



BEARDEN FOOTBALL **HANDBOOK**

(KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS)



Why play football for Bearden High School?

Because...

Our football program is an integral part of the education system. Football's very nature stresses key intangibles of someone exemplifying strong character and integrity. We have an opportunity to impact the entire school and community as they see the discipline, teamwork, sacrifice, and work ethic shown by our student athletes. Realizing football is a tool, we must understand what the game creates is dependent on the design of the craftsman.

Our focus and purpose will be on the growth and maturation of our players as individuals, not just their on-field performance. The mission of this football program is for our young men to become servant-leaders in their professions of choice and develop into be great men, husbands, fathers, and members of society. Our hope is our players will understand we are making a lifetime commitment to them, not just a four-year commitment. We want them to pursue excellence in all areas of their lives, and be able to look back on their time here with us with great admiration, and as a result the by-product will be a successful, winning football program on and off the field.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing you this letter for several reasons. First, I would like to thank each one of you for allowing the coaching staff to work with your son. I also want to thank you for your support of our football program. It is your commitment that makes many of the things we do possible.

In an effort to improve our football program, I have given our young men a player's contract. The content of the contract addresses team policies and should be used as a rule of thumb for most situations pertaining to the team. Please realize that each player will be treated fairly with regard to his specific situation but there are set guidelines that will be followed. I encourage you to read the contract with your son and discuss its contents.

The purpose of this letter and the players' contract is not to harp on what is right or what is wrong but to better inform parents, establish organization, and develop discipline. All of which play a major roll in the foundation of a quality football program. I hope this provides clarity to most situations involving the football team.

A player's efforts, attitude, and ability are evaluated daily during workouts and practice. The coaching staff will work very hard to place players in the right position for the betterment of the team but playing time and position should not be discussed. If you trust us to coach, instruct, and lead your son then trust us to make the decisions that are in the team's best interest.

As parents, you are the single biggest influence in your child's life and you play a large role in the success of our football program. There will be times when you do not agree with the coaching staff, which is natural, but how you handle those disagreements will have a direct effect on this team in some form or fashion. Because of this I ask that you refrain from negative discussion with your son about our football program.

The enclosed handbook is designed to help provide our players with the best possible high school football experience. It includes detailed program expectations, academic resources and references, and required release forms for participation in athletics in Knox County Schools. Please feel free to review the handbook and contact me with any questions you may have in regards to the content or expectations we have set for the players.

Our main priority is to assist in developing your son into an outstanding young man that will grow and mature into a quality husband, father, and leaders in society. We want players to leave our program after four years as better people. Once again if any of these concepts do not make sense, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time, commitment, and trust.

Sincerely,

Coach Shinlever
Head Football Coach

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Bearden High School **Football Mission Statement**

This is who we are and what we are about!

INSIDE Over Outside = I.O.O.

Response is greater than events experienced.

TEAM Over Individual = T.O.I.

Together we are a part of something bigger and more important than any individual.

LONG-TERM Over Short-term = L.O.S.

Prepare for the future in all we do.



Bertelkamp Center for Academics Achievement

All (in-season) TSSAA athletes that have a class average of a “D” or below at the end of each marking period are required to regularly attend the Bertelkamp Center in the mornings before school. It is the responsibility of the individual athlete to know what assignments or specific skills he/she needs to focus on daily during the tutoring sessions.

Attendance: Tuesday & Thursday 7:30am to 8:15am & 3:45pm-4:30pm

- Athletes are required to attend 2 days of tutoring each week.
- Athletes will not be eligible to play in freshmen, JV, or varsity competition if he/she does not meet the fore mentioned attendance requirements each week.
- Special need situations regarding attendance will be handle on a case by case basis via the Athletic Director.

Check in daily with Bertelkamp Admin. - again with the individual tutor. Any athlete that does not arrive by 7:30am will not be given credit for that day but they will be allowed to stay and receive assistants. **Tutors will allow a reasonable grace period of 5 minutes each morning before role is taken.* Once an athlete has improved their grade to a “C”, the athlete is not required to attend the Bertelkamp Center.

**Athletes must submit a signed note from the appropriate teacher to Bertelkamp Admin. once he/she is no longer required to attend Bertelkamp. If Bertelkamp Admin. does not receive a note from the teacher clearing the athlete from the role sheet, the athlete will be marked absent and will be subject to attendance consequences. Coach Scott will provide release notes/exit forms for teachers to sign when requested by an athlete.*

Athletes are expected to take full responsibility for their actions & education.

See Coach Scott or BHS Athletic Director for Bertelkamp schedule & list of tutors

**Students may be excused from Bertelkamp the morning of their State EOC.*



Academics

- NCAA Eligibility Center Quick Reference Guide link. Check to view the requirements for incoming freshmen wanting to participate in college athletics.

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf

Concussion

- Below is the link to the CDC's Parent/Legal Guardians & Student-Athletes concussion information and signature form. It is mandatory that a new form must be complete each year before a student-athlete participates in a sport. For more information please see TSSAA concussion policy & return to practice form located under Team forms on our website.

<https://www.tn.gov/health/search-results.html?q=concussions>



BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL **FOOTBALL PLAYER CONTRACT**

“Being a member of a football team is a privilege, not a right. If you choose to be a part of this team you will be held to a higher standard than others in all that you do. Football is a special sport that requires a high level of commitment and dedication. All of the topics listed in this contract are done so you can have the best possible high school football experience and develop skills of success to carry through life.”

“Coach reserve the right to consider other factors & use discretion when applying the following expectations”.

Academics: *“1st & foremost, attentiveness in class, good study habits, self-discipline, & time management are all required to prevent academic problems from occurring.”*

***Level #1: Watch List** - D or F in a class requires before school Bertelkamp tutoring two days per week. BHS Athletic Dept. policy requires weekly Bertelkamp tutoring for any athlete with a D or F to be eligible for play.

****Level #2: Probation** - Failing two classes. Required Bertelkamp tutoring before school & after school.

*****Level #3: Suspension** - Failing three classes = **dismissal from all team activities** until grades reach Level #2 probation. **A note from a teacher will be required when receiving tutoring.*

Attendance: *“Prior communication with the Head Coach is required for all absences.”*

- Absence(s) may merit additional conditioning to make up for the missed physical training.
- **Attendance Rule of 5** Off-season (January-June) Five absences not Medical/OPC related will result in dismissal from the football team.
- **Medical** (DDS, KOC, Med. Doctor, PT) Unlimited with a dated doctor’s note.
 - **If you do not have a medical appointment to attend but are injured, you are expected to be present at football.** Our KOC appointed athletic trainer will decide the appropriate level of activity or will oversee rehabilitation exercises/treatment during that time.



- **Out of Player's Control (OPC)** Case by case basis (family emergency/legal/TSSAA in-season sport).
- **Punctuality** If you are on time then you are late. Failure to be punctual may result in consequences.
- **TSSAA Dead Period** In an effort to keep attendance consistent for all, we suggest scheduling family vacations around the TSSAA Dead Period (usually the week before and the week of the 4th of July).
- **In-season** (July-October & Playoffs) only Medical/OPC absences allowed.
- Athletes must be present at school for a minimum of 3-½ hours (2 classes) to play in a football game.

Conduct: *"We are representatives of BHS, your actions on & off the field reflect on this team & school."*

- Bullying, hazing, or theft will equal automatic dismissal from the team.
- All actions have consequences, either positive or negative, that will affect our team.
- Carry yourself in a manner that will exemplify the characteristics we strive for as a football team.
- Take responsibility for your actions & accept the consequences of your actions appropriately.
- Negative attitude will corrupt our team from the inside out; therefore, negative attitudes will not be tolerated. Positive attitudes are essential to be successful. Be a **TEAM** player with a positive attitude.
- If a teacher contacts a coach because of an issue in the classroom or hallway there will be disciplinary consequences to TBD by the HC based on the severity of the issue.
- **Conduct Rule of 5** (January - End of the season) Three BHS discipline referrals = meeting between the player & HC. Consequences TBD by HC. Five BHS discipline referrals will result in dismissal from the football team.

Equipment & Facility: *"Players are responsible for their individual gear, locker, uniform, etc."*

- Players will be supplied with all necessary equipment. All issued equipment is to remain at school.
- Equipment will be organized and stored in accordance with locker room expectations.



Playing Time & Position:

- Playing time is earned through attitude, effort, and performance in workouts, practices, and games. If there are any questions or concerns about playing time, coaches are more than willing to meet with any **player** to develop a plan that will assist in further developing the player's contribution to the team.
- It is the coaches' decision as to what position each player will play. The **TEAM** is greater than any individual therefore the team will always come first when assigning positions.
- In order to play in a game, participation in practice is required.

Off-Season: *"January through June are where football games are truly won or lost."*

- The off-season is critical to the development of a football team. Everyone must understand and buy into the importance of the off-season. Team chemistry, culture, and camaraderie, which are crucial for a successful team, are developed during the off-season.
- All players are expected to fully participate in our training program. Players will not be allowed to workout individually with a personal trainer instead of working out with the team.
- Players involved in another TSSAA sport are expected to uphold their commitment to the in-season sport and are not required to take part in our off-season workouts during that time but may do so if their schedule allows.

Student-Athlete Review: *"Support for individuals struggling to meet the entirety of program expectations."*

1st Conference with the Head Coach & parent notification.

2nd Conference with position coach(s) & Head Coach to establish definitive action & habits to correct the issue. Parent notification.

3rd Conference = Dismissal from the team. Habitual actions have become detrimental to the TEAM.

Commitment to you the player: To help develop you as a man & produce a winning football team. Because the most important product is our players, WE WILL...

- Teach hard work, responsibility, commitment, and the many other various characteristics of success.
- Teach the worth of "**Team Over Individual, Long Term Over Short Term, & Inside Over Outside**"
- Hold you accountable for your actions in a fair, honest, and respectful manner.
- Be the best possible role model we can be for you by leading through our actions.



Coach Shinlever's Contact Information

- Cell Phone # = (865) 310-7041
- E-mail = morgan.shinlever@knoxschools.org
- Twitter = @BeardenFB

I have READ, I UNDERSTAND, & I ACCEPT the expectations & content of this contract. I recognize BHS and KCS student policies are part of this contract. I am solely responsible for upholding this commitment. I agree failure to abide by this contract is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary consequences that may include dismissal from the football team. I know a digital copy of this contract can be found at www.beardenfootball.com under Team Forms in the Varsity Players' Handbook.

Player Printed Name & Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FYI

**See Coach Shinlever if you need a copy of "BHS Football Document Packet" that accompanies this handbook.*

***Coach Shinlever's contact information is listed at the bottom half of the previous page.*