

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 in both regular student code of conduct and these athletic rules.

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 at all times during grades 7-12, including summer months and off seasons whether on or off school property.

1. Code of Conduct

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

Suspensions of a partial or full season imposed under Sections A, B, C, D and E apply beginning in the current athletic season if the student is participating in a sport at the time of the infraction, or to the next full athletic season in which the student participates

if he or she is not currently in a school sport. If a student currently involved in a sport that is more than 50% through the regular season contests at the time a full-season suspension is imposed, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current season as well as half of the next season the student participates in a sport. Calculation of the duration of a partial-season suspension is based on the full season of regular athletic contests. All calculations are rounded up to the next whole number. For example, a 25% suspension for an athlete in a 10 game regular season results in a 3 game suspension. If few contests remain in the regular season than are to be imposed for the suspension, the suspension will be carried over into the post-season and/or next athletic season in which the student participates.

- A. Use or possession of tobacco products:
 - 1st offense Suspension from ten percent (10%) of athletic contests*
 - 2nd offense Suspension of all athletic participation for the sport season. The student must enroll in a tobacco cessation program
 - 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 athletic contests* plus completion of alcohol and drug counseling.
 - 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. Expulsion, Suspension, or other School Discipline:
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 or expulsion -A student serving an in or of school suspension or an expulsion is considered to not be in attendance as is required below in Section I. Therefore, any student under such school discipline is suspended from all athletic participation (contests and practices) for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.
- E. Being arrested for or charged with any criminal act will result in suspension for the duration of any arrest and any period during which charges are still pending (including through a trial). Should any consequence be imposed (including probation, plea to lesser charges, offender registry, etc.), the athlete's suspension shall continue through the duration of the consequence.
- F. Unnatural coloring of hair (blue, green, red, etc.) will result in a denial of participation in any sport team until the situation is corrected.
- G. 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.)
- H. Boys must not have facial hair such as beards, mustaches, goatees, etc. during contests. Participation will be denied until the situation is corrected.
- I. All tattoos must be covered during contests.
- J. 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.
- K. 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.)
- L. 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.**
- M. 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. Payment for lost or damaged equipment will be required.

N. Eligibility:

1. Eligibility for participation is first established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (See OHSAA Bulletin for minimum standards). In addition to meeting all OHSAA requirements 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 in competitions 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.

O. 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.”*

- P. 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.

- Q. 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

- R. 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.

- S. 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.

- T. All rules found in the regular student code of conduct apply during extracurricular activities may result in both school and athletic discipline.

III. DUE PROCESS

Sanctions under the Athletic Rules may be imposed by any coach of the sport that the student is participating in at the time of the violation, the athletic director, a building administrator for the student's building, or the superintendent or other central office administrator. Sanctions may be communicated to the student verbally or in writing. A student is entitled to a due process hearing for sanctions imposed under Sections A, B, C, D, or E of Article II the hearing will be offered by the Athletic Director or his/her designee prior to or within 5 school days following such a removal. Such a hearing may result in the sanction being upheld, increased, or decreased. To facilitate a timely hearing scheduling may be done in person, by phone, or by e-mail with the student or the student's parent. If a student is unable to or chooses not to participate in the hearing at the time scheduled by the hearing officer the sanction will continue to be imposed. The Athletic Director/Designee will send a letter to the student informing him/her of the sanction being imposed and the process for rescheduling a hearing for any athletic due process hearing. Such a hearing is not a full-evidentiary hearing, but is instead an opportunity for the student to respond to the charges against him or her. There is no right to discovery or to compel witnesses to attend. The Athletic Director or his/her designee shall confer with the Superintendent prior to issuing any decision that increases or decreases the sanction imposed under Sections A, B, C, D or E of Article II of the Athletic Rules. A written decision will be made available for pick-up from the Athletic Director during regular school hours within 2 school days of the due process hearing. This decision is final.

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: 6/24/2013

Revised & Adopted: 6/27/2011

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