

AVON MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH AND SOUTH ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The following policies and guidelines are to be adhered to and enforced by all coaches at both Avon Middle School North and South.

It should be duly noted that these policies and guidelines are a direct result of I.H.S.A.A. recommendations for middle schools, and the Athletic Councils of Avon Middle School North and South

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK for STUDENT-ATHLETES

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic document is designed to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations and information that helped develop the rich tradition of competition at Avon Middle School North and South. Participation in middle school athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since athletic competition on middle school teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Athletes represent their school and student body and will conduct themselves in a manner that is becoming to their family, Avon Schools, and the community.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY / MISSION

The goal of the Avon Middle School Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and moral character. The department's purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable. The Avon Middle School North and South Athletic Departments seek to help the athlete develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, accept responsibility, and develop loyalty towards any chosen endeavor.

ATHLETE DEFINED

The Avon Athlete is defined as and includes all young men and women who represent a team that engages in interscholastic competition and further includes cheerleaders, student-managers, trainers and statisticians.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE

Avon Middle School North and South each support twelve (12) sports that offer 25 different teams to approximately 1400 students in grades 7 and 8. Student-athletes are coached by approximately 40 men and women and participate in nearly 300 contests per year. Avon North and South are charter members of the Northwest Suburban Conference. Members are Brownsburg East, Brownsburg West, Westfield, Zionsville Middle, and Zionsville West. Avon Middle Schools North and South are also charter members with Hendricks County schools. Members include Brownsburg East, Brownsburg West, Cascade, Danville, Plainfield, and Tri-West.

ELIGIBILITY

ACADEMIC/ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY AT AVON MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH AND SOUTH

Student-athletes must be enrolled at Avon Middle School North or South and pass all classes each nine-week midterm and grading period in order to continue to participate as a team member. Coaches and sponsors can check progress of students by talking with teachers, issuing periodic grade checks and checking grade cards at the end of grading periods. It is the policy of the athletic department to work closely with the academic progress of each participant. Refer to pages 4 and 5 for more detailed information.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Every student-athlete is required by Avon Middle School North and South and the I.H.S.A.A. to have a **yearly** physical examination completed and on file with the athletic office *before* practicing in any sport. Physical exams are offered at Avon High School in May for student-athletes at a reduced cost. Exams are in effect for the next school year if taken *after* April 1st.

WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOUR FIRST PRACTICE

The following items are to be completed by the athlete and parent/guardian before the first practice with any team:

1. Pass physical examination and have supporting student, parent and doctor signatures
2. Complete the online signatures and upload the physical page to PRIVIT confirming that both athlete and parent/guardian have read all pertinent documents. This can be accessed through the athletic homepage.
3. Attend the team meeting or meet with coach before practice

DUAL PARTICIPATION

Participation in an athletic contest or any other similar team during the same season in which they represent their school in that sport is strongly discouraged. (Adopted from IHSAA Rule 15-1 ; IGMLS)

Participation on a school athletic team and a non-school activity at the same time is generally allowed, with exceptions, although the Athletic Department is in complete agreement with the IHSAA recommendations that it should be strongly discouraged. Student-athletes who participate in non-school activities while participating on a school athletic team **MUST** make their school participation the priority. A student-athlete may not miss any activity related to the school athletic team to participate in a non-school activity. A student-athlete may also not use school equipment for the non-school activity. An exception **could** be granted if the student-athlete requests a waiver from the athletic director in writing.

The following consequences may be enforced should a student-athlete miss a school-sponsored practice or contest:

1. 1st Violation: One game suspension.
2. 2nd Violation: Two game suspension.
3. 3rd Violation: Dismissal from the team.

****Student-athletes will not be allowed to leave a practice or contest early to participate in a non-school sponsored activity ****

ATHLETIC/SCHOOL CONFLICT (RULE A)

Participation on a school athletic team and another school extracurricular or co-curricular activity at the same time is allowed. Student-athletes must inform the head coach of any potential conflicts that exist.

If a conflict of interest arises between school related activities and athletic contests and practices, the following guidelines will be used:

- A. If a conflict arises between a school related activity (defined below) and an athletic activity; the individual student athlete has the authority to choose which activity to attend, without penalty. It is the students responsibility to notify all parties involve of the conflict.

- B. Failure to notify the necessary parties of the conflict could result in an unexcused absence and subject to individual team rules

NUMBER OF SPORTS A STUDENT CAN PARTICIPATE IN (RULE B)

During the season of a given sport, a student athlete cannot participate in any other middle school sport, until the season of the sport given has been completed. However, if the coach of the current sport and Athletic Director gives expressed permission for the athlete to join another team before the completion of the season in progress, the athlete may participate.

ELIGIBILITY BASED ON MID-TERM/QUARTER GRADES (RULE C)

Any student who has a failing grade at mid-term/quarter grades OR semester grades could be ineligible to participate in athletics for a 3 week probationary period. During this time, a student-athlete will be able to participate in practices but not contests. If a student is failing a class at the end of the 3 week probationary period, he or she could be removed from the team.

Note: During a period of ineligibility, the failing student athlete will not be allowed to participate and/or dress for an athletic contest. If the season ends prior to the next grading period, the student will be dismissed from the team. He/she will, however, be allowed to try-out for the next season's sport when try-outs are conducted.)

ELIGIBILITY BASED ON 4TH NINE WEEKS GRADE (RULE C-1)

A student-athlete's eligibility at the start of 8th grade will not be determined by the end of the previous year's report card. Athletic eligibility will be determined based on current year mid-terms and quarter grades as described above.

RETENTION (RULE C-2)

A student that is retained in the same grade for any reason may not be eligible to participate in sports based on the conference and county age rule.

SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPULSION (RULE D)

Any student athlete who is suspended from school will not be allowed to participate in any way, or attend any athletic contests at either middle school. This athletic suspension will remain in effect until the student is reinstated as a student in the school.

TOBACCO , ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND CITIZENSHIP (RULE E)

Student athletes must refrain from participating in illegal activities outside of and/or within the school environment. Any student athlete participating in illegal activities including but not limited to possessing, distributing, or using tobacco (including vaping), alcohol, and/or drugs at any time, is in direct violation of school and athletic policy. Any athlete who has participated in illegal activity or conducts themselves in such a manner that, in the opinion of the school authorities, reflects unfavorably upon other students, the school, or the community is in direct violation of the middle school athletic policy. Students who are in violation of this policy within the school environment are subject to suspension and expulsion from school and athletics. Students who are in violation of the policy away from the school environment will be suspended or removed from athletic participation.

Should a student be suspended from athletic participation due to using tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs, the family may request reinstatement of athletic eligibility for future seasons after the student successfully completes an age appropriate tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug education program at the family's expense. The earliest opportunity for reinstatement would be the beginning of the next athletic season after the violation occurred. The family must submit a request for reinstatement in writing to the athletic director at least ten school days before the posted beginning of the season for which reinstatement is desired.

The request for reinstatement must include a letter from the student indicating why he/she should now be allowed to represent our school as a student athlete and a letter of support from the parents of the student athlete. The request should also include a letter of support from the counselor of the tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug education program the student participated in. The athletic director and the principal will review the request and speak with the student before making a determination to reinstate eligibility. The parent and student will be notified of the determination of eligibility before the posted beginning date for the requested athletic season. All decisions for athletic reinstatement are final and not subject to appeal. Students reinstated for athletic participation will be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year.

For any subsequent violations of this rule, the student athlete will be suspended from athletics for a period of 365 days from the date of the second violation.

(Note: If the offense occurs at the end of a season, the suspension will carry over to the next season or sport in which the athlete chooses to participate.)

STUDENT PROFILE SITES (RULE F)

Avon Middle School North and South respect the student's right to post profiles on student-profile sites such as snap chat, instagram, FaceBook, and others. We also understand that students who use these sites use them as a means of communicating with friends. Students must understand the public nature of these sites and the risks, responsibility, and accountability that they, as site manager, must assume if they participate. They also must understand that their names and sites are linked with Avon Middle School North and South, and as a result, the school may monitor the content of these sites because of the impact such sites can have on school accountability, public image, and student safety. Anything posted on a website by a student constitutes public speech and will be held to all the standards and expectations expressed in this handbook.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT TRAINING RULES (RULE G)

Each coach has the authority to submit training rules to each participant of his/her sport. Within these rules, a coach can establish discipline guidelines, such as suspension from a game or games (not to exceed two consecutive contests). If repeated violations of rules occur, the coach may recommend that the individual be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

The training rules submitted by the coach should be given to each team member prior to participation in that sport. It is the responsibility of each member of the team to read the rules and abide by them.

The coach will submit a copy of his/her team rules to the athletic director, prior to the beginning of the season.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS (RULE H)

Any member of any team representing Avon Middle School North or South at home or at any away contests that causes destruction of any kind, will be accountable by the following guidelines of punishment:

- A. Repayment of damage done;
- B. Formal letters of apology to the coaching staff and the owners of the property damaged.
- C. Suspension from two (2) consecutive contests and all practice sessions there –in;
- D. Failure to satisfy the aforementioned guidelines will lead to possible removal from the team.
- E. Subject to school rules and discipline policies.

AGE ELIGIBILITY (RULE I)

As a member of the Northwest Suburban Conference, Avon North and South will enforce the age eligibility as set forth by the IHSAA.

ELIGIBILITY BASED ON SCHOOL BEHAVIOR (RULE J)

Any student who becomes a habitual discipline problem will not be allowed to participate or attend athletic contests. Any student who has two (2) major violations (resulting in Saturday school or Suspension from school) or a total of eight (8) referrals, will be in this category. Any student in this category will lose his/her athletic eligibility for the remainder of the school year.

Any student in this category will be afforded the opportunity to appeal. Requirements to appeal include, but are not limited to, a full nine week grading period without referrals, passing grades in all classes, and meeting school attendance requirements.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL (RULE K)

Attendance at school is an expectation of our student-athletes. A student is not allowed to attend or participate in after school activities if he/she is not in attendance on that day. **Student-Athletes must attend a minimum of four of the six class periods to be eligible for the practice/game that day. If a student is sent home by the school nurse, they are not eligible for any athletic contest that same day.**

AVON MIDDLE SCHOOLS NORTH AND SOUTH HONOR CODE

HONESTY

I will not take unfair advantage of members of my school or community. I will be trustworthy, both to myself and others. I will tell the truth and accept any consequences that would result.

PRIDE

I will let the foundation of my spirit begin with pride in myself, my school and my community. I will let my pride swell my heart, not my head.

LEADERSHIP

I will not abuse nor take advantage of my position of leadership. I will set a positive example for others through dedication and commitment to my school and community.

RESPECT

I will conduct myself in a manner that portrays self-respect and dignity. I will be open-minded to others' opinions, ideas and points of view.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Sportsmanship with Ethics and Integrity

Avon Middle Schools North and South are committed to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. The values of good citizenship and positive behavioral standards apply equally to all school activities for students, athletes, and fans.

Unacceptable behavior includes, but not limited to, the following: Being disrespectful or making derogatory comments towards players, coaches, opposing fans, or officials in a manner that draws attention will be subject to disciplinary action taken by the principal or his designee. Any student, parent, or spectators who exhibit the above behaviors are subject to the following:

1. Removal from the premises by the principal, school official or law enforcement.
2. Suspension from attending future contests.
3. Charges filed with law enforcement.
4. Exclusion from other extra-curricular events.

****STUDENT BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL CAN IMPACT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION; SEE STUDENT HANDBOOK****

Attendance at School

Attendance at school is an expectation of our student-athletes. Per the AMSN/S Student Handbook, **A student is not allowed to attend or participate in after school activities if he/she is not in attendance on that day.** Student-Athletes must attend a minimum of four of the six class periods to be eligible for the practice/game that day. **See Team Rules for more specific information.

Communication with Coaches

Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur. The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.

We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our program to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you: when and where practices and contests are held, about his/her coaching philosophy, about the expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad, as well as your individual child, what is required to be a part of the team, i.e., fees, special equipment, etc, and should disciplinary action result in your son/daughter being denied participation in a practice or contest.

It is inappropriate to discuss with a coach: team strategy, play calling, or other student athletes.

Procedure for Concerns:

1. The student athlete approaches the coach first with any concerns before or after practice.
2. The student athlete and parent make an appointment with the coach

Note: please do not attempt to contact a coach immediately before, during or after a contest or practice.

3. If your meeting or discussion with the coach does not result in a resolution to the problem, please contact the Athletic Department to discuss the situation. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

The acknowledgement of these policies and procedures will be signed electronically through PRIVIT.