

Akron Central Schools

Student Interscholastic Athlete Handbook

Letter to athletes and their parents or guardians,

This handbook is given to you as a guide to the Akron Central School District's interscholastic athletic program. In addition to the information presented here the individual coaches may hand out information specific to their sport program.

Participating in Akron Athletics is not a legal right but a privilege, and should be treated as so. When you son/daughter chooses to participate in an athletic program they have to be committed to the responsibilities and obligations that go with their participation. This handbook will outline the rules and regulations that need to be followed to ensure a safe and successful athletic program.

The Akron Athletic Program is governed by the rules that were established by the New York State Commissioner of Education. The Akron Central School District is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, competing in Section VI as a Class "C" school. Our league affiliation is the Niagara-Orleans League.

The main goal of the Akron Athletic program is to provide a competitive atmosphere where student athletes are encouraged to develop and demonstrate competence, character, civility, and citizenship. We hope that your son/daughter enjoys their athletic experience. It often creates memories that will last a lifetime.

If you have any questions regarding this booklet or the athletic program please contact me at [telephone number].

Sincerely,

[Name]
Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education

Responsibilities of an Akron Athlete

Being a member of an Akron Athletic team is a privilege and honor. Many of you looked up to high school athletes when you were younger. Now is your time to expect the responsibilities that go along with the being an Akron Tiger. Many coaches and athletes who wore the tiger black and orange before you developed the strong athletic traditions of our school. As a member of an Akron athletic team you have inherited a great tradition. Your actions as an athlete don't reflect on just yourself, but on your coaches, teammates, community members and those athletes before you who contributed so much to our school.

Youngsters in the community will look upon you as a role model, and it is your duty to set a good example through hard work and good sportsmanship. You will be representing Akron as you travel to surrounding schools. Please represent Akron as the outstanding school that it is.

Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics - Akron Central Schools

The mission of New York State interscholastic programs is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship.

At Akron Central schools the goals and objectives of the interscholastic program reflect the mission of our total educational program. We wish to maximize each student's intellectual, social and personal development through the competitive athletic experience. Through Akron athletics our student-athletes have the opportunity to develop individually and as a team by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship.

We have an expectation for excellence both on the off the field; academics, sportsmanship, safety and chemical-free participation are emphasized. We strive for individual and team excellence, but not at a win at all costs approach. We advocate a balance of participation and being competitive at all levels. At the modified level the emphasis is based on development of technique and participation. At the JV level the emphasis shifts to a more competitive focus with further development of technique and tactics. At the varsity level the emphasis is on competitiveness.

Objectives/Expectations - Akron Central Schools

The interscholastic program for students of the Akron Central School District shall be directed toward the following objectives:

- 1) To develop teams of which the school and community can be proud.
- 2) To develop the competence in terms of skill development, knowledge of the game and it's strategies, and fitness of each student athlete.
- 3) To develop the character (responsibility, accountability, dedication, trustworthiness, sportsmanship, and self control) of the student athlete.
- 4) To develop the civility of the student athletes towards others (their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and fans) through showing respect, fairness and caring.
- 5) To develop citizenship through showing evidence of loyalty, commitment, leadership, "followship," and teamwork.
- 6) To develop within each student athlete a competitive spirit and desire to succeed.
- 7) To offer an experience which supplements the formal scholastic environment.
- 8) To offer students an enjoyable experience while they strive for excellence both on and off the field.
- 9) To provide the opportunity for every student athlete to work within their abilities and to understand success is based on everyone doing the best they are physically capable of doing.

Code of Ethics – NYSPHSAA, Inc.

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

- 1) To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play;
- 2) To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game;
- 3) To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly;
- 4) To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials;
- 5) To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts;
- 6) To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials;
- 7) To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility;
- 8) To encourage leadership, use of imitative, and good judgement by players on the team;
- 9) To recognize the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players;
- 10) To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for the player, coach, school fan or community.

Athletic Code of Conduct – Akron Central Schools

The Akron Central School District has developed an athletic code for student athletes. While we believe this code is important for the students, we also feel it is important that parents are aware of our expectations. We ask that you read the training rules and discuss them with your son or daughter.

While the coach plays an integral part of developing a training program for your son or daughter, we recognize the fact that the coach is not able to enforce all aspects of training. Many of the training rules and suggestions must be the responsibility of the parent and athletes. The parents should enforce proper nutrition, adequate rest and absence of alcohol, smoking and drugs.

Before a student is allowed to participate on a team the parents and athlete must sign and return the training rules agreement form. (pink card). This must be signed each sport season. We encourage you to help your son or daughter live by the code.

The Akron Central School Training Rules Agreement expects that students will:

- 1) Abide by the rules and regulations in the student handbook.
- 2) Attend all practices, meetings and games unless excused by the coach prior to the session.
- 3) Keep all equipment (including uniform), locker and team area clean and in good order.
- 4) Act as ladies/gentlemen. This includes treating opponents and officials with respect. Act as a guest when at other schools.
- 5) Ride the bus to all contests. Return home on bus unless signed out by parent.
- 6) Refrain from using, possessing or selling of alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs during the sports season.

Discipline of student athletes

- 1) Acts of misconduct or violations will result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
- 2) Any violation of the alcohol/drug/tobacco policy will result in dismissal from the team.
- 3) If a player is dismissed from the team, the player and parent/guardian must be given the opportunity for conference with the Athletic Council. The coach, the athlete, and the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to attend. The Athletic Council will recommend disciplinary action to the Athletic Director.

Policies - Akron Central Schools

Academic Eligibility

All student athletes must realize that their main purpose for attending school is to receive an education (high school diploma). As an athlete you must plan so that you give adequate time and energy to your academics. Student athletes who are failing two subjects will be placed on the ineligible list. While on the ineligible list student's athletes may not practice or play. After two weeks they can petition to get off the ineligible list.

Attendance

Student athletes are expected to be on time and in regular attendance at school. If students are not in school, are late to school or if they are unprepared for physical education they may not participate in a game or practice. There are exceptions – college visitations, religious observations and funerals. Students arriving late (legally) to school must get the AD's signature to participate that afternoon.

Athletic Award System

Athletes will receive awards immediately following their sport season. All athletes will receive a recognition certificate. Letters, numbers and pins are given depending on the level of participation and number of seasons they have participated. Seniors participating in two or more sports will receive a plaque and be eligible for senior athlete awards.

Captains Council

In 2003 the Captains Council was established to help develop the leadership skills of the team captains. The council is comprised of all JV and Varsity captains. They will meet regularly to discuss leadership, concerns, and new ideas for Akron Athletics.

Changing Sports

If an athlete wishes to change from one sport to another, he/she must discuss this with the current coach first. They must then receive permission from both coaches and the athletic director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to tryout for another sport, if that coach is still seeking players. All changes must occur during the first week of the season.

Crowd Control

At all indoor events and many outdoor events there are staff members who serve as chaperones/crowd control. They will be wearing an event supervisor tag or jacket. If problems arise please seek them out for help. Fans not being sportsmanlike may be removed from the premises.

Equipment and Uniforms

All school issued equipment and uniforms must be returned to the coach following the last game. Student athletes are financially responsible for equipment and uniforms that are lost or damaged. Awards may be withheld and participation denied until restitution has been made. School uniforms are not to be worn in physical education class or for personal use. School uniforms are purchased on an equitable cycle.

Injuries

There is a risk of being injured that is inherent in all sports. All injuries should be reported to the coach. Akron Central Schools has a trainer on campus during practices and games. An emergency information card must be filed with the coach prior to beginning of the season. If an athlete is absent for five or more days or has an injury that requires medical attention, a written release from Occu-med is required before the athlete may return to competition.

Insurance

The Pupil Benefits Plan is a secondary, non-duplicating policy. If you have medical or dental insurance that covers your child, charges must be submitted to your primary insurance first. Submit the explanation of benefits or rejection from your carrier along with itemized bills to Pupil Benefits Plan. Obtain a claim form from the nurse's office.

Physical Education

Akron athletics is an outgrowth of the physical education program. Participation in a sport in no way is to act as a substitute for the wide range of activities offered through physical education. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes are required to participate in the full physical education program throughout the year.

Student athletes must participate in physical education to be able to practice or play in their game that afternoon. Music lessons, field trips or excused absences of a doctor's appointment, college visitation, or a funeral are acceptable reasons for missing class.

Selective Classification

The selective classification program is a New York State regulated process for screening students to determine their readiness to compete in interscholastic athletic competition. This program was designed for **mature** and **exceptionally** skilled students to advance to a level that is suited to their development and ability, i.e. a 7th or 8th grader playing a j.v. or varsity sport or a girl playing on a boy's team.

Coaches may recommend student athletes to be tested. A parent can also recommend an athlete to be tested.

The following must be completed before allowing an athlete to attempt to try out:

- 1) A signed parent consent.
- 2) A health and development rating by the school physician. This maturity test must be passed before attempting the athletic performance test.
- 3) The Athletic Performance Test. This is a six-item test that includes a shuttle run, standing long jump, flexed arm hang, stomach curls 50-yard dash and 1.5 mile run. Different sports require different performance tests. The different levels – JV or Varsity – have different standards.

The AD or Asst. AD will conduct the selective classification performance test in October for winter sports, February for spring sports and June for fall sports.

Sportsmanship

The Akron pre-contest announcement: “We are proud to be a school built on a foundation of respect – respect for athletes who compete, the fans who support them and the officials who serve us.

With this mind, we expect that all here today will act respectfully and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Any inappropriate behavior or verbal harassment will be addressed by those assigned as chaperones. A lack of cooperation could result in removal from the premises.

Cheer your team and enjoy the efforts of these athletes.”

Sports Physicals

- 1) Sports physicals will be given in June each year. Physicals are good for one year. Pink cards (Interval Health History updates) must be signed within 30 days of each sport season.
- 2) If a student – athlete needs a physical during the school year they will have to go to Occu-Med.
- 3) A student athlete must have a permission slip signed by a parent before signing up for a physical.
- 4) The Athletic Director will hold sport team sign-ups. The coach will be given the list following sign-ups.

Transfer Rule (NYSPHSAA)

This rule was established by the NYSPHSAA to control athletic recruitment and athletic shopping.

A. A student who transfers, with corresponding change in residence or his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one school district to another. Furthermore, when a student moves from one public school district to another school district, for athletic eligibility, the student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parent’s residency.

B. A student who transfers without corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one year if the student participated in that sport at JV or Varsity level during the one year period immediately preceding his/her transfer.

Exceptions to B:

- 1) The student reaches the age of majority and establishes residency in a district.
- 2) If a private or parochial school ceases to operate a student may transfer to another private or parochial school of his/her choice. Otherwise the student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parent’s residency.
- 3) A student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in a district by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.

- 4) A student from divorced or separated parents who move into a new district with one of the aforementioned parents. Such transfer is allowed once every six months. Note: It is provided, however, that each school shall have the opportunity to petition the section involved to approve a transfer without penalty based on undue hardship for the student.

Transportation

Bus transportation is provided at 5:40 p.m. for after school practices. Transportation is not provided on Saturdays, school vacations or late practices. Players must travel to and from games on the team bus. If a parent wishes to take their child home from an away game – they need to have a permission slip signed and on file. The parent then needs to initial or sign off on the roster every time they wish to take their child.

Rules/Regulations - NCAA

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

The NCAA Clearinghouse has been established for review of core courses and high school transcripts for prospective NCAA Division I School or Division II student athletes. The best time for a student athlete to register with the Clearinghouse is following his or her junior year of high school.

The process begins with the student athlete who must obtain a form from the clearinghouse (see student support services).

A guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes and their Parents is housed in the athletic office. They also may be purchased through the National Federation of State High School Associations for \$2.50 plus shipping and handling.

The student support service office also has access to on-line recruiting. Please see the coach, athletic director or guidance counselor for any help or questions about college athletics.