



Akron Public Schools

Student – Athlete Handbook 2015-2016

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Athletic Department Mission

It is the mission of the Akron Public Schools Athletic Department to inspire students to become better people and athletes.

We strive to provide a comprehensive athletic program that emphasizes the development of lifelong learning, positive values, and sport-specific skills through hard work, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct.

Our athletic programs shall serve as a positive and productive force for our schools, communities, and most importantly our student-athletes.

Core Values

- We believe in the development of our students, which includes intellectual development. Athletics provide a real-life experience for students to demonstrate intellect.
- We believe in playing the game as it was intended.
- We believe in good sportsmanship and good conduct – both on and off the field and in the classroom.
- We believe in demanding the best from our athletes to help them achieve their potential.

Sportsmanship Promise

Our goal is not only to be successful in our sporting endeavors, but also to act according to the ideals of good sportsmanship and good conduct both on and off the field.

Our athletic program will operate with

- Integrity
- Honor
- Respect
- Accountability

As a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), our athletic programs will operate according to the spirit, as well as the letter, of the OHSAA constitution and bylaws.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation on an athletic team in the Akron Public Schools is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be taken away if a student athlete violates the APS Student-Athlete Code of Conduct or the APS Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes are school role models and therefore are expected to conduct themselves as such. The APS Student-Athlete Code of Conduct applies at **all times to all student athletes, whether on or off school property.**

The superintendent, principal, assistant principal, athletic director, or coach may deny a student athlete the privilege of participating in any particular or all extracurricular sporting activities for a stated period of time, up to a full school year.

A student athlete who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in or attend any extracurricular sporting activities for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.

A student athlete who is absent the day of an extracurricular sporting event shall not participate in the scheduled sporting event.

A student athlete shall not use, distribute, sell, possess, promote, be under the influence or show the use of any alcohol, tobacco, drug, look-alike drug or other illegal product on or off school grounds at any time.

A student athlete shall not engage in a fight or physical altercation which causes or threatens to cause harm to another person at any time.

A student athlete shall not engage in the use of anabolic steroids or any other illegal performance-enhancing substance at any time.

A student athlete shall not engage in profanity or disrespectful language on the playing field toward another student athlete, coach, fan or official. To do so would violate the spirit of sportsmanship promoted by Akron Board of Education and may result in removal from the game and future suspension from games.

Procedure

Any student athlete who is the subject of a removal has the right to notice of that removal and the opportunity to be heard with regard to that removal. The coach or athletic director may present the charges to the student athlete, with the student having the opportunity to respond to the charges as a matter of athletic courtesy.

Before being removed, the student will be given the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, or superintendent to challenge the reason for the removal, or to otherwise explain the student's actions.

If a removal is imposed, the student athlete will receive written notice of the removal, including the reasons for the removal, and the beginning and end dates of the removal. The decision of the principal, assistant principal, or superintendent shall be final.

Unacceptable Behavior

Athletes, as well as all students of the Akron Public Schools, must abide by the Student Code of Conduct or face penalties (including denied participation) as directed by the administration of the school. The Akron Public Schools' administration reserves the right to deny any student athlete participation at any time with just cause.

Additionally, athletes of the Akron Public Schools are subject to discipline for any of the following:

1. The possession, use, or sale of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, paraphernalia or steroids.
2. Willfully destroying athletic, personal or school property at home or away.
3. Stealing athletic, personal or school property at home or away.
4. Any accumulation of minor infractions enumerated in the Student Handbook.
5. Any major infraction enumerated in the Student Handbook.
6. Disrespect to any member of the APS community (teacher, coach, administration, staff, student, etc.).
7. Major violations or accumulation of minor violations of the rules as set down by the in-season head coach of an athlete's specific sport.

Substance Abuse Policy

Athletes found in violation of the substance policy outlined in the Unacceptable Behavior section of the handbook or the Akron Public Schools Student Code of Behavior, will typically be dealt with in the following manner.

FIRST OFFENSE

1. Suspension of 50% of one full season of participation in athletics (in addition to school discipline invoked).
2. Conference with student, administrator, coach, and parents before reinstatement.
3. Maybe reduce to 20%, if the athlete and his/her parents or guardians attend a substance abuse assessment and the recommended follow-up treatment by a Substance Abuse Agency.
4. If the offense occurs so late in the season that not enough regular season contests remain to provide for the length of the suspension, then the suspension will extend into post-season tournament play and/or into the next sport in which a student athlete participates.

SECOND OFFENSE

Athletes found in violation a second time will permanently lose the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of their time as students in the Akron Public Schools. If the athlete and his/her parents or guardians agree to a substance abuse assessment, and the subsequent follow-up treatment by a Substance Abuse Agency, the punishment may be reduce to a suspension from all athletic participation for just one calendar year.

THIRD OFFENSE

Any athlete found in a violation a third time will permanently lose the privilege of athletic participation while a student in the Akron Public Schools.

EJECTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the **remainder of that day**. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. When ejection of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball, or basketball, the two (2) contest suspension **does not** apply.

If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated in the next sport in which the student participates.

A student under suspension may not sit on the bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in anyway, traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport.

If a student athlete has been penalized for two flagrant fouls during the course of a contest and not been ejected by game officials, it is the responsibility of the coach or administrator to remove the athlete immediately from the game and possibly to further suspend that player.

We will further strive to promote al the positive accomplishments of our student athletes, teams, and coaches. Please follow APS Athletics on Twitter: @APSathletics1

Student Athlete's Printed Name

Student Athlete's Signature

Parent's Printed Name

Parent's Signature