

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Participation in athletics requires keen minds, healthy bodies, and high levels of training and conditioning. Individual performance and team success are dependent upon universally recognized training rules both in school practice and during those times between practices when students are away from the school. In addition to encouraging students to develop their athletic skills, the District encourages and promotes good sportsmanship and sound morals. Students participating in athletics are more likely to be exposed to the judgment of their peers, professionals, and the public. The District recognizes its obligation to encourage maximum precautions to protect the morals and reputations of the students. In particular, students wearing the letter of the school are uniquely identified with the School District. Their actions and behavior reflect on them as individuals and on the Andover Central School District.

This athletic policy has been adopted to promote excellent sportsmanship and citizenship, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the students engaged in strenuous physical activity, and to assist the students in building sound moral characters. It will advise them regarding certain activities which have an adverse impact upon their physical well-being and their moral character.

Each athlete may expect that the coach has a genuine and to-date knowledge of the sport, and the coach will treat him/her fairly and without prejudice.

“Student” or “athlete” as used herein means a pupil participating in athletics.

It is the responsibility of each athlete to study this document and, along with a parent or guardian, sign the form on the last page. The signature indicates that the policies and the procedures have been read and will be honored by the student.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS REGULATION

I. Conditions for Participation:

- A. Once each school year, every athlete must pass an approved physical examination prior to participating in any interscholastic sport. Each athlete is responsible for reporting for the physical at the scheduled time. If the athlete does not have a physical at school, they are responsible for having an approved physical by their own physician **BEFORE** participating in a school sport.
- B. If an athlete is under the care of a doctor due to injury (including concussion protocol), they may not practice or play until a doctor's release is given.
 - In the case of a suspected head injury or concussion, all students, parents and coaches must follow School Concussion Policy.
 - See Attachment A.
- C. Academic eligibility, according the Andover Central School Policy must be maintained.
- D. All eligibility requirements of the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletes Association) must be met. Generally an athlete must be a bona fide student, meaning a student must be enrolled in four subjects, including physical education. Alternatives to this eligibility requirement are set forth by NYSPHSAA. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director/coach to inform the students about the age requirements and other standards set forth by NYSPHSAA.
- E. The student must be provided with and shall read a copy of this athletic policy, acknowledge receipt of same, and return a signed copy of the consent form to the school signed by the student and a parent or guardian. Parental/guardian signature indicates awareness of this athletic policy and consent for the student to participate in the sport.
- F. The Board of Education of the District is committed to the belief that its school athletes should be healthy and properly conditioned. This includes abstaining from the use of alcohol or engaging in any kind of substance abuse as set forth in the Code of Conduct.

II. Code of Conduct

- A. The misuse and abuse of alcohol, controlled substances, tobacco products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, chew, etc.), and other drugs have been determined to be adverse to good health and a violation of law. Athletes will not put themselves in situations in which underage drinking or the use of illegal drugs is taking place.

In order to protect the health of participants and to encourage good conditioning for successful athletic participation, the following training rules are in force both on and off school property, regardless of the student's age, and for the entire sports season:

- Athletes will not smoke, use, or have in their possession any tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or vape products
- Athletes will not use or possess alcoholic beverages.
- Athletes will not use or possess drugs. Drugs refer to use and/or possession of controlled substances or misuse of non-controlled substances.

B. The consequences provided for in this section apply to actual interscholastic competition, which is defined as official games with other schools.

1st Offense - The athlete will be dismissed from interscholastic athletic competition for the equivalent of 20% of consecutive games, in the season in which the offense happened. If there is not enough games left in the season to carry out the suspension, the number of games left to sit out will roll over into the next season the athlete participates. The athlete is still expected to go to practices, scrimmages, and games as usual. The athlete will be reinstated after the suspension if the athlete also provides documentation of three counseling sessions for substance abuse.

2nd Offense - The athlete will be dismissed from interscholastic competition for the equivalent of 50% of consecutive games, in the season of which the offense happened. The suspension will roll over to the next season if there is not enough games in a season to serve the suspension. The athlete is still expected to go to practices, scrimmages, and games as usual. The athlete will be reinstated after the suspension if the athlete also provides documentation of six counseling sessions for substance abuse.

3rd Offense - The athlete will be dismissed from athletics for the equivalent of 100% of consecutive games, in the season of which the offense happened. The suspension will roll over to the next season if there is not enough games in a season to serve the suspension. The athlete is still expected to go to practices, scrimmages, and games as usual. The athlete will be reinstated after the suspension if the athlete also provides documentation of twelve counseling sessions for substance abuse.

- If an athletic suspension is not completed during the season in which the violation occurred, the remaining suspension time will be applied to the beginning of the next sport season in which the athlete wishes to participate.

These games may be missed from either season, depending on when the suspension began.

- If an athlete quits or is removed from a team prior to the completion of the suspension time, the remaining portion of suspension time will be applied at the beginning of the next sport season in which the athlete wishes to participate. As a mandatory condition, the athlete must sit out a minimum of 2 games. These games may be missed from either season, depending on when the suspension began.
 - In all cases, scrimmages will not be considered games.
 - An athlete convicted of a violation of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law relating to the use of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle, or convicted of violation of laws relating to the use of drugs, controlled substances or alcohol, or the giving of alcohol to others shall be automatically charged as having violated this section of the athletic policy.
 - Any athlete convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony, or found to be a youthful offender, in areas as described above or otherwise, may be dismissed from the team pending a meeting with the Athletic Director and/or a member of administration.
- C. If a student is assigned to a detention after school, that assignment takes precedence over any practice or game during that time. Students may practice or play after detention is served.
- D. Students on school suspension (in school or out-of-school) may not practice or play on the day(s) of suspension.
- E. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. Unexcused absence from a game may result in dismissal from the team unless an emergency situation made notification impossible. Unexcused absences from practices will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach.
- F. Athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior during athletic activities as well as during the regular school day.
- 1) Sportsman-like behavior and ethical conduct are expected from all athletes at all times. Athletes should demonstrate respect for coaches, officials, and other team members, and should show courtesy to opposing coaches and players.
 - 2) Profanity or racial slurs are NOT permitted.
 - 3) Insubordination to faculty members or other adults, or repeated disciplinary problems in school may jeopardize

the student's privilege to participate in a sport.

(Note: The disciplinary action taken as a result of inappropriate behavior as noted above is described in the Student Handbook.)

- G. Intentional indecent exposure will result in dismissal from the team.
- H. Coaches may establish additional written rules and procedures as they deem necessary and prudent for the participation of students in sports. Such written rules or procedures will be distributed to each member of the team at the beginning of the season along with this athletic policy and regulation. A copy of such written rules and procedures will be submitted will be filed with the Principal and the Athletic Director prior to being disseminated to the team members.
- I. Other disciplinary measures. This athletic policy and regulation shall not be deemed exclusive or supersede any other policies or discipline codes of the school. (Ex: The discipline code of the school may require suspension from school at the same time that the athletic policy requires suspension from team activities. Students are subject to this athletic policy and any other discipline codes or rules and regulation of Andover Central School.)

III. Due Process

- A. Appeal procedure – A student, or the student's parent, may appeal a disciplinary action. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Principal to meet with the Athletic Council (the Athletic Council consists of the Athletic Director, an administrator, the Guidance Counselor, the Student Government President, a coach, and a student athlete) within five (5) school days of the Athletic Director's notification to the parents. The student athlete will continue to fully participate in the sport during the appeal process.
 - 1) The Principal shall convene the Athletic Council within five (5) school days of the receipt of the appeal request.
 - 2) A hearing shall be conducted by the Athletic Council. The coach involved, the athlete, and any witnesses to the violation must be present at the hearing. The athlete's parents may be present if they wish. The athlete and coach shall be allowed to testify and will have the right to have witnesses appear, witness statements and to question all witnesses.
 - 3) A decision shall be reached by a majority vote of the Athletic Council and a written notice of the results shall be sent to the athlete, the coach, and the parents. The decision by the Athletic Council is final.

IV. Related Policies

A. Eligibility in extra-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics is a privilege. This privilege is based on a student's academic performance. Should the student's academic performance diminish, restrictions will be placed on the student's involvement in these extracurricular activities. All students must maintain academic eligibility in accordance with the school's academic eligibility program. Otherwise the consequences as set forth in the school's Faculty Handbook and the Student Handbook will be enforced.

B. Attendance Requirements

- 1) To be eligible to participate in an interscholastic competition (game, practice, scrimmage, match) an athlete must be in attendance for the entire school day (which starts at 7:50 AM). Exceptions will be made for approved medical appointment or emergency situations. ***The student must provide a signed doctors note upon arrival at school if the appointment is not preapproved by the administration.***
- 2) The athlete will be expected to attend school for a full day following a contest. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- 3) Students who do not participate in a regularly scheduled physical education class will not be allowed to participate in the interscholastic activity (practice, game, scrimmage, or match) for that day.

(Exceptions to these requirements may be reviewed and acted upon by the Athletic Director/Principal.)

C. Transportation – All members of Andover Central School athletic teams shall be transported both to and from athletic events outside the Andover School District by means of transportation provided by the District. The athlete must ride home on the bus unless:

- 1) The parent signs a release form and accepts custody of the student.
- 2) The athlete presents a note to the coach, signed by the parent, stating that the athlete may ride home with another parent of a team member, or another adult family member. Verbal parental permission will not be accepted. The note must include a name of the parent/adult family member. Athletes will NOT be released to fellow students, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

D. Insurance Coverage – The insurance provided by the School District is very limited, offering only secondary (not primary) coverage for injuries sustained in school related accidents. The student's family insurance is expected to provide primary or basic coverage.

V. Student Responsibilities

A. Dress – As representatives of the school and community, student appearance is important; thus, athletes are expected to dress appropriately. Personal effects should be locked at all times.

B. Equipment

- 1) Athletic uniforms are to be worn only at scheduled games.
- 2) Athletes are responsible for all equipment issued to them and must return all of it promptly at the coach's request.
- 3) Any athlete who fails to return all equipment issued, in satisfactory condition, as determined by the coach and Athletic Director, **must return the uniform and / or equipment or pay restitution before being allowed to participate in another sport.**
- 4) The stealing, or attempted stealing, of equipment will result in dismissal from the sports team currently being participated in by the athlete.
- 5) No equipment should be removed from the storage locker without coach supervision.

C. Reporting Injuries – All injuries received while participating in athletics must be reported to the coach immediately. The coach will then complete an "Injury Report" form and forward it to the nurse.

D. Use of Building – During and after practice or games athletes are not to be in unauthorized areas of the building. Non-team members are not allowed in the locker rooms or the coach's office.

E. **There will be no athletic activities without coach supervision.**

Athletes are encouraged to help keep the locker room clean and neat. As a guest at away games, an extra effort should be made to be respectful of the school's facilities. Locker rooms should be checked before leaving to ensure satisfactory appearance. If an athlete damages school property, whether it is another school's or Andover's, the athlete will be appropriately disciplined.

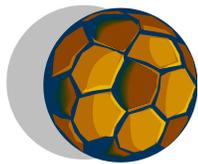
VI. Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with high school athletics:

- A. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and

fair play.

- B. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- C. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- D. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- E. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- F. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility, including training rules.
- G. To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on the team.
- H. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
- I. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, or nation.
- J. At an agreed upon time (not during games), concerns of or by the players, students, parents or spectators need to be directed **first to the coach**. Once a coach has been contacted, and if the matter has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, the matter needs to be directed to the Athletic Director.



2018 – 2019



ANDOVER CENTRAL SCHOOL

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS



POLICY

