

Student-Athlete Contract

The Athletic Code of Conduct is a commitment by the student-athlete to exercise good judgment in all affairs, to represent self, school, family and community in the most positive manner at all times, and to encourage others to share these ideals. Student-athletes participating in interscholastic competition are leaders and should be positive role models. Interscholastic participation is a “tool” which can be used to teach and practice good citizenship, promote the development of good character, and other important life skills. Involvement in Apprentice Academy Athletics is an honor and a privilege, not a right, with inherent responsibilities, and is dependent upon compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. As a member of a school team or organization, your behavior on campus, in the community, and at other schools reflects on not only yourself, but on your family, program, and school as well. Interscholastic competition stresses personal dedication, drive, and determination while teaching the student-athlete to accept responsibilities and obligations to all stakeholders. The student-athletes must consider their actions carefully at all times. This code of conduct applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports at Apprentice Academy High School. I understand that, in order to participate in high school athletics, I must act in accord with the following:

1) Procedures

- a) All participants must have a signed and valid physical, Emergency Medical Card and Student-Athlete Contract on file in the Athletic Office in order to participate in our interscholastic athletic programs.
 - b) Athlete must meet NCHSAA and Apprentice Academy eligibility requirements (as found in the NCHSAA Handbook and the Apprentice Academy Athletic Handbook).
 - c) Athletes must abide by all school policies and practices.
 - d) In order to be covered by school insurance as a secondary provider, all injuries must be reported as soon as possible to your coach and athletic trainer for proper examination and/or medical referral.
 - e) Administrative policy requires athletes to attend school at least half of the day in order to participate in practices and interscholastic competition. The Director of Athletics must approve exceptions.
 - f) Late to School: For each sport season, a student-athlete will be allowed a maximum of four (4) unexcused tardies. Every tardy after the fourth will result in suspension from all activity that day. That includes practice as well as scrimmages, games, meets, and matches. At the completion of a season, the student-athlete will start with a clean slate. If the student-athlete reaches his/her fourth tardy, the process begins again.
 - g) Cutting Class: It is imperative that students attend regularly scheduled classes each day. Students are not permitted to skip/cut class or any portion of a class period. If a student is found cutting a class, that student will be suspended from all activity that same day. That includes practices, as well as scrimmages, games, meets and matches. If the cut goes undetected until the next school day, then the suspension will take effect immediately for that school day.
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- h) Signing In/Signing Out: In order to participate in a practice or contest, a student must be in school no later than the beginning of third block of the morning rotation, unless it is the fourth tardy or beyond. Athletes may not sign out during the day and return later to practice or a contest without prior approval from the Director of Athletics. Only the following will qualify as an excused late:
 - i) A professional note (doctor, dentist, lawyer)
 - ii) Religious Holidays (as defined by state law)
 - iii) Driver's License Test
 - iv) Approval of Director of Athletics
 - i) College Visitation (w/letter from school)
- j) The Code of Conduct does not prevent coaches from having rules and regulations particular to their team, relating to violations not covered in the Department of Athletics Contract.
- k) Due Process shall be given to all students with regard to the administration of the Code of Conduct. An appeal process, involving the Director of Athletics and the Principal, is available to those wishing to question the consequences of the Code of Conduct.
- l) The Code of Conduct is in effect from the beginning of the season until the conclusion, seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day.

2) Conduct

- a) Student-Athletes are representatives of AAHS and at all times must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their teams, school, and community. This expectation extends to online interactions.
 - b) All Student-Athletes, Parents/Spectators, and Coaches will adhere to all guidelines of proper sportsmanship and must show proper respect for their teammates, opposing players, their coaches, and officials alike.
 - c) HAZING: Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule as a condition of joining s team, student organization, or other group. The conduct is wrongful even if the participants consent to the conduct. Hazing is not about harmless traditions or silly antics - hazing is about abuse of power and violations of human dignity, it is about victimization. AAHS will not tolerate hazing of any kind to our student-athletes. A pupil who fails to observe the prohibitions and mandates of this policy will be subject to appropriate discipline, suspension, and/or expulsion from their team.
 - d) Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor based on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and caring and good character. "Can you be trusted? Do you care? Are you committed to excellence?"
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e) Transportation: Appropriate demeanor and conduct are expected at all times. Reasonable volume must be maintained. Distasteful displays, obscene language, and any other action deemed as unbecoming will result in team and department discipline. Parents/guardians should be prepared to drive students to and from away games if school transportation is not available.

3) **Disciplinary Code:** The following procedures have been adopted by the Apprentice Academy Department of Athletics to provide uniformity and continuity in determining disciplinary action for violations of our athletic code.

a) School Disciplinary Action: The policy dealing with smoking, drugs alcohol, performance enhancing products, theft, vandalism, etc., committed at any time while the student is participating in a school function, under the jurisdiction of the school, or on school property, will be reported immediately to the Vice Principal. Appropriate action will be administered as described under established disciplinary procedures.

i) Code Violations and Team Disciplinary Action:

(1) Smoking and/or Use of Tobacco Products - Our School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco presents a health hazard that can have serious implications and damaging effects. Since the use of tobacco products is detrimental to physical conditioning and athletic performance, any use of tobacco products is prohibited for AAHS student-athletes while in season, both in and out of school.

(a) First Violation: Ten (10) day suspension from all scrimmages and contests. A suspended player is required to participate in all practices.

(b) Second Violation: Twenty (20) day suspension from all scrimmages and contests.

(c) Third Violation: Will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for one (1) year from the point of infraction.

(2) Possession of and/or Consumption of Alcohol and Over the Counter Performance Enhancing Products banned by the USOC and the NCAA

(a) First Violation: Twenty (20) day suspension from all scrimmages and contests. A suspended player is required to participate in all practices.

(b) Second Violation: Ninety (90) day suspension from all scrimmages and contests.

(c) Third Violation: Will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for one (1) year from the point of infraction.

(d) *NOTE: Suspensions will be carried over to the next season of participation.

(3) Possession of and/or Consumption of a Controlled Dangerous Substance

(a) First Violation: Forty-five (45) day suspension from all scrimmages and contests. A suspended player is required to participate in all practices.

(b) Second Violation: Will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for one (1) year from the point of the infraction.

***NOTE: Suspensions will be carried over to the next season of participation.**

- (4) Distribution and/or Sale of a Controlled Dangerous Substance First Violation: Will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for one (1) year from the point of the infraction.
- (5) Attendance at parties or gatherings where tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and performance enhancing products are present is strictly prohibited. Student-Athletes must depart from such affairs or situations immediately once these substances are discovered.
- (6) Theft or Vandalism: to any school property (Home or Away) while under the supervision of a coach or while representing the school team in any way.
- (7) Conduct Unbecoming or Other Actions or Excessive Misbehavior: that would reflect negatively upon the team or school.
 - (a) First Violation (#5 & #6): A team suspension period of five (5) days from all scrimmages and contests.
 - (b) Second Violation (#5 & #6): A team suspension period of ten(10) days from all scrimmage and contests.
- (8) Suspensions may result in forfeiture of rights to varsity letters and other recognitions and awards.
- (9) Subsequent violations during succeeding years will result in the immediate removal from the athletic program for the remainder of that school year.
 - (a) Recognizing that there are degrees of violations, the school authorities reserve the right to impose immediate dismissal from the athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
 - (b) For each violation of the above drug and alcohol policy, (at the athlete's expense) the athlete must submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation and follow the recommended program of treatment/rehabilitation. The individual(s) providing the evaluation shall be certified by the North Carolina State Board of Examiners as a Certified Alcohol Counselor (CAC) or a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADC). The athlete in violation remains ineligible for future participation until the athlete successfully completes the recommended program of treatment. It is our desire to promote a comprehensive support system if a problem does exist.

4) Responsibilities

- a) It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to decide which student- athletes will participate and at which level of competition, as well as the amount of playing time that the student-athlete will have. Parents and student-athletes are reminded to contact the coach for clarification, understanding, and counsel.
 - b) Student-Athletes must attend all practices/contests, be punctual for all practices/contests, and be prepared to participate at all times. Student- Athletes should prioritize their involvement and
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affiliations with community teams/organizations/clubs, placing their loyalties and focus on the needs of the AAHS team FIRST!

- c) Student-Athletes are responsible for all care and maintenance of issued equipment. Equipment and uniforms are to be worn for AAHS athletic events ONLY! Student-Athletes will be responsible for restitution for all damaged and lost items.
- d) On game days, both home and away, student-athletes are to arrange timely transportation home from AAHS.
- e) Failure to comply with the rules and regulations stipulated in the AAHS Athletic Handbook, or any of the requirements stated in this contract will be referred to the Coach, the Director of Athletics, and/or the Administration for appropriate discipline outlined in our code violations.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE RULES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM EXPECTED TO PERFORM ACCORDING TO THIS CONTRACT AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY BE CONSEQUENCES OR PENALTIES IF I DO NOT.

Student-Athletes and Parent/Legal Guardians must sign this document prior to issuing a uniform or adding a student's name to the team roster.

Parent/Guardian Consent: I hereby consent to allow my son/daughter to participate in the above program sponsored at Apprentice Academy High School. Realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions these injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or even death. I/We acknowledge that I/We have read and understand this warning.

Print Student-Athlete's Name

Student-Athlete's Signature **Date**

Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature **Date**