



Guide For Student Athletes And Parents

General Standards and Forms for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

The Purpose of this Guide

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.

The goal of our athletic programs are to resolve issues at the

level at which the problem occurs. Parents should notify the coach directly regarding concerns about their child. Appropriate topics to discuss with the coach and/or Athletic Director include the treatment of their child mentally and physically, ways to help their child improve as a team member, concerns about their child's behavior or academic status. Inappropriate topics to discuss with the coach and/or athletic director include, playing time, position assignments, and team strategy. For complete guidelines and policy information view the state, county, and parent handbooks at www.aacps.org/athletics.

View the Anne Arundel Athletic Handbook at www.aacps.org/athletics/ath_forms.asp.

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.

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. 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 as listed on the MPSSAA calendar.

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.

6. Transfer

All transfers are subject to the academic eligibility standards from 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.

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 activi-

ties. 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.

Note: There are no "mid-season" academic probation opportunities. If a student is declared academically ineligible during the season, that student is removed from the team.

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. Academic probation can not be extended.

continued...

continued...

4. Failure to meet the Standard of Eligibility

- 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. Squad Membership

1. The coach of each sport is responsible for the determination of squad membership. An athlete's playing time and position will be determined solely by the coaching staff.
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. Student athletes are subject to all rules beginning on the first day of try-outs at the start date of the specific sport season.
4. 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 change in residence of the athlete's custodial parent, which designates that the student to attend another school, is the only exception.

V. Practice

1. Starting Dates for Practice

- August 13 — *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.

VI. 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. Any conduct deemed detrimental to the student athlete, team and/or overall good of the school system, anytime, on and off campus, can result in penalties ranging from verbal reprimand to dismissal from the team as determined by the head coach.
4. 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.
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.
6. Discipline applied under these regulations may be appealed by an athlete through the existing complaint procedures established by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

VII. Conduct of Spectators

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

1. Spectators represent their schools, as do athletes.
2. Spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship.
3. Booing, taunting, inappropriate cheers, or attempts to intimidate athletes, coaching staffs, event personnel, administrators, officials and opponents are unacceptable behaviors.
4. Spectators should support and cheer for their teams in a positive manner. Noisemakers are prohibited at athletic events.
5. 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.
6. Spectators will not be permitted to leave and reenter without paying a second admission.
7. Spectators must comply with the AACPS' alcohol, drug and tobacco policies.
9. Only authorized coaches for the designated activity and/or authorized school supervisory personnel so designated by the school are permitted on the sidelines.

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

Parents and student should keep this portion of the form and return the Authorization for Participation and signature portion to the school.



Authorization for Participation in Scholastic Athletics

School Year **2014-2015**

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:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Resides (with parents or legal guardians) within the above attendance area, or		
<input type="checkbox"/> 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)

Student Information

Name (son/daughter/ward)	Grade	Age	Birth Date
--------------------------	-------	-----	------------

Race African American Asian American Indian/Alaskan Native Hispanic/Latino
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Two or More Races White

Does your son/daughter/ward, have insurance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Insurance Provider	Policy Number	Do you wish to purchase school Insurance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	---------------------------	----------------------	--

Medical Information

Family Physician	Telephone Number — —
Dentist	Telephone Number — —

Home Address & Phone Number

Street Address	Home Telephone Number — —
City State Zip Code	Emergency Telephone Number — —

Information needed from Grades 9–12 ONLY

Year	School(s) Attended	Grade	Sports Played

By evidence of the signatures below, you are testifying that you:

- have read the Athletic Guide
- have read the provisions of the *Authorization for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics* form
- understand the eligibility standards.

Failure to complete, sign and return to your child’s coach will result in her/his exclusion from participation in the interscholastic athletic program of Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Important: If a student changes residency during the sport season, parents must notify the athletic director immediately and update this form.

- I have read and understand the **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet**.
- I have read and understand the **Concussion Information Sheet**.
- My child has my permission to participate in Interscholastic Athletics for the 2014–15 school year.

Student's Signature	Date	Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature	Date
---------------------	------	-----------------------------------	------

Anne Arundel County Public Schools prohibits discrimination in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude performance. For more information, contact The Office of Investigations, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, (410) 222-5286; TDD (410) 222-5500. www.aacps.org