

Avondale Athletics



2013-2014
Student & Parent
Handbook

Avondale High School

Grades: **9-12**

Member of: **M.H.S.A.A.**

Michigan High School Athletic Association

Member of: **O.A.A.**

Oakland Activities Association

Colors: **Purple & Gold**

Mascot: **“Yellow Jackets”**

Athletic Office

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Staff

Mr. Keith Gust, Teacher in Charge of Athletics

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AVONDALE ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

As an athlete you are a highly visible representative of your team, your school and your community. You are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct and sportsmanship as a member of the team. Whether on the court, on the sidelines or just wearing your colors, you will be commended for, or held responsible for, your actions.

It is expected that when you participate on a school team that you make a substantial commitment to that team with the following priorities: First, family; second, academics; third, your team. Because of your commitment, other activities cannot interfere with practice or contests.

Avondale athletes are expected to act, dress and compete in such a manner as to bring honor to their school. This tradition should be maintained both during and out-of-season. Whether winning or losing, you should be able to congratulate your opponent for a well-played game. If you have played the game to the best of your ability, and with honor, you will have gained the respect of your school, your coaches and your family.

Younger athletes look up to you. The example you set becomes the "Avondale Tradition", so it is important to do the right thing.

Winning is for a day...
Sportsmanship and Ethics are
for a Lifetime!

MHSAA – ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The Avondale School District is a volunteer member of the **Michigan High School Athletic Association**. The MHSAA rules listed in this brochure are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. Most rules are found in the **MHSAA Handbook** which can be located in the Athletic Office.

Your role in following the rules will assure eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports or prevent your participation as an ineligible athlete which would result in forfeiture of contests.

AGE: A student becomes ineligible if they are 19 before September 1 of the current school year.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Athletes must have on file in the Athletic Office a physician's statement for the current school year (**after April 15**) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests.

ACADEMICS

A student's first priority at Avondale is to fulfill his/her academic responsibilities. Avondale's eligibility standards surpass the MHSAA requirements. The MHSAA rule is that a student must be *passing four full credit classes* during the current semester and have *passed four full credit classes* during the previous semester. The Avondale eligibility policy is enforced through weekly or bi-weekly checks of athletes' grades and behavior. When teachers indicate a student is failing a class or is in danger of failing a class, the Teacher in Charge of Athletics notifies the coach who in turn notifies the player. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher. Failing is considered any grade below 64%. The student becomes ineligible for one week (Monday thru Sunday) when failing two classes. Athletic eligibility is based on a current semester grade, not a weekly grade. If the semester ended today, your grade would be.....

PAY TO PARTICIPATE

The Avondale School District has a *Pay to Participate* program for Athletics: Grades 7-12. Fees are subject to change from year to year. Fees are per athlete per season with a 2-season cap and there is also a family cap. There is also a program available to assist families who are experiencing hardship and cannot afford the fees.

The full payment and a complete *Athletics Pay to Participate* contract will be due following team tryouts or team selections. Coaches will announce the date the fee is due; however, payment will be required no later than two weeks after team selection or before the first contest, whichever comes first. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be responsible for ensuring that the necessary fees and the signed contract are returned to the Avondale School District Athletic Office.

IMPORTANT PARAMETERS TO UNDERSTAND:

1. Fees and a parent/student-signed *Athletics Pay to Participate* contract **must** be submitted to the coach or Athletic Office before an athlete may participate in any scrimmage or competition. Resolution of a non-payment issue will ultimately result in the student's removal from the team.

2. The participation fee in no way guarantees contest-playing time for an athlete. Teams will continue to operate as they did before a participation fee was accessed, including any expenses for uniforms, equipment and transportation for which students previously funded personally or through team fund-raising efforts.

There will be no refunds of participation fees for withdrawal, ineligibility, code of conduct violation or movement from the district except for the following circumstance:

If a student athlete receives a season-ending injury prior to mid-season, the student and their family may request a refund with the following understanding and requirements:

- The student and family must submit a request for refund in writing to the Avondale School District, Teacher in Charge of Athletics;

- The request must include a written verification of the injury from the student's physician; and,
- The student and family must acknowledge that they understand the receipt of such a refund will constitute the student's official resignation from the team and the forfeiture of all team activities, awards, honors, attendance at team banquets, etc.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Athletes must attend four hours of school on the day of a contest or practice to participate. Excused absences are permitted with prior arrangement. Emergency situations will be determined by the Principal/Teacher in Charge of Athletics. If a student is suspended from school or assigned to in-house suspension, he/she may not compete or practice for the period of that suspension.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Attendance at practice sessions is necessary to prepare both mentally and physically for contests. **Prior** arrangements should be made for any absence. Unexcused absences may be cause for discipline or dismissal. Students **may** also be excused for school sponsored and required trips or family vacations. If at all possible, try to avoid vacations during regular practice times and over breaks.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes are to ride to and from the contests on a team bus unless **prior** arrangements are made with the Coach and/or Teacher in Charge of Athletics. Any transportation other than the school district bus must be cleared through the Teacher in Charge of Athletics. Athletes may request to go home with parents following a contest **in special situations**. It should be rare when the athlete does not ride the team bus. Only team personnel are allowed to ride the bus. This would include managers, statisticians, etc.

INSURANCE

Inherent in athletics is the risk of injury, which in rare cases include serious injuries, such as paraplegic and quadriplegic injuries and occasionally even death. Insurance coverage to assist with medical costs in the event of injury is available and private company insurance forms for this purpose are available in the Athletic Office. *As provided under applicable law, the Avondale School District is not responsible for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries.*

INJURIES

All injuries are to be reported to the coach. Serious or long-term injuries will require a release from the doctor to resume practice. Injured players may be required to attend practices as observers to maintain team membership.

QUITTING

If an athlete quits a team, he/she is not to practice or play with any other school team until the original team finishes its season. However, it may be in the athlete's best interest to change sports and is permitted with the approval of both coaches.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

Athletes are expected to use reasonable care to maintain all school-issued equipment & uniforms. All equipment must be returned to the coach. ***Failure to return equipment and/or uniforms will result in a replacement charge.*** Athletes should be aware of laundering instructions on garment labels.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITION

A student who has participated in any athletic contest as a member of a school team may not participate in the same sport in the same season in any athletic competition outside of and not sponsored by the school. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sports meets or contests during that sport season while not representing his/her school. A student may not compete in any "all-star"

contests at any time in any sport sponsored by the MHSAA during the school year.

ISSUES IN ATHLETICS

When a person (such as a student, a parent, a coach, a teacher or an administrator) has a question, concern or complaint regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication is **very effective** in resolving issues.

- **24 HOUR RULE.** Wait 24 hours before making contact with anyone.
- **START WITH THE SOURCE.** Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. After a contest is not always the best time.
- **IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE HEAD COACH OF THE SPORT.**
- **IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF ATHLETICS.**
- **IF NECESSARY, TALK WITH THE COACH AND THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF ATHLETICS.**
- **IF NECESSARY, TALK WITH THE PRINCIPAL.**



NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Most students start thinking seriously about college when they are juniors in high school. You should begin the certification process when you are a junior if you want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college. Check with your counselor to be sure you are taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements; also register to take the ACT or SAT as a junior. Submit your Student Release Form to the Clearinghouse by the beginning of your senior year. The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse Publication Booklet is available in your counseling office.



AWARDS

The following awards are available to athletes:

Purple & Gold (Awarded by Boosters) – All teams – for spirit, sportsmanship, leadership

Numerals (graduation year) – Freshman team

Numerals (graduation year) – J.V. Team

Varsity Letter – 1st Year Varsity

2nd Year Varsity Certificate – 2nd Year Varsity

3rd Year Varsity Certificate – 3rd Year Varsity

4th Year Varsity Certificate – 4th Year Varsity

Outstanding Senior Athlete - 1 male, 1 female selected by coaching staff – on honors, attitude, leadership, participation, etc.

Academic

Avondale Scholar Athlete (all levels) 3.3 GPA or better

OAA Scholar Athlete (Varsity only) 3.5 GPA or better

To earn the awards, the athlete must meet the criteria set by the coach and *complete the season as a member in good standing* of the team. Athletes are required to attend the awards ceremony for their team unless excused.

USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND STEROIDS

Excellent physical and mental condition is necessary for high performance in athletics as well as to protect the personal health and safety of the participant.

Students participating or planning to participate in the athletic program are prohibited from the use, possession or transmittal of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or any prescription drug substance not prescribed to the student by a doctor.

Said students are prohibited from attending any activity or gathering at which illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present and/or being consumed.

Failure to comply will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the team and loss of awards.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

The rules contained in this document do not include all conceivable student misbehavior that might result in disciplinary action taken against a student, and the coach and/or Teacher in Charge of Athletics reserve the right to deny athletic participation to any student whose inappropriate actions reasonably warrant such action.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, inappropriate behavior in school or at away events, and serious misconduct outside of the school setting, are incompatible with the values of an Avondale School District student-athlete and will not be tolerated.

SPORTS PASSES

Family and student sports passes are sold from the Athletic Office and at every home sports event. These passes offer a substantial savings over the cost of buying separate tickets for each event.

Family Passes—\$125.00 per school year.

Student Passes—\$35.00 per school year.

PASSES ARE ACCEPTED FOR ALL HOME ATHLETIC EVENTS.

PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ENTRY INTO LEAGUE OR MHSAA TOURNAMENTS.

Ticket Prices:

\$5.00 for all adults, students & school-age children.

\$3.00 for Senior Citizens (62 & over)

Pre-School age and younger—No Charge.

THANK YOU
for your support
of
Avondale Athletics!

AVONDALE HIGH SCHOOL

All Sports...

BOOSTER CLUB

The Avondale Booster Club is dedicated to the support of the Avondale High School athletic program. The Booster Club has been involved in the fundraising of many projects over the past several years, and also has purchased a great deal of equipment, complimenting and supplementing the athletic program.

The Booster Club provides the Purple & Gold Award for each team, and also purchases the League Championship patches for teams that have achieved this status. The club also sponsors the annual Dick Bye Scholarship Award.

The Booster Club has included all sports and interested boosters to act as Sport Representatives for individual sports. These representatives attend Booster Club meetings and are the principle contact between the Booster Club and the sport they represent. All sports reps provide their respective coaches a ready contact for support.

Parents and others are urged to join the Avondale Booster Club and become active.

Regular Booster Club meetings are held the **first Wednesday** of each month, September thru June. Everyone is welcome to attend.

WHERE TO GO FOR....

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

www.oaklandactivitiesassoc.org

AVONDALE ATHLETIC INFORMATION

www.Avondale.k12.mi.us/athletics

TEAM SCHEDULES/MAPS TO SCHOLS

www.oaklandactivitiesassoc.org

Hard copies are available in the Athletic Office.

By signing the Avondale *Athletics Pay to Participate* contract, I understand and acknowledge that I have read the Athlete Code of Conduct online.

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