

ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC RULES

I. GENERAL FACTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation in athletics is a privilege and can be one of the most memorable parts of a student's school career. It can have lasting effects that impact the course of their life. As a student-athlete, a child is expected to seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community while participating in inter-scholastic athletics. School and athletic department personnel expect athletes to treat opponents with respect; respect the judgment of contest officials; abide by contest rules; display no behavior that could incite fans or other participants in the contest or which is intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin; cooperate with officials, coaches, school officials, and other participants to ensure a fair contest; and conduct themselves in a manner which positively represents the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District and the individual schools.

In order for a student's participation in inter-scholastic athletics to be successful, it requires dedication, self-discipline, and a willingness to work toward team goals. It is important to strive for academic excellence while maintaining a rigorous physical program. Participation on an athletic team is more than a decision, it is a commitment to represent family, school, community, and, most importantly, self. Students must abide by all regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association as well as those established by the district.

II. CODE OF REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT

The establishment of rules for proper conduct is essential to ensure that an athletic program is safe and successful for all participants. It also clarifies the expected behaviors that will positively reflect the student, their family, the school, community, and district.

A student is designated an athlete upon participation in their very first practice of a school sponsored athletic team at the Junior High or High School level. Rules and regulations established by the OHSAA and Adams County/Ohio Valley School District apply to a student/athlete the entire calendar year during grades 7-12 until graduation or withdrawal from the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District or the student-athlete has not participated in an Adams County/Ohio Valley School athletic program for one (1) calendar year.

1. Pay to Participate Fees:

A. A fee is charged by the AC/OV School District to help offset some of the costs of providing a comprehensive extra-curricular program. Students participating in athletics are required to pay a "pay to participate" fee according to the following schedule:

- a. Junior High-level sport: \$150.00 per student athlete per sport
- b. High School-level sport: \$200.00 per student athlete per sport

B. Pay to participate fees must be paid in full to the athletic director before the first regular season contest. Failure to pay the fee in full by that date will result in the removal of the student athlete from the team. The student athlete will remain ineligible to participate in any sport during the same season. All checks should be made payable to the AC/OV School District.

C. Pay to participate fees are non-refundable except in those cases in which participation is not possible (i.e., season-ending injury, move outside the district, etc.). In those instances, a refund will be provided on a pro-rated regular season contest basis. For example, for a varsity basketball player whose regular season consists of 20 games, the pro-rated per game fee is \$200 divided by 20 or \$10.00 per game. If the student athlete moves out of the district after the third game, a refund of \$170.00 (17 remaining games times \$10.00) will be provided. Once 20% of regular season contests have been played, no refund will be provided. All requests for refunds should be directed in writing to the AC/OV School District Treasurer. If the reason is injury-related, a medical authorization letter from a physician must accompany the request.

D. AC/OV School District recognizes cheerleading as a district sport. Cheerleaders are considered student athletes and as such, are subject to the rules contained in this document. Cheerleaders are required to pay the same pay to participate fees as other student athletes. These fees must be paid in full before the first regular season basketball game in which they cheer.

E. Pay to participate is not the same as pay to play. The pay to participate fee is required for each student athlete participating in athletics. Playing time remains the purview of each respective coach and fees will not impact on the amount of playing time each student athlete actually receives.

2. Code of Conduct

Athletes engaging in any type of conduct listed below shall be subject to the disciplinary action (where indicated) as established by the district:

- A. Use or possession of tobacco products:
- 1st offense Suspension from ten percent (10%) of athletic contests* (regular and/or post-season) for that sport. Should 10% of the contests work out to be 1.3 games, this figure will be rounded up to a maximum of two (2) games.
 - 2nd offense Suspension of all athletic participation for the sport season. The student must enroll in a tobacco cessation program. In addition, the student will be placed on “athletic probation” for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the latest infraction.
 - 3rd offense Suspension of all athletic participation for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the latest infraction.
- B. Use or possession of alcohol:
- 1st offense Suspension from twenty-five percent (25%) of regular and/or post-season contests*, plus completion of alcohol and drug counseling. The student will be placed on “athletic probation for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the latest infraction.
 - 2nd offense Suspension from all athletic participation for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the latest infraction.
 - 3rd offense The student will be banned from athletic participation for the remainder of his/her high school career.
- C. Use or possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia**:
- 1st offense Suspension from all athletic participation for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the infraction, plus mandatory completion of a substance abuse program.
 - 2nd offense The student will be banned from athletic participation for the remainder of his/her high school career.

*Not to include scrimmages, previews, or benefit games.

**Student Handbook – Rule 5: Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol – *“A student shall not possess, transmit, conceal, consume, or show evidence of having consumed or used, or offer for sale any tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, prescription or non-prescription, look-alike drugs, narcotics, or any mind-altering substance while on school property or at any school activity. The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol and tobacco products is wrong and harmful. Included in this prohibition is the possession of any drug related paraphernalia. Medicine prescribed by a duly licensed physician shall not constitute a violation. Written consent of parent is necessary for possession of prescribed medication.”*

- D. Suspension:
1. Friday night or Saturday school - One contest suspension in the first scheduled contest following the assignment of the disciplinary action.
 2. In or out of school suspension - One contest suspension as well as all practices during suspension.
- E. Unnatural coloring of hair (blue, green, red, etc.) will result in a denial of participation in any sport team until the situation is corrected.
- F. Wearing of earrings during sports season at practice, travel to and from contest, and during contests is prohibited. Piercings anywhere other than ears and earrings must not be worn during any athletic participation, including practices. (In accordance with OHSAA.)
- G. Boys must not have facial hair such as beards, mustaches, goatees, etc. during contests. Participation will be denied until the situation is corrected.
- H. All tattoos must be covered during contests.
- I. School attendance is required in order to participate. Students must be present a minimum of four periods to be eligible for contests, practices, etc. unless prior approval is obtained from building principal in extreme circumstances.
- J. Students are expected to ride the bus to and from all games. Exceptions may be made in extreme/extenuating cases, but permission must be secured in writing from the administrator PRIOR TO the contest. (In the absence of the administrator, an Athletic Director may grant permission.)
- K. Physical exams are required prior to participation in tryouts, practices, games, and any participation in a sport. Athletes are also required to maintain health insurance, either through a family policy or purchase of school insurance. These requirements are both issued by the OHSAA.**
- L. Equipment and uniforms will be issued by the school. At the completion of the season, these uniforms will be collected by the coach on a date and time designated by the coach. If the uniform is not returned on or by that date, students will be ineligible for participation in any other sport (tryouts, practices, or competitions) until all equipment and uniforms are returned and grades may be withheld. Payment for lost or damaged equipment will be required.

M. Eligibility:

1. **Eligibility for participation is first established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (See OHSAA Bulletin for minimum standards). Athletes are required by the district to maintain a passing grade in each class throughout the season. Grades are checked weekly and, in the event that a student is receiving a failing grade, that athlete will be ineligible*** for participation for the following week, extending from Monday to Monday. If a student is academically ineligible for three (3) consecutive weeks following the first practice date for the sport season, he/she will be dismissed from the team.**
2. Athletes must maintain amateur status in order to remain eligible.

Amateur athletes:

- a. Do not compete with or against professional athletes.
 - b. Do not accept prize money.
 - c. Do not compete under an assumed name.
 - d. Do not accept an award in a non-school activity and convert it to money.
 - e. Do not accept an award or merchandise (engraving excluded) that is valued at more than \$200.00.
3. Students participating in any athletic program may only compete in that school sport program during the sports season. Competition in any non-interscholastic program is not permitted. (Ex. Basketball season and church league basketball.)
 4. Athletes in any Adams County/Ohio Valley School District program may not practice with a non-school team in that sport without the prior written consent of the Athletic Director.

N. College Recruitment:

Any athlete that is fortunate enough to have colleges interested in their services is required to meet with the Athletic Director prior to student-initiated contact with the college. This is to safeguard against possible violations that could leave the athlete in violation of the Ohio High School Athletic Association regulations.

***Student Handbook – Extracurricular Academic Requirements: *“Any student who is ineligible to participate in competition, but participates in practices/rehearsals and camps, will spend 1/2 practice/rehearsal time at a study table.”*

- O. Parking in the rear of the buildings has been reserved for officials and school personnel due to the limited amount of space and emergency precautions. Students are to park in the designated student parking lot at games and at other times as directed by coaches. Parents need to make arrangements to have students picked up promptly after games, practices, and other events. Students should be picked up at the designated area.

- P. Coaches will establish rules, guidelines, and sanctions pertaining to their own individual sports. They will be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director and distributed to players prior to enforcement. They may include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Cheating
 - 2. Theft
 - 3. Lying
 - 4. Vulgarity
 - 5. Improper player conduct on field or court
 - 6. Skipping practice or other required sessions
 - 7. Unexcused tardiness to practices, etc.
 - 8. Disrespect to coaches or other individuals
 - 9. Misconduct or any actions that would be construed as immoral or improper
 - 10. Dress code
 - 11. Un-sportsmanlike conduct
 - 12. Curfew
 - 13. Open or closed practices
 - 14. Cleats and/or spikes
 - 15. Chronic misbehavior

- Q. Dropping from an athletic team without the coach's/administrator's permission results in the player being ineligible for participation in all other sports for that season, and the following season unless otherwise approved by the coach, athletic director, and building principal.

- R. Each school will have an awards ceremony to recognize those students who have participated in any athletic program. In order to receive awards, students are required to attend the ceremony unless prior approval is obtained from the Athletic Director or administrators.

III. CODE OF REGULATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS AND APPEAL

- A. If a suspension, expulsion, and/or denial of participation is being recommended by a coach, the student will be notified by the Athletic Director and the school administration. Opportunity for a hearing will be allowed.

- B. Should a student be denied participation on a team or other activity governed by these athletic policies, a hearing must first be held with the student, coach, and Athletic Director. Written notification of such denial of participation must be made within twenty-four hours following the hearing with copies forwarded to the following:
1. Student
 2. Parent or guardian
 3. Superintendent
 4. Principal
 5. Athletic Director
 6. Coach
 7. Board of Education
- C. Any suspension or expulsion may be appealed to the building principal who will refer to the school's Athletic Appeals Board, which will consist of A.D.(s), coach, and two or three other coaches who are certified employees resulting in an uneven number. Notification of a request of appeal must be made to the principal by the parent or guardian in writing within twenty-four hours of the suspension. The building principal will review the decision of the Appeals Board and the recommended disciplinary action, and make the final decision. The parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are encouraged to attend an appeals hearing with their son/daughter.

IV. CHAIN OF COMMAND

Any comments, questions, or concerns should follow a specific chain of command, which is as follows:

- A. Coach
- B. Athletic Director
- C. Principal
- D. Superintendent
- E. Board of Education

Revised & Adopted:

Revised & Adopted: 9/05/01

Revised & Adopted: 7/07/05

Revised & Adopted: 9/28/09

ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Athletic Rules – Section II, Letter I.
EXTENUATING PERMISSION FORM

_____ is UNABLE TO RIDE THE BUS to from the athletic event on
(Student's Name) *(Circle one or both)*
_____ at _____ for the following reason:
(Date of Event) *(Location of Event)*

_____ and
we, the undersigned, student and parent/guardian of above-named student, do hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the Adams County/Valley School District Board of Education, its individual members, superintendent, principals, administrators, employees, agents, or anyone acting on its behalf, from any and all liability, claim, demand, action or cause of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity, arising from or by reason of any bodily injury, personal injury or mental injury, known or unknown, including death, resulting from this decision.

Dated: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Dated: _____ Student Signature: _____

* * * * *

PERMISSION: GRANTED DENIED *(Circle One)*

Dated: _____ Administrator/AD Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Copies to: *White – Principal/Athletic Director*
 Yellow – Bus Driver
 Pink – Parent/Student

ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONTRACT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District Athletic Code of Conduct. I agree to abide by these rules as a condition for participation in extracurricular athletic activities and understand the possible consequences of a rule infraction.

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Date

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District Athletic Code of Conduct. I agree that my child will abide by these rules as a condition for participation in extracurricular athletic activities, and I will support him/her in the decision to participate on a team. I understand the possible consequences of a rule infraction.

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Dear Parent:

A fee is charged by the AC/OV School District to help offset some of the costs of providing a comprehensive extra-curricular program. Students participating in athletics are required to pay a "pay to participate" fee according to the following schedule:

- a. Junior High-level sport: \$150.00 per student athlete per sport
- b. High School-level sport: \$200.00 per student athlete per sport

Pay to participate fees must be paid in full to the athletic director before the first regular season contest. Failure to pay the fee in full by that date will result in the removal of the student/athlete from the team. The student athlete will remain ineligible to participate in any sport during the same season. All checks should be made payable to the AC/OV School District.

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Pay to participate is not the same as pay to play. The pay to participate fee is required for each student athlete participating in athletics. Playing time remains the purview of each respective coach and fees will not impact on the amount of playing time each student athlete actually receives.

Please return the attached form with payment to the Athletic Director. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me via telephone at the school

Sincerely,

Principal

**ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAY TO PARTICIPATE FEE**

The Adams County/Ohio Valley School District requires each student participating in athletics to pay a participation fee. The fee structure is as follows:

Junior High-level sport: \$150.00 per student/athlete per sport
High School-level sport: \$200.00 per student/athlete per sport

- Make checks payable to AC/OV School District
- Please staple or paper clip a check to this form in the space below
- Please write the name of the student and the sport on the memo line of the check
- Return this form and payment to the Athletic Director.

NAME OF ATHLETE: _____

SPORT: _____

GRADE: _____

Please attach check or money order here.