegiate participation is starting freshman year with a strong, curriculum and better than average grades in **all core courses** (Math, English, Science, Social Studies)

Important information regarding **NCAA initial eligibility guidelines** is available on the web sites listed below. Students wishing to compete at the NCAA Division I and II levels must register with the NCAA Initial-Clearinghouse after their junior year is complete (after August 1 prior to senior year in high school). To register go to www.eligibilitycenter.org

NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) also has different requirements for initial eligibility. To register go to [PlayNAIA - NAIA - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics \(mynaia.org\)](http://PlayNAIA - NAIA - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (mynaia.org))

Athletic Profile

MASCOT:	Knights
ENROLLMENT:	481
COLORS:	Red and Black
CONFERENCE:	Summit Athletic Conference (SAC)
CLASSIFICATION:	2A (1A Girls Soccer)
Total Number of Sports Offered:	13
Total Number of Teams:	38

2022-23 By the Numbers:

Total number of athletes in athletic program:	286
Total number of scholar-athletes (3.3 GPA):	117
Total number of three sport athletes:	25
Total number of two sport athletes:	90
Total number of athletic contests scheduled:	470

Boys

Football	Varsity-Reserve-Frosh
Soccer	Varsity-Reserve
Tennis	Varsity-Reserve
C.Country	Varsity-Reserve

Fall Sports

Volleyball
Soccer
Golf
C.Country
Cheerleading

Girls

Varsity-Reserve-Frosh
Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve-Frosh

Winter Sports

Basketball	Varsity-Reserve-Frosh
Swimming	Varsity-Reserve
Wrestling	Varsity-Reserve

Basketball
Swimming
Cheerleading

Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve-Frosh

Spring Sports

Baseball	Varsity-Reserve
Track	Varsity-Reserve
Golf	Varsity-Reserve

Softball
Track
Tennis

Varsity
Varsity-Reserve
Varsity-Reserve

Head Coaching Staff:

Baseball - Jeff Stanski
 Basketball (Boys) - Seth Coffing
 Basketball (Girls) - Mark Pixley
 Cheerleading - DeOsha Smith
 Cross Country (Coed) – Manny Martinez
 Football – Kyle Lindsay
 Golf (Girls) – John Fink; (Boys) Seth Coffing
 Soccer (Boys) – Anthony Anzini
 Soccer (Girls) – Mayson Whitman

Softball – Jeff Bierbaum
 Swimming (Coed) – Deb Berghoff
 Tennis (Boys) – Jimmy Brown
 Tennis (Girls) – Ashley Calderon
 Track & Field (Coed) – Ben Steele
 Volleyball – Becky Edens
 Wrestling – Brad Knipp

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I, the parent, or legal guardian of _____ have been given a copy of the Bishop Luers 2023-24 Parent-Student Athletic Handbook. I agree to abide by and respect these rules for athletic participation at Bishop Luers High School. I understand it is my responsibility to provide first dollar insurance for accidents and injuries sustained by my child while participating in athletics.

Signed _____ Date _____

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I, _____ a student-athlete at Bishop Luers High School have been given a copy of the Bishop Luers 2023-24 Parent-Student Athletic Handbook. I agree to abide by and respect these rules for athletic participation at Bishop Luers High School.

Signed _____ Date _____