

AACPS ATHLETICS ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Communication Plan & Points of Emphasis for Staff, Students and Families

Communication Plan

- **Initial Blast to 9th- 12th graders after Spring Break.** Connect Ed message from AACPS Communications Office to all high school families reminding them of the following: (1) that we have academic eligibility requirements for participation in sports, (2) that fall season participation is based on 4th marking period grades, and (3) that details can be found at aacps.org/athletics or at their school by talking to athletic department staff.
- **Reminder Blast in May.** Email from AACPS Office of Athletics to high school administration, ADs, AAAs, and coaches reminding them of the same points above.
- **School Blasts until the End of the Year.** Local communication and reminders from school staff to their student-athletes and families. Include information about summer school.
- **Summer School lists to Schools in July.** The Data Office will run lists of enrolled summer school students against who was ineligible from the 4th MP and provide to schools. School staff may check in with student-athletes on their progress.

Student-Athlete and Family Responsibility

- Be aware of AACPS Athletics academic eligibility requirements.
- Access and carefully review report cards each marking in PowerSchool Student and Parent portals. Eligibility status is documented on the report card of all high school students each marking period and will also be maintained throughout the year in the student and parent portals.

Academic Eligibility Requirements. [What does it take to play?](#)

- Be officially registered and attending the school you are authorized to attend.
- Maintain a “C” average 2.0 athletics GPA or greater in the appropriate marking period for that season as determined by existing county grading procedures in all courses enrolled in AACPS. You may earn a maximum of one “E” or “U” grade in courses taken during that eligibility period.
 - Athletics GPAs, which are different from the GPA documented on report cards, are calculated by summing the value of each letter grade on the weighted scale and dividing by the total number of different courses.
- Carefully review all the eligibility sections in Chapter VI, Parent and Student-athlete Information, of the AACPS Athletics Handbook for a complete description of the requirements.
<https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/240/Athletic%20Handbook202122.inalcomplete.pdf>

What happens if I want to try out, but am not academically eligible?

- You may still try-out for a team.
- If you make the team, you may not play in games or wear any part of a team uniform at games before or during a 16-day probationary period during which you will participate in the study hall program facilitated by you Athletic Academic Advisor.
- You must successfully complete the study hall program and subsequent grade check to become eligible to stay on a team and play in games.
- Those who do not meet eligibility requirements as of the grade check will be removed from their team for the remainder of that season.

Where to go for questions and help

- Contact your athletic academic advisor, coach, athletic director, counselor, and or athletic administrator. Contact information can be found in the front of AACPS Athletics handbook at this link.
- MPSSAA resource. <https://www.mpssaa.org/information-center/mpssaa-publications-and-content/>

Fall Season Information

using 4th marking grades

- **Fall sports eligibility is based on 4th marking period** report card grades from the previous school year.
- Summer school classes can be taken to improve eligibility status.
- Rising 9th graders are exempt **for this season only**.
- Program Dates
 - Please see the current AACPS athletics calendar in the handbook and website
- Note that for any fall season 1st marking report card grades may be released during the season/playoffs. If so, they will be used to determine eligibility status again. There is no study hall program for this scenario.

Winter Season Information

using 1st marking period grades

- **Winter sports eligibility is based on 1st marking period** report card grades from the current school year.
- Program Dates
 - Please see the current AACPS athletics calendar in the handbook and website
- Note that for any winter season 2nd marking report card grades may be released during the season/playoffs. If so, they will be used to determine eligibility status again. There is no study hall program for this scenario.

Spring Season Information

using 2nd marking period grades

- **Spring Sports eligibility is based on 2nd marking period** report card grades from the current school year.
- Program Dates
 - Please see the current AACPS athletics calendar in the handbook and website
- Note that for any spring season 3rd marking report card grades may be released during the season. If so, they will be used to determine eligibility status again. There is no study hall program for this scenario.