



# Letter From the Director of Athletics

Dear Parents,

As the Director of Athletics, I am often asked about what makes Brentwood Academy special or BA athletics different from other schools. Each time, I am quick to recite our mission and vision that point to Jesus Christ, our "true north," but my response does not immediately address the essential representations of our school climate and culture. We want each student-athlete to have a nurturing and challenging athletic experience. I genuinely believe our coaches have our students' best interests at the forefront of every decision.

The mission of our athletic program is to foster physical development and athletic skills while teaching the value of personal discipline, commitment, and the subordination of self-interest to the higher goal of team contribution. All students participate in team sports or fitness classes each day as part of BA's mission to educate each whole person—body, mind, and spirit—to the glory of God.

We desire to partner with parents to walk this athletic journey with you. Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other, providing a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations coaches place on them and their students. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a genuine concern, they will discuss it with the coach appropriately.

**Communication parents should expect from coaches:**

- Coach's philosophy
- Expectations the coach has for your student
- Location and times of each practice and game
- Team requirements, i.e., fees, equipment, rules.
- Injury procedures and protocols

**Issues not appropriate for discussion with coaches:**

- How much playing time each athlete is getting
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Any situation dealing with other student-athletes

**Communication coaches should expect from parents:**

- Concerns regarding their student (expressed directly to the coach at an appropriate time)
- Any schedule conflicts
- What your student needs to do to improve
- Concerns about your student's grades or behavior

**If you need to schedule a meeting with the coach:**

- Wait 24 hours before contacting the coach
- Email the coach to set up the appointment (cc the AD)
- Do not confront the coach before, during, or after practice or game.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parents. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's perspective. Whether discussing the athlete's behavior, academic performance, lack of communication, or our athletic programs, we are willing to tackle hard conversations that makes us better. Each time we are challenged with difficult questions, it provides the opportunity to reevaluate whether our actions align with our values.

As we begin this school year, I encourage you to look for the opportunities to support your student. Our coaches will worry about your student's performance. We all want to succeed. However, everyone will not have the same opportunities to compete in every contest. If that is the case with your student, please keep encouraging them. This is the most important thing you can do.

I look forward to hosting conversations with the BA community throughout the school year. Look for more information on these opportunities as they arise. I am confident that the lessons we are learning on the courts, fields, and other arenas, will help our student-athletes become better members of God's kingdom. I look forward to a great school year!

Jason Mathews  
Director of Athletics and Community Engagement



# Athletic Parent Agreement

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to the start of the 2024-2025 school year and an exciting year ahead in BA athletics. The mission of our athletic program is to foster physical development and athletic skills while teaching the value of personal discipline, commitment, and the subordination of self-interest to the higher goal of team contribution. All students participate in team sports or fitness classes each day as part of BA's mission to educate each whole person—body, mind, and spirit—to the glory of God.

We want each student-athlete to have a nurturing and challenging athletic experience and are thankful to the wonderful men and women who choose to use their gifts and talents to coach BA students.

Please read through the parent agreement below, which outlines a standard of conduct set for our BA community. As always, please reach out to me with any concerns. We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Go Eagles!

Jason Mathews  
Director of Athletics and Community Engagement

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## BA PARENT ATHLETIC AGREEMENT

Brentwood Academy is committed to each student athlete's development spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally. We are also dedicated to the demonstration of sportsmanlike behavior in and around all Brentwood Academy athletic contests. Inappropriate behavior in any form will not be tolerated in and around contests (or practices) under BA's authority and BA coaches.

The Brentwood Academy Parent Athletic Agreement sets high standards of conduct for our community. BA requires that each parent and student-athlete adhere to the following agreement as a guide to appropriate behavior. As the parent of a Brentwood Academy student-athlete, I accept the terms of this agreement and will abide by its enforcement.

As a BA parent, my commitment is to:

- Never confront, discuss, or question coaches, athletes, other parents, or officials on the game field or during the contest. It is best to wait 24 hours to take the emotion out of the equation.
- Encourage good sportsmanship.
- Demonstrate positive support for coaches, officials, players, and others attending the contests.
- Promote the well-being of the whole team over personal desires for my student-athlete.
- Understand that playing time is governed by the coach.
- Demand a drug-free environment.
- Refrain from the use of drugs and alcohol at all BA sporting events.
- Monitor student-athlete attendance, academic progress, and behavior regularly.
- Pay for some items required to practice and play (i.e., t-shirts, shorts, shoes/cleats, and other necessary equipment).
- Volunteer for athletic events.



# Athletic Parent Agreement

## Athletic Parent Agreement Continued

- Ensure that the student-athlete is on time and in attendance for all team events.
- Transport student-athletes to a game when necessary.
- Playing time and general team operations are off limits for coach discussions.
- Follow the proper chain of command if concerns arise.
- The student-athlete speaks with the coach first.
- If the student/coach conversation does not resolve the problem, email your concerns to the coach.
- If not reconciled, parents can request a meeting with the coach, player, and the athletic director.
- The final meeting is with the Head of School.
- The student-athlete should be involved in all meetings with the coach.

Behavior that is severe in nature or behavior that is continued and/or detrimental to the school may result in removal from the contest or BA, as deemed appropriate by the coach, athletic director, and the administration. This applies to both parents and student-athlete. Other consequences may include TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association) fines.

In return, parents can expect their students to be coached and mentored by men and women who are followers of Christ. Parents can also expect their students to be taught the value of personal discipline, character, commitment, and the subordination of their self-interest to the higher goal of team achievement. It is our expectation that emails will be returned within 24 hours on business days. Teachers/coaches are not expected to check their emails over the weekends.