



Guide For Student Athletes And Parents

General Standards and Forms for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

Purpose: This *Athletic Guide* is designed to be useful to student athletes and parents. The intent is to condense that information which is necessary to effectively understand and participate in the athletic program in Anne Arundel County. **Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right**

The guide includes a collection of information pertaining to state and county procedures and regulations.

There may be questions which arise that may not be covered in this guide. Remember, this is only a guide. Only open communications between coaching staff, athletic director, parents, students, and school administrators will insure an effective athletic program. View the Anne Arundel Athletic Handbook at www.aacps.org.

I. General Standards for Eligibility

1. Enrollment

Students shall be officially registered and attending a member MPSSAA school. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements. Ninth grade public school students, who reside in the attendance area of a high school organized 10–12 may participate in the interscholastic athletics program of that high school.

2. Age

Students who are 19 years old or older as of August 31 are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

3. Physical Examination:

A student shall be examined and certified to the high school principal as being physically fit to participate in any tryout, practice, or contest of a school team. The examination shall be performed by a qualified physician. Student physical examinations will cover one calendar year only. Verification of an examination must be submitted each year of participation, after June 1st of the subsequent year.

4. Athletic Insurance & Parental Permission

Every candidate for and participant on an interscholastic team must provide proof of parental permission and have insurance covering possible accident or injury in school-sponsored games, practice sessions and during travel to and from athletic contests. Such coverage may be provided through the purchase of scholastic accident insurance, or by providing proof of similar or superior insurance protection. Parents and/or guardians of athletes should anticipate the distinct possibility of incurring medical expenses for injuries related to participation in sports that will not be covered by insurance.

5. Amateur Status

Students who have not used or are not using their athletic skill as players for financial gain, or who have not competed under an assumed name as players, shall be considered an amateur. Employment as an instructor, counselor, or official shall not be considered a violation.

6. Seasons of Competition

Students may participate in interscholastic athletic contests for a maximum of three seasons in any one sport in grades 10, 11, and 12. Students who participate on an interscholastic team in grade 9 will have a maximum athletic eligibility of four seasons in any one sport.

7. Outside Team Membership

Students, while participating on a school team, are permitted to participate in the same sport outside of school during the sport's season. This participation must meet the following criteria:

1. The outside participation shall not conflict with the practice or contests schedule of the school including district, regional, and State championship play unless prior written approval has been obtained from the school principal and coach. All requests must be submitted in writing prior to the first playable date of that specific sport season:

Fall—August 31

Winter—December 5

Spring—March 21

2. Any factor of a non-school athletic activity that causes a student to miss any portion of a school practice or contest constitutes a conflict. Approval requests for an outside conflict will only be granted for a unique opportunity or singular event only.
3. Students involved in a conflict without prior approval shall forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of that sports season. Those students will immediately be removed from the team and will not finish the season in good standing.

8. Transfer

All transfers are subject to the academic eligibility standards form their proceeding school/ school system until they establish grades issued through an AACPS report card. All transfers shall provide a copy of their proceeding school's academic eligibility standards and their last report card before participating.

9. Recruiting Statement

No coach or school personnel are to discuss or otherwise promote transfers or changes in residence or residence arrangements with any student, parent or other person of influence or knowingly permit such activity to take

place for the purpose of facilitating athletic participation.

II. Scholastic Eligibility Code

1. Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities, grades 9 through 12, a student must maintain a "C" average (2.0 grade point average or greater) as determined by existing county grading procedures in all courses taken in a given eligibility period. A student may earn a maximum of one "E" grade in courses taken during that eligibility period.

2. Academic Eligibility Period

Academic eligibility period means the period of time during which a student may participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities. Academic eligibility periods are determined by the date of issuance of report cards reflecting grades earned during each marking period.

3. Academic Probation

Academic probation is the consequence that occurs when a student fails to maintain academic eligibility standards. Academic probation period is the period of time during which a student may participate in interscholastic athletic practices or extra-curricular clubs, meetings or rehearsals, but will not participate in interscholastic athletic contests or extracurricular contests or performances. The academic probation period for each sport season is as follows:

Fall – First day of the new school year.

Winter – The day first marking period report cards are issued.

Spring – First day of the spring season.

A high school student on academic probation:

- a. must attend academic assistance sessions monitored by the academic advisor.
- b. may only participate in interscholastic athletic practices or extracurricular clubs, meetings, or rehearsals.
- c. must attend a conference with the academic advisor to review their eligibility status on the 16th day of probation.

4. Failure to meet the Standard of Eligibility

- a. Students who are still not academically eligible at the conclusion of the 16th day of the academic probation period are ineligible to practice or play for the remainder of that sport season.
- b. Any student who fails to meet the standards of eligibility at the end of the school year may attend summer school and remove the deficiencies. Fall eligibility will be computed by using the eight highest grades from the fourth marking period and summer school.

III. Attendance

1. Each athlete is required to attend all scheduled classes.
2. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the principal of the school may grant an exception for excused class absences.
3. As a result of administration verification of a class cutting or a truancy, for any part of the school day, the student will be ineligible to compete in the next event. A second offense of a class cutting or a truancy, or a combination of the two, during the same sport season, will result in the removal of the student from the team for the remainder of the sport season. Multiple days of class cutting or multiple days of truancy satisfy the rule for second offense and the student athlete will be removed from the team for the remainder of the sport season.

IV. Conduct of Student Athlete

1. As a result of misconduct or disruptive behavior, the principal or designee shall be responsible for deciding appropriate discipline.
2. An athlete that is removed from a contest for fighting or unsportsmanlike conduct will be disciplined according to current Athletic Handbook regulations.
3. A student athlete who has been suspended or expelled from school for violation of any Board of Education policy or regulation governing assaults by students, possession and use of weapons and dangerous implements by students, alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances or other intoxicants, use of tobacco by students, or expelled for any other reason, will be prohibited from participating in interscholastic sports programs for at least the remainder of the season in which the infraction occurred, and may be subject to such other athletic sanctions as the principal deems appropriate.
4. Discipline applied under these regulations may be appealed by an athlete through the existing complaint procedures established by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

5. Hazing is not permitted. Hazing is defined as an act which creates harm and is affiliated with initiation to a team. Hazing may involve an act committed against a student or a situation in which a student is coerced into committing an act.

V. Conduct of Spectators

The supervising personnel at an athletic function are required to maintain and enforce appropriate conduct of the spectators.

- a. Spectators represent their schools, as do athletes.
- b. Spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship.
- c. Booing, taunting, inappropriate cheers, or attempts to intimidate athletes, coaching staffs, event personnel, administrators, officials and opponents are unacceptable behaviors.
- d. Spectators should support and cheer for their teams in a positive manner.
- e. Spectators who exhibit unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave the contest without reimbursement of game fees and will not be permitted to re-enter that contest. Further disciplinary action may be imposed by the school principal.
- f. Spectators will not be permitted to leave and reenter without paying a second admission.
- g. Spectators must comply with the AACPS' alcohol, drug and tobacco policies.
- h. Spectators may not take food or drinks into the gymnasium.
- i. Spectators must stay in the bleachers or stands. For spectator safety, there is no jumping on the bleachers or stands.
- j. Only authorized coaches for the designated activity and/or authorized school supervisory personnel so designated by the school are permitted on the sidelines. Reporters who have requested to be on the sidelines should check in with game management.
- k. School dress code extends to athletic contests.
 1. During contest, spectators may not play catch or pickup games inside the stadium or gymnasium.
- m. Noisemakers are prohibited at athletic events.

VI. Squad Membership

1. The coach of each sport is responsible for the determination of squad membership.
2. A student being taught by parental request at home (home instruction) is not enrolled in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools and cannot participate in athletics.

3. Seniors are not eligible for junior varsity competition in any sport.
4. Student athletes are subject to all rules beginning on the first day of try-outs at the start date of the specific sport season.
5. Once an athlete begins the try-out process for a sport, at any Anne Arundel County Public School, the athlete becomes ineligible to participate in that sport at another Anne Arundel County Public School for the remainder of the season. A bona fide change in residence which designates that student to another school is the only exception.

VII. Practice

1. Starting Dates for Practice

- August 11 — *Fall sports*
- November 15 — *Winter sports*
- March 1 — *Spring sports*

2. Out of Season Practice

The following criteria should be utilized in determining whether or not an activity constitutes out-of-season practice:

- a. Member schools and coaches of member schools shall confine all organized or formal practice for a contestant or a team to the seasonal limitations.
- b. "A coach may not coach a team representing their school beyond the sports season as defined in MPSSAA Regulation .03."

Notification to Student Athletes & Parents

Students may be required to practice or compete off campus. Contact specific sport coaches at your school for additional information.

VIII. Awards

The minimum criteria for awarding a school athletic letter or other similar school awards must include:

1. The participant must complete the season in good standing.
2. The participant must fulfill all team related obligations.
3. The coach of the team may establish more specific requirements, but all such requirements must meet the approval of the athletic director and principal.
4. Student athletes who do not complete the season in good academic standing may not be allowed to attend school, base, or booster sponsored award banquets. Good standing is determined by the local school administration.



Authorization for Participation in Scholastic Athletics

School Year **2012-2013**

As parents or legal guardians of _____
(Name of Student)

We hereby authorize and consent to our child's participation in interscholastic athletics and sports. We understand that the sport in which our child will be participating is potentially dangerous, and that physical injuries may occur to our child requiring emergency medical care and treatment.

In consideration of the acceptance of our child by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools in its athletic program, we agree to release and hold harmless the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, its members, the Superintendent of Schools, the Principal, all coaches, and assistant coaches, and any and all other of their agents, servants, and/or employees and agree to indemnify each of them, from any and all claims, costs, suits, actions, judgments, and expenses, arising from our child's participation in interscholastic athletics and sports.

We hereby give our consent and authorize the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County and its agents, servants, and/or employees to consent on our behalf and on behalf of our child, to emergency medical care and treatment in the event we are unable to be notified by reasonable attempts of the need for such emergency medical care and treatment.

We understand and agree that we will be responsible for all medical bills and costs that may be incurred as a result of medical care and treatment of our child, and agree to provide proof of insurance coverage of our child against accidents and injuries in school sponsored games, and practice sessions, and during travel to and from athletic contests.

Students who have made a decision to take part in the athletic program will be required to practice and participate in scheduled contests after school and possibly on non-school days. Supervision at practice, games, and travel will be provided by the school.

In addition, it is recognized that all students must comply with eligibility regulations that govern athletics in Anne Arundel County Public Schools as approved by the County Board of Education and the State Department of Education.

Every candidate for and participant on an interscholastic team must be insured against possible accident or injury in school sponsored games, practice sessions, and during travel to and from athletic contests. Such coverage may be provided by the purchase of scholastic accident insurance; otherwise, proof of similar or superior coverage must be presented.

Name of School

Community or Development of Residence

I also declare and affirm that my child:

- Resides (with parents or legal guardians) within the above attendance area, or
- Is attending the above school with special permission of the Office of Pupil Services of Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

If a student is attending a high school without the benefit of *residing (with parents or legal guardians)* within the school's attendance area and/or without special permission of the Office of Pupil Services, the student in question is subject to disciplinary action which could result in loss of athletic eligibility for a period of time, ineligibility in a specified sport for the forthcoming year or penalties as may seem justified in the particular case. *A student being taught by parental request at home (home instruction) is not enrolled in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools and cannot participate in athletics.* The athlete's team and school will be penalized for failure to comply with MPSSAA regulations.

Relationship to Student	Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email

(cut along dashed line and return to school)

