



2025-2026

Activities Handbook for

Students and Parents

Barnum High School, 3675 County Road 13, Barnum, MN 55767

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Categories of Activities

A. **Category 1 - Athletics**

Barnum High School offers the following athletic opportunities:

Fall: football, volleyball, cheerleading

Winter: boys and girls basketball, cheerleading

Spring: boys and girls track, baseball, softball, golf

Barnum High School also offers the following athletic opportunities in cooperation with Moose Lake-Willow River schools:

Fall: cross-country; Winter: boys and girls hockey

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and is voluntary. Participation is not required for graduation, nor must the student have activity credits for college entrance.

Because athletics are voluntary and because those participating represent their student bodies, the standards to qualify are of the highest quality, particularly relating to academic requirements, school-citizenship, and sportsmanship. Those who take part must conduct themselves in a manner that is above question. Not only does this responsibility exist while they are in the competitive arena, but good conduct shall be required of them at other times and most certainly while they are in school. The school authorities do reserve the right to revoke the privilege of participation for students who do not follow the rules of the Minnesota State High School League, the rules of Barnum High School and rules established by the coaches in their activities.

B. **Category 2 - Co-Curricular Activities**

Barnum High School offers the following activities:

1. **Swing Choir and Jazz Band:** Performance is a vital part of the work completed in Category II activities. Most work is done with the goal of performance in mind. Performance is a required part of membership in all music groups for which credit is given toward graduation at Barnum High School.
2. **Knowledge Bowl, Math League, One & Three-Act Plays:** These are school-sponsored activities that may or may not be specifically sponsored by the MSHSL but are considered by Barnum High School to be Category II activities.

Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is above question, and to follow the rules of the Minnesota State High School League, Barnum High School and the rules established by the directors of the activities.

Student Eligibility

In order for a student to be eligible to compete in sports or cheer at Barnum High School, the student and parent/guardian must read and sign the following four MSHSL required forms:

1. MSHSL Athletic Eligibility Statement
2. MSHSL Health Questionnaire
3. MSHSL/BHS Eligibility Bulletin & Handbook
4. Sports Physical (requires doctor signature and date)

These forms must be turned in to the high school office prior to the first practice of the sport season in which the student is participating. These forms must be filled out each school year, but only one time per year is necessary even if the student is participating in more than one sport. Forms are available on the school's web site or in the high school office.

Each student athlete must have a sports physical once every three years clearing them for participation. The form must be signed and dated by a doctor and be on file at the school. Forms are available on the school website or in the high school office.

Students involved in athletics or activities must also:

- Be a student in good standing.
- Pay the required fee for the sport or activity.
- Secure his/her own medical insurance coverage as ISD No. 91 does not provide medical insurance for athletes. A plan is available for purchase from the district.

Students in grades 9-12 who are involved in after-school activities will become academically ineligible upon receiving an "F" for a quarter grade. These students will remain ineligible for a minimum of two weeks or two events -whichever is longer - during the following quarter. Students receiving more than one "F" will have an additional week/event added for each additional "F." If a student receives an "F" for a quarter, but passes the semester, the student will remain eligible for participation.

At the end of the ineligibility period, the student will remain ineligible until the teacher of the class in which the "F" was received notifies the coach that the students making adequate academic progress toward passing. Eligibility will not be restored without this confirmation from the teacher.

Students in after school activities who receive an incomplete grade will be ruled ineligible until the incomplete grade is made up.

Students in grades 7-8 will become academically ineligible upon receiving an "F" for his/her quarter grade. They will remain ineligible for 1 week or 1 game whichever is longer, with an additional week and game for each "F" after the first "F".

Students that are academically ineligible will be allowed to practice, but they are not allowed to participate in games. Those who are academically ineligible will not be allowed to miss school to attend a practice or events.

Coaches will have the discretion to declare an athlete academically ineligible if they feel their student-athletes are not making adequate academic progress during the season they are participating in.

If a student takes a course through an approved summer school program to make up credit for a course failed in the second semester, that student will regain eligibility.

The ineligibility list will be provided to teachers and coaches/advisors within three days of the distribution of report cards.

Participation Fees

Fees are collected and paid in the high school office prior to the first day of practice or participation. Students are not allowed to take part or to practice until the fee is paid. The student will receive a receipt and the record of payment will be kept in the high school office. Fee schedules can be found on the school's web site or in the high school office.

Athletic Participation

Grades 7-8: Coaches are to place participation of all students above all other considerations in their contests. It is fun to win, but at these levels, it is the philosophy of the Board of Education that each child's chance to play is more important than winning. If a coach knows that a child will not play because of any reason, then that child should not dress in game uniform.

At tournaments for these levels, the coaches should use their discretion as to who plays and how much. If the decision to win is important for the tournament, then the coaches should discuss this with the team members so they are aware of this in advance.

Coach / Director Responsibilities

1. Barnum coaches/directors will keep the welfare of the students in mind at all times. They will show respect for their students as they expect respect from their students.
2. Barnum coaches will be fair in their evaluation of athletes so

as to let the most capable athlete perform at his/her level of his/her competition. Varsity athletes will be expected to perform at a higher level of excellence than junior varsity or C-team athletes. The best athletes will be at the varsity level. Playing time for varsity athletes will be based on a number of factors such as:

- a. ability of individual,
 - b. blending of his/her skills into team play,
 - c. sportsmanship and conduct on and off the field of play,
 - d. dedication to sport and team,
 - e. competitiveness,
 - f. performance and attitude in practice and games,
 - g. the quality of the competition.
3. Students are not guaranteed playing time. Every effort will be made by the coach to retain players at these levels so they remain a part of the team. Each athlete plays a vital role in the success of a team. The role may be providing starters with tough competition in practice, moral support, and being prepared to play when called upon. Participants at junior varsity and C-team levels can expect more playing time. Coaches will strive to create enough teams at various competitive levels to enhance developments and increase participation.
 4. Barnum coaches/directors will have clearly defined rules that are understandable by the students. They will do their best to ensure that each student is treated fairly.
 5. Barnum coaches/directors will exemplify leadership in good sportsmanship, pride in our school and respect towards others.
 6. Barnum coaches will have knowledge in both their sport and prevention and care of injuries.
 7. Barnum coaches/directors will encourage students to perform to the best of their ability in the classroom. They will take an active role in the supervision of our students' academic progress.

Athlete/ Participant Responsibilities

1. Adhere to the Minnesota State High School League rules, the rules of Barnum High School, and the rules of the coach and team on which you participate.
2. Dress and groom in a manner that reflects appropriately on the school, community, and yourself, adhering to the school dress code.
3. Accept the decisions of the officials made during activities. Bring questions to either the coach or appointed captains.
4. Do not use profanity in practice, games or any activities in which you represent the school.
5. Respect the property of others. Any Barnum student stealing or damaging property in Barnum or on road trips is in violation of the Student Code of Responsibilities. This is also true of stops made while traveling.
6. Positively support your own team/group and recognize the achievements of the opposing team.
7. Keep winning and losing in perspective, recognizing that athletic programs are primarily designed for learning and enjoyment.
8. Keep equipment/uniforms in good repair while checked out to you during your season. Any lost or damaged equipment/uniforms are your responsibility to replace. Replacement equipment/uniform cost range is \$50.00 - \$200.00.
9. Work up to your capabilities academically. Any teacher has the right and responsibility to keep you from attending a contest during school time if they feel that the trip will hurt you in the classroom.
10. Help with the upkeep of our locker room and facilities used. When you are done for the day, pick up belongings and see that they are put away in the proper place. You are responsible for your valuables, and are not to leave money, watches, shoes, or other items out. Locks are issued and you should keep all valuables locked up. You are also expected to keep other schools' facilities clean and in order while on road trips.

11. Follow regular bus etiquette/rules while riding to and from events. The supervisor has the right and responsibility to see that the students are reasonably quiet and do not interfere with the driver's concentration or ability to provide a safe bus. Only music and movie players with earphones are acceptable on the bus.
12. Take school provided transportation to and from the activities unless your parents make personal contact with the supervisor in charge. The only persons you may ride with are parents. If school is not providing transportation, the student athlete must have a signed transportation waiver on file in order to ride with someone other than the parent.
13. The use of any cell phone with video ability in the locker room is strictly prohibited.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Encourage your sons and daughters to perform to the best of their ability both in their activity and academically. Be a source of support for them and the program in which they are participating.
2. Serve as role models. Exemplify good attitudes by treating all players, coaches, fans, officials, schools and other parents with respect and dignity.
3. Insist that students abide by rules established by the school, the coach/director and the Minnesota State High School League.
4. Positively support your own team and recognize the achievements of the opposing team.
5. Allow your students to enjoy the benefits of competition, remembering that not everyone can be the star, be on the first team, or have equal playing time.

Fan Responsibilities

1. Represent BHS positively, whether at home or away.

2. Follow the rules of good sportsmanship. Positively support the cheerleaders, team and coaches.
3. Show respect for visiting teams and officials.
4. Respect school property, both at home and away.
5. Dress and groom in a manner that reflects appropriately on the school, community and yourself, adhering to the school dress code.
6. Do not use profanity while in attendance at any games, competitions or performances.

Rule Violation Consequences

A. Category - Athletics

Chemical Use/Violence Issues: Realizing the importance of helping students when confronted with chemical use, harassment, or violence issues, Barnum High School has implemented a positive, supportive program to encourage students to make wise choices and good decisions regarding substance use. This program is intended to encourage students to seek appropriate assistance and to provide an educational format to review issues of concern.

In all Category I activities (as designated by the MSHSL), which includes all athletic programs as well as speech and debate, the MSHSL guidelines will form the base of consequences and disciplinary action. The Barnum program is amended as follows:

First violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the MSHSL activity for a period of 3 weeks or 3 games whichever is longer.

Second violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the MSHSL activity for a period of 6 weeks or 6 games whichever is longer.

Third violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the MSHSL activity for a period of 12 weeks or 12 games whichever is longer.

Subsequent violation: Student shall lose eligibility for a period of 18 weeks or one complete semester of activities.

Code of Responsibility: Barnum High School is a member of and follows the guidelines, policies and rules set forth by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Therefore, when a student in grades 7-12 enrolls in any activity at Barnum High School, the student is under the jurisdiction of the MSHSL and BHS policies/regulations. To obtain a copy of the MSHSL activity guidelines and policies, go online to mshsl.org or the school's web site, or

contact your coach, supervisor or the high school office staff.

Students participating in school-sponsored activities are expected to abide by the **Code of Responsibilities** set forth by the MSHSL and Barnum Public Schools. The code includes the following commitments:

1. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
2. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
3. I will respect the property of others.
4. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.
5. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.

A student who is under penalty of exclusion, expulsion, or suspension or whose character or conduct violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for participation for a period of time as determined by the principal. The guidelines adopted by Barnum High School recommend periods of ineligibility as follows (although all are subject to the determination of the building principal):

1st violation: Suspension for three school weeks or three events, whichever is greater;
2nd violation: Suspension for six school weeks or six events, whichever is greater;
3rd violation: Suspension for 12 school weeks, or 12 events, whichever is greater.

B. Category - Performance Activities

1. All students with unexcused absences from performances shall be required, in lieu of actual performance, to submit a research paper of appropriate topic and length to be determined by the director of the music organization involved.
2. If the report is satisfactorily submitted and reviewed, the student's grade shall therefore not be adversely affected by the unexcused absence from a required performance.
3. Students are made aware of grade expectations and performance obligations when joining a music group in the beginning of the year.

C. **Category - All Activities**

First violation: A student in a Category II activity will lose eligibility for two contests or events and four (4) weeks of public performances (pep band). This consequence will be reduced to one contest or event and two weeks of public performances (pep band) if the student satisfactorily completes the information classes provided by the school.

Second violation: A student in a Category II activity will lose eligibility for three contests or events and six (6) weeks of public performances (pep band).

Third and subsequent violations: A student in a Category II activity will lose eligibility for four contests or events and eight (8) weeks of public performances (pep band).

These violations will be accumulative for grades 10 - 12, but done on a yearly basis for grades 7 - 8. Penalties will carry over from one year to the next. If students are involved in more than one activity, they shall pay the penalty in each activity. All classes must be completed before any reduction in consequences will be allowed.

Students may be allowed to practice while under suspension for violations of rules at the discretion of the coaches and A.D. A student may not practice or take part or attend a contest or practice if he/she is suspended from school for any reason.

Procedure for Complaints

In order to allow an expression of differences that often occur in athletics, a procedure has been developed for establishing a line of communication between school, parent/guardian, students, and coaches.

No conflict between a parent, student, official or coach should be addressed during or immediately following a game. The game site, practice field, lobby or locker rooms are not appropriate places to handle conflict. Coaches are not to meet or deal with conflict at these times or places. Most conflicts are better resolved with an appropriate cooling down period.

If you are upset please call or arrange a meeting the following workday. The following steps should be taken in order for conflict to be resolved:

Step 1:

A meeting between the student, the coach and/or the parent should be called. This meeting can be initiated by the student, the parent or the coach, but does not have to involve all three parties.

Step 2:

If any of the three parties (coach, athlete or parents) still feel that the conflict is not resolved, a meeting between the parent, the coach and A.D. may be called by any party. The athlete need not be present.

Notes of the meeting will be kept by the A.D.

Step 3:

The A.D. will send out a list of findings and recommendations to those involved no later than one week after the meeting. A copy of all communications will be given to the High School Principal.

Group Conflict

No parent group shall meet at BHS to discuss team problems without representatives from BHS which will include the A.D. or coach. At group meetings, individuals must speak for and represent themselves, not other individuals or groups.

Letter Awards

The objective of an award should be recognition of an achievement that has been accomplished through effort and sacrifice. One who receives an award is being recognized as superior in some area of athletics.

An athlete earning a letter for the first time will receive a chenille letter and a pin for that particular activity. All subsequent awards will be in the form of yearly bars, one for each additional time lettered.

Letter Requirements

The minimum lettering requirements are as follows for each activity:

Football -Athlete must play in one more quarter than varsity games played at the varsity level.

Basketball (boys & girls) -Athlete must play in at least 13 halves at the varsity level.

Volleyball -Athlete must participate in at least 10% of the total sets played by the varsity team.

Baseball/Softball -Athlete must participate in at least 10% of the total innings played by the varsity team.

Track (boys & girls) -Athlete must have a total of at least 20 points during the meets or qualify for the section meet.

Golf (boys & girls) - Athlete must have played in at least half of the conference matches and attend the section meet.

Drama - Students must earn 10 points in one or more consecutive years. Points are awarded by the play director.

Music - See the music department handbook.

NHS - Members must complete 20 hours of community service and 10 hours of volunteer service explicitly through the school (hours cannot be paid services and must be completed by April 1), attend 80% of meetings held, and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

Math League - Students must score a total of at least 10 points in one year or 15 points over two years.

Cheerleading -Athlete must earn 85% of total points possible with practices valued at 5 points each and games valued at 10 points each.

See coach/advisor for more details regarding lettering. Coaches reserve the right to letter athletes/students not meeting the above lettering requirements for an activity with the approval of the A.D.

Students who are in violation of MSHSL Rules will forfeit all letters, team awards, and conference awards in the activity in which the penalty was served.

These guidelines are minimum rules and expectations required of all students for participation in activities. Additional rules may be added by the coaches of the activities, assuming those rules are not unreasonable in nature. Appeals of such rules may be made to the Activities Director or High School Principal who will render a decision.

BARNUM HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY SIGNATURE PAGE

Statement to be signed by Participant and Parent/Guardian

I have read and understand the attached BHS Activities Handbook and have secured mine and my parent/guardian's signature, hereon, which acknowledges our receipt of the handbook and understanding of the rules and guidelines.

(Student Signature)_____ Date_____

I acknowledge that my child and I have received and understand the eligibility rules in the Activities Handbook attached to this statement.

(Parent/Guardian signature)_____ Date_____

*** Once signed please detach the signature page and return with all appropriate paperwork. Keep the handbook for your reference.