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Welcome to the Bloomington High School Athletic Program. This handbook was prepared as a reference guide for student-athletes and parents regarding the policies and procedures related to Bloomington High School Athletics.

Participation in Bloomington's athletic program is voluntary. With this in mind, participation in high school athletics and activities is a privilege. Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the high standards established at Bloomington High School and the privilege of participation in athletics may be revoked if the student-athlete refuses to comply with rules, policies and procedures as communicated in this handbook.

Although this handbook will be the main source for information regarding athletic rules, policies and procedures, each sport may also establish and communicate team specific expectations.

Statement of Affiliation:

Bloomington High School is a member of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Big 12 Conference. The IHSA regulates interscholastic athletics and a variety of other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities throughout the State of Illinois. The Big 12 Conference establishes policies and procedures for member schools regarding conference game schedules, league standings and player or team awards. All participants, fans and coaches must meet and adhere to any and all policies and procedures established by Bloomington High School and the applicable by-laws and policies of the IHSA and the Big 12 Conference.

Mission Statement – Raider Athletics

In pursuit of excellence, the Athletic Department and its programs will support and enhance the holistic growth and development of the student-athletes in District 87 by providing a safe, caring and respectful environment in which participants will be challenged and inspired to reach their highest potential as individuals and teammates as they mature and develop into responsible and productive citizens in a diverse, dynamic and global society.

Vision Statements:

- Bloomington High School Athletics will sustain a culture where academic success remains the highest priority.
- Athletes will embrace the unique opportunity to learn and support the skills and positive qualities of teamwork, responsibility, commitment, respect, work ethic and good sportsmanship thru the sport in which they participate.
- District 87 athletics will be a positive source of pride for the District, school and community, as such coaches, athletes and parents will act in a respectful manner at all home and away competitions.
- Students who participate in athletics will feel comfortable and be willing to challenge themselves, take risks and make mistakes as they learn, develop and pursue their full potential.
- Participants will demonstrate an appreciation and ability to work effectively as a member of team and reflect the ideals of good sportsmanship and respect.
- Coaches will effectively communicate the roles, responsibilities and expectations with players and families as required to organize and run a successful program.
- Coaches will be knowledgeable and current in the tactics and techniques of their sport and take pride in the holistic growth and development of the program and ensure it aligns with the mission of the District and School.
- Winning is a natural part of athletic competition, it will not be the ultimate goal or complete measure of success or detract from the overriding mission and commitment to develop responsible, respectful and productive members of society.

Winning is a natural part of athletic competition and Raider athletes and teams will learn to compete with a strong desire and intensity from the start to finish of each competition.

While winning is a goal of each competition, it is not the only or true measure of success. Competition and winning will not detract or cause coaches, athletes or parents from losing site of the overriding mission and vision to which District 87 and Bloomington High School is committed.

Raider athletes will reflect compassion, gratitude and grace in both winning and demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect and integrity to opponents, officials and fans.

THE RAIDER WAY

I understand that in my position as a student-athlete, I must act in manner that best represents myself, my family, District 87 and the surrounding community of Bloomington. I accept the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that supports and models “The RAIDER WAY”.

RESPECTFUL– Treat all people with respect at all times. This includes my teammates, coaches, opponents, officials along with my classmates and teachers. I will represent the school and the community in a positive manner and will model good sportsmanship and demonstrate humility in success and composure in defeat. I will not use taunting, profanity or other actions that degrade a person or the integrity of the game. I will respect the rules of the game and the officials responsible for ensuring fair play.

TRUSTWORTHY – Be worthy of trust in all you do. I will demonstrate honesty, reliability, integrity and loyalty.

COMPASIONATE – Put safety first and never put achieving a desired outcome over the health or wellbeing of yourself, a teammate or even an opponent.

COLLABORATIVE – Keep lines of communication open between coaches, athletes, parents and the athletic department. I will proactively communicate with coaches and teammates to advocate for myself and team needs.

RESPONSIBLE – I have a responsibility to my team and myself. I will demonstrate this responsibility in my actions. I will be on time and prepared for team functions. I will use and return all school issued equipment and apparel in a safe and appropriate manner.

PROFESSIONAL – Dress with class and in a manner that allows you to perform to your best abilities. Use a school appropriate vocabulary at all times.

INSPIRED – Practice and compete with energy and passion that is contagious to all. Be relentless in your pursuit of excellence.

Athlete Eligibility:

All players must be deemed eligible by the Athletic Department before they can participate in any team practices or functions.

Parents and student must complete the District 87 online athletic registration process which is used to ensure and documents that all athletes are eligible according to IHSA and District 87 rules and policies. Any student who has not completed the online athletic registration will not be allowed to participate and contact the Athletic Department.

Requirements that will be checked by the Athletic Department include:

- 1 – Academics: Student must have passed (received a letter grade of a D or higher) in a minimum of 5 classes during the previous semester of school. If student does not meet this criterion, they cannot compete until the following semester, assuming they then meet this IHSA policy. Students must all be enrolled in and passing at least 5 credits each week.
- 2 – A current athletic physical – must be signed and on file
 - A physical is good for only 1 calendar year and must be valid for the length of the entire season for the athlete to remain eligible.
- 3 – Parent permission and proof of medical insurance – must be signed and on file
- 4 – Student behavior “Code of Conduct” – must be signed and on file
- 5 – Receipt and understanding of Athlete/Parent Handbook – must be signed and on file
- 6 – IHSA Concussion and Steroid awareness form – must be signed and on file
- 7 – Football Tackle Technique and Safety form (football only) – must be signed and on file

Once the above listed criteria have been completed online, the Athletic Department and coach will receive notification thru the online registration web-based program.

All athletes that meet the initial eligibility criteria will be monitored daily and weekly to ensure they maintain academic and behavioral eligibility by the coach and athletic department. An athlete can have their athletic eligibility suspended or even terminated if they fail to meet IHSA, school or team expectations.

Weekly grade checks – Athlete must continue to pass a minimum of 5 credits each week. All grades are compiled each Friday and communicated directly to coaches.

* Failure to meet – athlete suspended for 1 week (Mon. – Sat)

Attendance and Tardies – Athletes must attend class and regularly be on time to class

* Failure to meet – game suspensions (quarter, half, full, or multiple games)

School/Class Behavior – Athletes are expected demonstrate appropriate school/class behavior

* Failure to meet - game suspension (quarter, half, full, or multiple games)

Athlete Code of Conduct:

All athletes are required to sign the School District Board approved behavior “code of conduct”. The Bloomington High School code of conduct is in effect 365 days a year and violations can occur over the summer or on non-attendance days. Any potential violations brought to the attention of a coach should be immediately reported to the Athletic Director or another school administrator. In the event of a potential behavior code violation a committee will meet to discuss and determine if a violation of the code has occurred. The committee will include:

- Building Principal
- Athletic Director
- Dean of Students
- Coach
- Athlete who committed the potential violation
- Parent/Guardian of the athlete

If the committee does determine an athletic violation has occurred, the committee will then determine, communicate and document the disciplinary consequences. Possible consequences include but are not limited to:

- 1st offense – up to one-third of the current or next competitive game schedule
- 2nd offense – up to one-half of the current or next competitive game schedule
- 3rd offense – can equate to termination of all athletic eligibility

- In some instances, community service hours may be made available to reduce the total number of game suspensions.

Transfer and Exchange Students:

Any student that is new to Bloomington High School or did not attend Bloomington High the prior year must receive transfer eligibility from the IHSA. These students contact the Athletic Department for guidance and direction on the required forms to complete. A transfer student may practice with the team if all other eligibility requirements are met, but they may NOT compete in any games until approval from the IHSA is received.

Hazing:

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate. (definition provided by: StopHazing.com)

Any and all hazing is a direct violation of Bloomington High School and IHSA regulations and coaches and/or players found of allowing, promoting or participating in such activities will be subject to disciplinary consequences and may be subject to removal from that role or team.

Social Media:

Miss use of social media can result in student-athlete code of conduct violations. Coaches will discuss with players the appropriate use of social media and the dangers associated with disrespectful and damaging content and help to monitor appropriate use.

School Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend school each day in order to attend and participate in that day’s team practice and game. If a student is too ill to attend a minimum of 3 classes, that student should not participate in that day’s practice or game. A student can still participate in practices and games if the absence from school is due to a college visit, funeral or other reason that is approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.

Physical Education Athletic Exemptions:

Student-athletes participating at the varsity level may elect to receive one semester of physical education credit exemption during the semester of their sport during their junior and/or senior year. Freshman and Sophomore students who play at the varsity level will not be eligible for a PE exemption. Athletes interested in the PE exemption should work with their Guidance Counselor to complete the required form. Varsity coaches are required to sign and verify the student participates at the varsity level. Students electing to use this exemption are ultimately responsible to complete the season in good standing. If a student granted the exemption does not participate or finish the season, they may be required to make up the missed PE credit the following semester or year.

Tryouts:

Tryouts can be an extremely stressful and difficult time for coaches, athletes and families. Tryouts will typically last a minimum of 2 days and not extend past 1 week (5 days). The amount of days needed will vary based on total number of participants and total spots available. If a perspective player misses any part of the “tryout” period, the coach may or may not provide additional days of evaluation based on the specific circumstances and timing of each unique situation.

Coaches will evaluate and consider each participant on many different factors. These factors include but are not limited to; techniques, tactics, work ethic, athleticism, communication skills, and sportsmanship. Coaches must balance decisions that affect individual players and consider what is best for the entire team and program.

Try out results will be communicated in a timely manner that protects the dignity of each participant.

Varsity level – Any grade freshman thru senior (students only have 4 years of eligibility)

Junior Varsity level – No seniors, only freshman thru juniors

Sophomore level – only first of second year students regardless of school credit status

Freshman level – only first year students regardless of school credits earned

Procedures to Address a Concern:

If you have a concern, that meets the above criteria and it is not a concern about player safety or inappropriate treatment (mental or physical) follow these procedures:

All Head Coaches have a District email. Parents should use the District issued email address to contact the coach. Included in the email should be your name, contact information, best time to contact and a brief message. The coach will contact you within 48 hours. If the email is sent after school hours on a Friday, the coach may not contact you until returning to work on the following Monday.

1. The player should reach out to the coach and arrange a meeting outside of normal practice times.
2. If the player has reached out to the coach with no resolution, the next step is for the parent to contact the coach and arrange a meeting date and time. Coach will respond with 48 hours of initial parent contact.
3. If the coach and parent have met with no resolution, the next step is for the parent to contact the Athletic Director and arrange a meeting date and time. Athletic Director will respond with 48 hours of initial parent contact.
4. If the Athletic Director and parent have met with no resolution, the Athletic Director or parent will notify the building Principal and or designated complaint manager to arrange a meeting or determine the next steps. After contacted District Administration will respond within 48 hours.

It is expected that the student-athlete attend and be an active participant in the meeting.

24 Hour Rule - Please do not approach or contact the coach regarding potential conflict immediately before, during or after a practice or game.

If you have a concern regarding the safety or mental/physical treatment of your child, the parent should contact the coach or Athletic Director immediately. It is expected that the coach or Athletic Director will reply as quickly as possible to either remedy the situation or arrange a meeting to discuss and determine next steps. If the situation occurred over the weekend, the coach or Athletic Director may not respond until the next workday.

Athlete and Parent Meetings:

All student-athletes and parents/guardians are expected to attend informational meetings that are organized and conducted by the Athletic Director and/or coaching staff related to sport or activity in which they participate.

Items to be discussed at the parent-player meeting will include the following topics:

- Season calendar including practices and games
- Coach Contact Information
- Expectations of players, parents and coaches
- Teams rules – recommended to have in print
- Gear – school issued and player purchased
- Fundraising
- Booster Club - Raider Night Out
- Recent rule changes - help them learn the game
- Nutrition and sleep recommendations
- Academic expectations and study habits
- Transportation – Bussing to and from games
- Team Pictures

Player Fees:

Any and all player fees should be kept to a minimum. Anticipated player fees must be communicated with and approved by the Athletic Director prior to implementation. Player fees can be used to cover player meals or items that the players will keep at the end of the season. Coaches should have a method of fundraising or scholarship opportunities in place to help low-income players cover any established required player fees.

Fundraising:

With limited school budgets and funding it is often beneficial for individual sports to conduct team fundraisers that directly support identified team needs. If fundraising is needed, the head coach must first complete and submit to the Athletic Director a fundraising approval form which outlines the type of fundraiser to be used and the purpose the funds are needed. All fundraising forms must also be approved by the building Principal.

If a team fundraiser is organized, it is expected that all players will participate in the fundraiser to the best of their ability. Players will not be penalized if they are unable to meet established team fundraising goals if they have demonstrated adequate effort to participate in the fundraiser.

Team Equipment

Players and their parent/guardians are responsible for any school issued player uniforms and practice equipment. Players should not keep any part of the school issued uniform during the “off season” and all school issued uniforms or equipment should be turned back coach within two weeks after the conclusion of the season. Players will be held accountable for lost, stolen or damaged school issued uniform items and fees will be assessed for lost or damaged items.

Playing Time:

Playing time does not need to be equal or provided for all players in each game, however, it is something that all coaches will monitor closely. Coaches at the varsity level understand they have a direct responsibility to the continued development of all players on the team roster. Coaches at non-varsity levels will be very mindful to use all eligible players in some manner and promote the continued development of each player in all games if players are meeting all other team commitments and requirements. Coaches should have conversations with players and communicate clearly the role and value that each player serves on the team. These conversations should include both strengths the player has and areas for continued and focused development.

Games:

Games serve as the chance for players to use the skills and knowledge they have been learning and practicing. Although each team and player will compete with the intent to win each game or contest, winning will not exceed the expectations set forth, outlined and communicated in the BHS Student Handbook or this Athletic Handbook.

Parents should refrain from “coaching” during games from the stands as it may not match the desired intent or performance expectation of the coach.

Sportsmanship:

Coaches, athletes and their families represent Bloomington High School and are major factors in how our school and athletic programs are viewed by the larger community. It is expected that coaches, athletes and parents will display and model positive sportsmanship at all times and demonstrate respect for self, team, opponents, officials, fans and the school.

Sportsmanship can be displayed by:

- Thanking and acknowledging the positive efforts and ability of opponents
- Thanking and not negatively criticizing game officials (verbal and non-verbal)
- Thanking and acknowledging the support provided by the fans
- Competing within and respecting all the rules of the sport/game
- Supporting or helping an injured player at appropriate times
- Competing with full effort and displaying enjoyment for the opportunity to play

Regardless of a game's final outcome, win or lose, positive sportsmanship will have a much longer lasting impact on the coach, athlete and fans participating and watching the game.

Practices:

It is expected that each coach will be prepared with appropriate practice plans that challenge and develop the technical, tactical, mental and physical elements required of the sport. With this in mind, it is expected that all players attend the full length of each practice. Practice schedules should be communicated well in advance to each player and their family. It is expected that practices will start and end at the communicated times.

In the rare instance that a Sunday practice may be needed, any and all Sunday practices must have prior approval from the Athletic Director before being scheduled, communicated or conducted. Players that miss a Sunday practice session will not be penalized in any manner.

Athletes and their parent/guardians are responsible for their own transportation home at the conclusion of each practice. Athletes must leave the school facilities within 15 minutes after a practice session ends.

Students are expected to attend school each day in order to attend and participate in that day's team practice session. If a student is too ill to attend a minimum of 3 classes, that student should not participate in that day's practice. A student can still participate in practices if the absence from school is due to a college visit, funeral or other reason that is approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.

Transportation to away Games

Transportation to all and from all away games will be provided by District 87 using either Illinois Central School buses, District 87 owned vehicles or by using professional chartered private bussing companies.

Athletes are expected to ride to and from all games using the school provided transportation.

The Athletic Director or Building Principal must approve all situations when other transportation sources are requested by an athlete or parent

Website:

The Athletic Department will oversee and manage content on the BHS Athletics website that is linked to the main BHS website. Schedules for each team can be accessed from this website.

Each sport may maintain a sport specific website that is managed directly by members of the coaching staff.

Cancellations:

In the event a contest or practice needs to be cancelled on short notice the Athletic Department will post cancellation on the BHS Athletic website. School announcements will also be utilized to alert players of late schedule changes. Coaches will also use email and other group messaging method to quickly communicate cancellations to all players and their parents.

Filming:

Video and filming falls under the responsibilities of each individual program and head coach. The Athletic Department will help to communicate and secure the necessary resources as possible but funding for equipment, editing software and video sharing companies such as HUDL and Krossover will need to be covered from program activity accounts and fundraising. .

Post Season Banquet

Each program/sport should have a post season banquet or event of some type to provide closure to the season. The post season banquet should include all levels (HS) for that sport. The banquet can be held in conjunction with the Booster Club Sports Award night or held at a separate time and location.

Player Awards

Coaches should nominate, advocate and represent any player in their program who is in good standing with team requirements for any potential individual Conference, State, or State Coaching Association awards. Coaches are expected to collect, compile and submit player and team statistics that help promote individual players or the team for any potential awards.

Coaches should establish and communicate criteria for athletes to earn a varsity letter.

Varsity B (1 time regardless of sport)

- Sport pins (first time for each sport)
- Varsity bar (each year they earn a varsity letter for each sport – max of 4)
- Tri-Color B – given to any 3 sport varsity level athlete

Junior Varsity Certificate

Freshman Numerals – graduation year

Special Awards:

Big 12 – All Conference First Team

Big 12 – All Conference Honorable Mention

Big 12 Conference Scholastic Achievement

Varsity athlete (Soph-Sr) with a 4.0 GPA or higher

IHSA Scholar Athlete Award

Varsity athlete (Jr-Sr) with 4.5 GPA or higher

Sportsmanship Award

One athlete from each varsity level team – coach selected

Team Awards

Determined, created and paid for by each individual sport

BHS Male Athlete of the Year

BHS Female Athlete of the Year

BHS Male Senior Athlete of the Year

BHS Female Senior Athlete of the Year

Robert Frank Scholarship Award

Facilities:

All practices and games should be held on District 87 managed facilities or facilities approved for team use by the Athletic Director. District 87 facilities should only be used by District 87 approved coaches and for District 87 teams. Any coaches and teams not directly connect to District 87, must complete a District 87 facilities request form for approval at least one full week prior to the activity. District 87 coaches wishing to use a District facility other than their regular practice locations or during the off season must also complete a District facility use form.

District facilities and equipment may not be used to conduct private lessons where a fee is charged or for free lessons to non-district students even by District coaches and staff members.

Locker Rooms:

Locker rooms will be made available to athletes as needed. Coaches must assist with the supervision of locker room facility after school hours and during pre and post game usage. Coaches should help to monitor appropriate behaviors and language in the locker rooms.

Athletes must provide their own lock and School District 87 will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen items.

No cell phones, cameras or other recording devices should be used to take pictures while in the locker room or other changing room facilities. The privacy of each student-athlete should be respected at all times.

Liability

All coaches should implement best practices that work to shield themselves and the school from potential liability claims. Coaches should monitor practice sites, game sites and all player equipment for safety concerns. All safety concerns should be immediately communicated with the Athletic Director.

Coaches should not leave any player/s unsupervised at any time. Coaches should also not transport players in personal vehicles.

Coaches off the opposite gender of the player should refrain from meeting with individual players in a secluded or closed environment. If such meetings are required it is recommended to include an assistant coach, the Athletic Director, a parent or another player.

Coaches should be extremely careful when touching players, especially players of the opposite gender.

Open Gyms:

Coaches are able to schedule and promote open gym sessions during the out of season period during the school academic year. Open gyms sessions must be announced school wide and include any and all interested students. Coaches must provide only a supervisory role during open gym sessions and are not allowed to “coach” players or organize practice activities during these sessions.

- * Open gym sessions must be voluntary.

- * Only Bloomington High School students and incoming freshman from Bloomington Junior High that are currently not in season are allowed at open gym sessions.

Summer:

The IHSA limits the amount of contact coaches can have with current players over the summer. Coaches should be aware of these rules and work within the clearly stated practice limits. For most sport the maximum number of contacts dates is 25. Coaches must also be aware and adhere to the IHSA “no contact” periods over the summer.

- * Summer contact days – 25 (excludes baseball and softball)

- * IHSA No Contact Periods

 - Week of July 4

 - Week immediately preceding the official IHSA start date for the Fall season

Coaches are not expected or required to use all 25 dates allowed.

Coaches must provide the Athletic Director a copy of a summer calendar for approval before disseminating the information to students and families.

Coaches should plan and communicate anticipated summer practice calendars with as much advance notice to families as possible. Players should not be disciplined or penalized for non-attendance in summer practices.

Coaches that want to use summer contact dates and coaches of sports that begin in the Fall before students return to school should announce and hold an informational meeting for prospective players before the prior year of school ends.

Booster Club:

The Bloomington Booster Club is very supportive of all the Raider athletic programs. The Booster Club provides all the BHS athletic awards and letters each year. They also regularly provide money to the Athletic Department for uniform costs and replacements. It would not be possible to have or run the athletic programs we have without the continued support of the parent run Booster Club. It is expected that each varsity level coach attends the major Booster Club fundraising event/s. Each varsity level program must create a fundraising item (basket) for the Booster live auction at the Raider Night Out held each Fall and help recruit at least one parent to volunteer to attend the Booster Club meetings. Coaches should help to promote Booster events.

Any coach wanting to request funds from the Booster Club must submit the required request form to the Athletic Director and receive approval from the BHS Principal at least one week prior to the next scheduled Booster meeting. A copy of this form is available in the resource section of this handbook.

Athletic Training:

We are very fortunate to have two certified athletic trainers who will monitor, diagnose, treat and help to rehabilitate the health, well-being and safety of our athletes. All coaches should defer to the professional judgment and decision of the athletic trainers in regards to a players' ability to practice or participate in games. Our trainers will attempt to be onsite and provide coverage at as many of our home games and practices as possible. Due to the fact that we have numerous days with multiple home events it will impossible to have a trainer at every home event or practice. If a trainer is not able to be onsite, they will be available by cell phone or radio in the case of an emergency. If at any time a trainer is not on site, the coach will serve as the on-site first responder to any injury. If you believe the injury to be of a more serious nature, error on the side of caution and call an ambulance immediately.

The athletic training staff will communicate the days and times they will be available to athletes in the BHS training room located on the West side of the top level of the South gymnasium. It may be necessary for athletes who need treatment to attend the training room outside of a team's regular practice schedule. Only athletes needing the attention of the training staff should be in the training room.

Any supplies (bottles, cooler, crutches, wraps, etc...) issued by the athletic trainers need to be well taken care of and returned in a timely fashion to the athletic training room.

All accidents and injuries must be documented in writing using the District 87 accident report form. Coaches should work with members of the training staff to complete the required documents. The Athletic Director should be contacted any time a more serious injury occurs. If the student-athlete must be transported to a local hospital and the parent is not on site, a member of the coaching staff must accompany the athlete to the hospital and remain at the hospital until a parent/guardian arrives.

Concussions Protocols

In the event that a player, coach, referee or trainer suspects that a concussion may have been sustained by an athlete. The athlete will immediately enter the established concussion protocols. A parent/guardian needs to be contacted and alerted on the same day of the incident and written documentation should be started that day noting the time, location, brief description of the incident and the symptoms observed.

All coaches should familiarize themselves with the required documents and procedures. Copies of the forms and procedures can be found in the resources section of this handbook. A concussion oversight team will meet annually to discuss and review concussion protocols.

Weather and other Emergencies (Emergency Action Plans)

Each site used for District 87 athletic games and or practices must have posted an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) packet. The EAP packet must contain up to date emergency contact numbers, AED locations, the closest shelter area and other information specific to the location that would be helpful in an emergency.

In the event of lightning/thunder all IHSA policies must be followed. Athletes, coaches and spectators must take shelter in a covered area or vehicle if lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard. According to IHSA policies, the site must remain cleared for 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder.

Game day officials have the final word on all game cancellations.

College Recruiting and NCAA Eligibility:

All coaches are expected to help athletes in their program navigate the college recruiting process. Although we want our student-athletes to set high goals and strive to compete at the highest levels, coaches must also have the ability to judge and communicate realistic post high school playing opportunities with players. Coaches should meet with underclassmen players and discuss the players interest and desire to play sports in college. Coaches should be open and honest with the ability level of the player and help to identify colleges that may be a “good fit” for the student and their family. Coaches are only one piece of the puzzle and should be ready and willing to seek assistance as needed to best help answer questions that player or player’s parents/guardians may have about the recruiting process or NCAA eligibility.

Recruiting Do’s and Don’ts

Do meet with players and parents to talk about and help with college athletics
Do be open and honest about the player’s ability and the level you think they can play
Do connect the player and player’s family to the NCAA clearing house website
Do have the player alter their academic counselor of their goal to play college level athletics
Do help connect the player to possible college coaches
Do share information from college coaches to potential athletes in your program
Do convey accurate information to college coaches
Do convey the academic requirement to play college level (NCAA) athletics
Do respond to college coach email and phone calls in a timely fashion

Do NOT assume that players and parents know how to navigate the recruiting process
Do NOT share personal information about a student without parent permission
 Pass on the college contacts to the player instead of giving player info to the college
Do NOT mislead a player or a college coach on the actual ability level of the player
Do NOT over promote expensive recruiting services

Other potential resources:

- Athletic Director
- Guidance Counselors
- Illinois State University Compliance Department

NCAA Websites - <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/play-division-i-sports>
<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>

Handouts for parents/players can also be found in the resource section of this handbook.