

# ADVANTAGE ACADEMY

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2023-2024

***"Building Champions with a Future and a Hope"***



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## Introduction

The Athletic Department and Administration of Advantage Academy would like to express our thanks to each athlete who has shown interest in the athletic program and to their parents for encouraging and supporting that interest. Athletics should be viewed as an integral part of a student's overall educational process, as it promotes leadership success and teaches positive life skills and values. The overall purpose of athletics at Advantage academy is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of each individual athlete. The sport opportunities available at each campus vary, yet express our commitment to the development of the participating students, their physical fitness and personal health. Participation in athletics will provide students the opportunity to learn new skills and measure themselves against standards of quality set by athletic or sport competition.

As each athlete becomes involved in the program, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. Athletics requires a great deal of time, dedication and sacrifice from the athlete and their parents. Parental support is essential and greatly appreciated. The Athletic Department has established this handbook and its rules, regulations and guidelines in an effort to help all athletes; learn, mature, and reach their full potential in a structured, yet caring environment. However, it is imperative that Advantage Academy also establish acceptable conduct standard for sportsmanship-like behavior and admonish unacceptable behavior related to participation in athletics. Advantage Academy's athletes must understand that it is a privilege to represent ones school and community through athletic competition. Again, Advantage Academy and the Athletic Department would like to thank you, and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

On Your Behalf

*The Advantage Academy Athletic Director, Athletic Coordinator and Coaches*

***NOTICE:*** Student- athletes and their parent(s) must be aware that any athletic participation, game or practice will include inherent dangers. Although rare, catastrophic injury or death can result from participation in athletics and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers. In all sports, we encourage parents/guardians, along with student athletes to discuss risk and risk minimization with their campus athletic coordinator and coach.

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### **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK APPENDICES**

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## **TRADITION**

Advantage Academy's school Administrators, Principals, Site Coordinators and coaches are constantly striving to maintain our tradition of excellence and establish new standards in athletics for all our students. This of course requires dedication and hard work on our part as well as effort from the student-athlete. Advantage Academy athletes must want to compete at a higher level than their opponent and depend on their coaches to help guide them to that level while teaching intensity, competitive aggression, and perseverance. The Athletic Department along with the coach, will equip, train and assist our athletes in reaching a desired level of completion and realizing their full potential. The school believes that the character and leadership skills the athlete learns from the program are an integral part of becoming a "Champion".

Advantage Academy wants athletics to be challenging enough so that each athlete and team must pay a price to become great. Athletics should also be an enjoyable learning experience for all of our student athletes. Coaches must strive to teach each athlete how to play their selected sport/s and help them understand the philosophy of that sport. We want the athlete to understand what "giving everything you have" or "paying a price" means and each individual athlete should be motivated to do so. Our wish is that the athlete learns to be self-motivated, not only in sports but also in the classroom and in their personal lives. Advantage Academy relies on its coaches as individuals and working as a team with other coaches, administrators and the District to maintain and grow this tradition.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

All students should have the opportunity to and be encouraged to participate in athletics. Athletics plays a significant role in developing a positive attitude, self-esteem and a sense of well-being. Student growth and development is positively impacted when students participate in a strong athletic program. The goal at every level of athletics is to strive for personal as well as TEAM excellence. While learning teamwork, self-discipline and fair play, student-athletes must be challenged at the level or skill they bring to the sport or position.

Student athletes, male and female, shall be afforded the opportunity to participate at the most appropriate level to achieve optimal personal growth and team success. Student athletes should be afforded the opportunity to develop their skills and reach maximum potential in a well-coached environment. The athletic program must attempt to address the desires and/or needs of the entire student population while reflecting the schools vision, mission, values and culture. Athletics should teach a commitment towards a common goal, enjoyment in physical activity and an appreciation of other's skills and contributions.

Athletics must promote physical and mental health and contribute to the ability of the participants to interact socially. Athletics will nurture friendship where one might not expect it and foster a sense of pride in self and community that lasts far beyond life at school. Advantage Academy wants its athletes to learn how to become CHAMPIONS. We believe that living this will take our student athletes beyond their personal and physical limitations in athletics and in life. We are not looking to simply develop good athletes; we want to mold outstanding young men and women.

## **GOAL OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

The goal of the athletic program is to set a standard of excellence for each team and student-athlete while teaching personal responsibility among other relative things. Coaches will attempt to make each athlete a better person and a better citizen, sacrificing “individual” for TEAM.

The Advantage Academy Athletic Department is committed to helping each athlete:

- Exhibit "Champion" character and leadership;
- Give their best physical and mental effort;
- Reach their full potential;
- Maintain academic intensity;
- Be mentally tough and disciplined;
- Gain confidence and overcome obstacles;
- Experience dedication, commitment and hard work;
- Learn teamwork;
- Maintain a positive attitude;
- Enjoy the camaraderie of team sports; and
- Act like ladies and gentlemen at all times.

## **CONDUCT STANDARDS (Athletic Department)**

Advantage Academy student-athletes must respect the rights and privileges of others, including all administrators, teachers, school staff members and visitors. Student-athletes must help foster and maintain a climate of mutual respect while exercising their individual rights responsibly. Student-athletes must follow all established policies, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the District's Student/Parent Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct and this Handbook.

The basic principle of conduct under which student-athletes will operate is to conduct themselves in such a manner that will bring credit to themselves, to their teammates, to their families, and to Advantage Academy. Student-athletes should be mindful of these facts:

- Athletics is a privilege, not a right.
- Student-athletes shall exemplify model behavior on campus, in athletics, in the classroom and community.
- Student-athletes should never engage in any activity that can be construed as inappropriate for an AA athletic team member.
- Eagles and Lady Eagles will act in such a manner that will bring honor to Advantage Academy. This includes school trips, competitions, classrooms, and any other time that they are representing AA.
- Advantage Academy athletes will observe all established Code of Conduct rules for managing the conduct of students.
- Athletes must not be habitual problems in the classroom or receive repeated poor conduct grades.
- Attendance- unexcused and habitual absences and tardiness is unacceptable.
- Attitude, sportsmanship, and effort issues will not be disregarded.
- Athletes should not refuse to participate in any aspect of the athletic program as prescribed by the district and/or coaches.
- Substance abuse, alcohol, and tobacco use is strictly prohibited.
- Stealing will result in dismissal from the team.
- Bullying, harassment, and discrimination will not be tolerated.

- Communication is essential to the success of any team. The athletic department's policy is as follows:
  - a. If students are going to miss practice or scheduled game, they must contact their head coach prior to, and inform him/her why they will be absent.
  - b. Tardiness is not acceptable and must be communicated to the head coach.
  - c. Failure to inform the coach with a legitimate excuse of all absences and tardiness is a violation of program and team protocol.

The student-athlete is solely responsible for his/her conduct and is required to meet all TEA and Local behavioral requirements. Athletes, who fail to maintain conduct standards may: be suspended from participation; be declared ineligible for competition; face disciplinary action by the coach or athletic department; be permanently removed from athletics; and/or have consequences applied from the Student Code of Conduct.

See "Academic and Discipline Requirements" for district standards and expectations.

*Extracurricular activities, clubs or organizations by-laws may establish standards of conduct - including consequences for misbehavior - that are in addition to those for students in general.*

## **BULLYING / HARASSMENT / DISCRIMINATION**

"Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination" are forms of abuse that typically involve a power imbalance where a child or group is (repeatedly) harmed by one or more powerful kid(s). Harm can result from verbal bullying which includes abuse in the form of insults and threats; social bullying, where kids spread rumors about other students, or openly exclude them from a group; or physical bullying, that involves hitting and shoving.

"Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination" are unwanted purposeful written, graphic or visual expressions, nonverbal, acts or gestures that are intended to cause distress or harm and are sufficiently severe that it has the effect or purposed effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Negative or abusive expressions or conduct can be communicated or applied by written, oral or physical means. School Administrators will investigate all allegations. Advantage Academy's "Bullying" policy is a Zero Tolerance Policy. Students who bully will be expelled! *[See District Bullying Policy for more information.]*

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

In an effort to keep Advantage Academy campuses safe, alcohol and drug free, the school's Board of Directors has adopted strict substance abuse prohibitions. The District believes that a student's use of alcohol and drugs is not only illegal, but harmful. Substance abuse herein shall be defined as; any harmful, illegal, or unlawful use of a substance for mood-altering purposes or for a purpose other than those for which they are indicated or intended and in a manner or in quantities other than directed. Students, who engage in alcohol or drug abuse related activities, pose a threat to themselves as well as other individuals including students, school employees and volunteers.

**Note:** *Substance Abuse violations may include the unauthorized possession, use, and/or abuse of over-the-counter medications/drugs and include, giving, selling, or delivering to another person.*

## **SMOKING / TOBACCO USE**

State law prohibits smoking or using tobacco products on all district-owned property and at school-related or school-sanctioned activities, on or off campus (including the use of electronic

cigarettes or any other electronic vaporizing device). The District, its administrators, and school staff shall strictly enforce prohibitions against smoking and the use of all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes and digital vaporizers by AA students while on or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or event on or off school property: Violations will constitute serious Level III consequences. Confiscated items will not be returned.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Athletes are expected to be dressed out and at practice each and every day on time. There is no reason to miss or be late to a scheduled game, practice, or event. Coaches must be notified ahead of time if a player must miss a game or practice or be late. Coaches must be presented a legitimate reason or excuse as to why the athlete must miss. Non notification will be recorded as a conduct standard violation. Athletes who cannot physically practice should still be in attendance if possible to learn, lend support and encourage teammates.

Excused absences must be in line with the District Attendance Policy. Irregular attendance and tardiness makes it very difficult, if not impossible for a sense of team to develop among players which is an integral part of success, in winning and becoming a "Champion." Frequent absenteeism or tardiness is cause for disciplinary action.

*A student-athlete who accumulates 3 unexcused absences or 5 unexcused tardies in a semester is not eligible to participate in athletics the following semester, as outlined in the athletic policies of Advantage Academy.*

## **ATTITUDE**

Athletes should arrive every day with expectations of learning something new and that something great is going to happen. Athletes must be receptive to their coaches and to everything the coach is trying to convey to them. Remember to always support your coaching staff, be positive and encourage your teammates. Think and act like a "CHAMPION." Look beyond yourself and put your school, team and teammates first. Believe in and respect the decisions that your coaches' make (whether or not it is right or wrong in your eyes). Advantage Academy athletes will win as a team and lose as a team. Having a bad attitude is infectious to a team and will not be tolerated.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

It is imperative that student-athletes demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Sportsmanship is a display of respect (verbal and physical) for coaches, officials, the opposing team, spectators and the sport itself. Sportsmanship also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity which should mean:

- Respect your coaches and teammates.
- Demonstrate self-discipline.
- Never resort to illegal tactics (play within the rules).
- Be a good loser as well as a gracious winner.

Total respect for all game officials is an absolute must. Taunting or "trash talking", vulgar or inappropriate language or actions will not be tolerated. Advantage Academy athletes must always shake hands with the opposing team at the conclusion of each contest. Flagrant violations

of school, department, team or contest rules etc. will result in serious conduct consequences being applied.

Coaches will handle all discussions or calls made by game officials. Any behavior contrary to the above stated or any other act which is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in the athlete's removal from the contest and/or possible permanent removal from the team or program.

## **EFFORT**

As a member of the athletic program, athletes will be expected to give maximum effort in performing their roll or duties for the team or sport. Effort is what sets apart the "great" athlete from the "good" athlete. Athletes should be willing to give 110% and to perform their duties at a high level every time they step on the field or on the court. The "best" athletes give the maximum effort every time they are given the opportunity. You will be asked to prepare hard, practice hard and especially play hard.

Advantage Academy athletes are "CHAMPION's" and should never give in to the temptation to stop trying because "it's over" or the odds seem too great. No coach can make an athlete play hard; effort is a choice the athlete must make along with whether to give it their all or to simply go through the motions. The choices an athlete makes will determine their success and the success of their team, coach and school.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Academic & Discipline Requirements)**

The Athletic Department recognizes that students should have the opportunity to engage in a broad range of learning experiences and that all students should be encouraged to take advantage of and participate in those opportunities; however, students at Advantage Academy will not be allowed to sacrifice the quality of their academic programs to participate in athletics.

Participation in athletics requires a commitment of time to a demanding and rigorous schedule of practice and competition. When and if it becomes apparent to a coach that conflicts are arising or continuing on a regular basis and/or an athlete is struggling to fulfill their academic obligations that information will be forwarded to the Campus Principal as well as the Athletic Department immediately.

Action must always be taken in the event a student-athlete shows signs of being over-committed and/or there is a noticeable decline in their performance both as a student and an athlete. The student-athlete must always give respectful attention to classroom assignments and academic activities. All athletes must work a schedule that gives priority to their studies and academic duties including; sufficient time, concentration and energy to ensure acceptable grades.

The Athletic Department and Coaches are fully aware of the demands that athletics places on a student's time, but this will not be an excuse for incomplete work or lack of effort in the classroom. Athletes will be responsible for completing all work that is required by his/her teacher and on time. Academics will come first; therefore, athletes must be in school the day of any athletic contest or event in order to participate, no exceptions. Only established Attendance Policy excuses will be accepted.

## **Eligibility**

To be able to participate in the first six weeks of the school year, the following criteria must have been met:

At the beginning of the 6th grade year, he/she must have been promoted to the 6th grade.



At the beginning of the 7th grade year, he/she must have been promoted to the 7th grade.  
 At the beginning of the 8th grade year, he/she must have been promoted to the 8th grade.  
 At the beginning of the 9th grade year, he/she must have been promoted to the 9th grade.  
 At the beginning of the 10th grade year, he/she must have 6 credits toward graduation.  
 At the beginning of the 11th grade year, he/she must have 12 credits toward graduation.  
 At the beginning of the 12th grade year, he/she must have 18 credits toward graduation.

### **Student-Athlete participation related to local academic and discipline requirements**

To be eligible to compete in extracurricular activities, a student must maintain a passing grade average in all subjects in which the student is enrolled. Campus Athletic Coordinators and Coaches will verify all athletes' grade point averages and discipline each week. Student-Athletes are subject to the following academic and discipline requirements:

#### ***Loss of Eligibility***

The following apply to all extracurricular activity and organization members:

- A student who receives a grade of 75% or below in any academic class is required to attend tutoring. The student may continue to participate as long as they remain in attendance of tutoring sessions. The student may discontinue tutoring when all grades are above 75%.
- A student who receives a grade of below 70% at the end of a grading period in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least (3) three school weeks. The student will regain eligibility to participate at the end of the three weeks if all grades are at 70%.
- A student-athlete who receives a grade of below 70% at any weekly grade check in any academic class; may not participate in extracurricular activities until all grades are at 70%.
- A student who is a senior and is not on track to graduate may not participate in or attend senior/graduation activities or events.
- A student assigned to ISS will not be allowed to participate in or attend extracurricular school activities during the ISS term.
- A student assigned OSS will not be allowed to participate in or attend extracurricular activities for a period of: 1 day OSS=1 week; 2 days OSS=2 weeks; and so forth.
- A student who receives a fourth discipline referral may not participate in extracurricular activities for a period of 3 weeks.
- A student who receives a fifth discipline referral may be removed from the extracurricular activity in which he/she is a member.

#### ***Clarifications***

1. A student who becomes ineligible may continue to practice but cannot participate in a competition or public performance.
2. A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in his/her individualized education program (IEP) or behavior intervention program (BIP) is subject to all provisions of this policy as listed.
3. Students who assist the sponsor or coach, such as team managers or trainers must meet all academic eligibility requirements even though they do not participate in actual performances/contests.
4. A student receiving an "incomplete" or "zero" in a course is considered ineligible until the

mark is replaced with a passing grade.

All organization members are required to conduct themselves in a respectable and orderly manner as they remain under school jurisdiction. Extracurricular organizations may establish standards of conduct - including consequences for misbehavior - that are in addition to those for students in general (by-laws). If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization or team.

## **ATHLETIC CONTRACT**

Each athlete is responsible for ensuring that they receive, read and understand the material contained in the Athletic Contract. The acknowledged form page of this Handbook includes acknowledgement of the contract and must be properly completed, signed and dated by each athlete and their parent. The completed acknowledgement form must be returned to the Campus AC. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in any athletic event until the Athletic Contract is returned.

## **REQUIRED SPORTS FORMS**

The Athletic Department along with the school's Health Services Department takes its responsibilities seriously when dealing with issues of health and safety as they relate to student participation in athletics. Advantage Academy is required to keep on file a copy of all required sports forms for each student who participates in any athletic practice, scrimmage, contest or event. A cooperative effort should be made by the student, his/her parent/guardian and the site athletic staff to ensure that all required sports forms are completed before the athlete's perspective sport season begins to ensure safety and compliance with district policies. Required Sports Forms include:

- Emergency Care Contact Form
- Authorization to Consent to treatment of a Minor
- Participation Physical Evaluation - Medical History
- Steroid Agreement/Acknowledgement (Grades 6-12)
- Concussion Acknowledgement

All student- athlete forms must be completed in full, signed, dated and returned to the campus AC before the student may participate in any athletic activity or event.

## **ATHLETIC FEES / PAYMENTS**

All athletes are required to pay participation or athletic fees. The fees for each sport, activity or event will be determined at the beginning of each school year. The athletic fees will be used in conjunction with gate and department fund- raising efforts to offset the cost associated with the provisions of school athletics which includes various other expenses. All fees must be paid to the campus front office before athlete will be allowed to participate in any practice or competition. A receipt of payment must be presented to the athletic Coordinator and will be required as proof of payment. The state free and reduced program does not apply to participation in any athletic program.

Equipment will not be distributed to any athlete until proof of payment is provided, and; Athletes will participate in **NO** athletic activity or event until proof of payment is provided to the head coach.

**A student-athlete who quits a sport after the committed date (see Quitting or Changing Sports below) for any reason or purpose or is removed for disciplinary reasons will not be reimbursed any fee(s) or payment(s) made to the Athletic Department.**

## **UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT**

Poorly fitting and/or damaged equipment can be a hindrance to an athlete and can often lead to unnecessary and costly injuries. Each athlete should take time at the beginning of the season to ensure proper fitting equipment. Athletes should inform their coach if their equipment does not fit properly, and players should check their equipment daily for needed repairs. Equipment that is not being used should be checked back in. Do not use someone else's equipment. If a player doesn't have or cannot find their equipment, they should check with the coach. The athlete is financially responsible for all equipment that has been issued to him/her.

School issued equipment and practice clothing is to remain at school. Students should not wear practice clothing or practice equipment home. Game uniforms are not to be taken home unless instructed to by the head coach. Athletes will be issued sport specific uniforms and equipment by the coaching staff. All uniforms and equipment issued to a student-athlete are the property of AA. The athlete will be responsible for the care, effectiveness, and security of all issued uniforms and equipment. All issued uniforms and equipment must be returned to the head coach at the conclusion of each sport season. All lost or damaged uniforms and equipment must be replaced by athlete.

Replacement cost will be paid for any uniform or equipment not returned. Returned uniforms and equipment must be clean and in good condition. Some equipment classified as personal such as caps, socks or personal protection items must be purchased individually by the athlete. These items are the personal property of the athlete and are not considered part of the uniform or equipment inventory.

## **ATHLETIC PHYSICALS**

A physical examination is required every year beginning in the 6th grade. The physical form is available from the campus athletic coordinator or coach. The physical covers all sports for the school year. A group physical may be scheduled by the athletic department in August for all athletes. Before any athlete can participate in league sports he/she must have completed a pre-participation physical evaluation and provided an updated Emergency Information Sheet.

Athletes (who do not obtain a physical at a scheduled summer examination) will be responsible for acquiring a medical/physical examination performed by a private physician before being approved to participate in any Advantage Academy athletic activity or event.

## **SELECTION / PARTICIPATION / PLAYING TIME**

A sport or team's coaching staff has the sole responsibility to select the members of any particular squad or program without outside influence or coercion. When an unusually large number of students try out for a team, the coaches must establish a predetermined plan for selecting those students who will make the team. Team members will be selected in accordance with the philosophy of Advantage Academy, the student's skill level and abilities as well as team position needs. Students with a grade average of below 70% in any subject will not be selected as part of an athletic team. Each coach must be able to justify "selections or cuts" and shall

demonstrate by objectives and/or plan that tryouts were conducted fairly. Those athletes not “selected” will be privately informed by the coaches as to why they were not selected.

Participation on an athletic team at Advantage Academy is a privilege, not a right.

Being on and maintaining one's membership on an athletic team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete and the athletic program. Each coach must utilize players that he/she feels are best suited for the conditions or demands of each particular athletic contest. These responsibilities include successful academic achievement as well as appropriate conduct at all times. Equal and/or guaranteed playing time does not exist at Advantage Academy. Coaches will consider the following when evaluating an athlete's selection, participation and playing time: Student athletes should:

- Follow all district, campus, classroom and athletic program rules;
- Maintain an average of above 75% in all subjects;
- Never use alcohol, tobacco or drugs of any kind;
- Be receptive to coaches' instructions and guidance;
- Attend all practice sessions (on time);
- Follow all team rules;
- Exhibit required performance standards;
- Care for their own and all team equipment;
- Maintain a positive attitude;
- Always be a good sport and exhibit "CHAMPION" Characteristics;
- Never criticize teammates; and
- Exhibit an overall excellent effort.

Be advised that the Athletic Director, the Assistant Director, Athletic Coordinators, Campus Administrators or Coaches reserve the right to disallow any athlete from participating in any contest or event for actions they deem contrary to the rules set forth in the District's Student/Parent Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct, and this Handbook or for actions detrimental to the team or school. An athlete who receives a serious discipline referral must accept the consequences according to school policy and in addition may receive an additional punishment determined by the Coach or Athletic Coordinator.

## **CONTEST / PRACTICES / SCRIMMAGES**

Each coach is responsible for planning, scheduling, and conducting athletic contest and practices with the following considerations taken; scheduling contest, practices, and scrimmages so that conflicts do not arise with state required testing dates and or other campus or district academic activities. A student athlete should not exceed twenty (20) hours per week of performance in all combined athletic activities in which he/she is participating. The only exception would be a play-off contest. Athletes must be excused from participation (with no penalty) for extended learning or academic tutoring sessions and for religious reasons. Coaches have the discretion as to whether or not to excuse athletes for other reasons.

Required practices should be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time as indicated below and shall include activities specific to the sport coached. Advantage Academy teams do not practice on Wednesdays after school. A coach shall not schedule practices to exceed eight (8) hours in any one (1) week after the beginning of school on Monday morning through dismissal of school on Friday afternoon except on holidays. Facility usage schedules must be coordinated

in such a way that both boys and girls teams may have equal access to workout facilities and times. No contest, practice or scrimmage shall begin prior to the end of the academic school day.

### **Early Dismissal**

At times it will be necessary to request that members of a team and the coach be excused from school in order to travel to an AWAY contest to meet an early scheduled start time. Athletes are responsible for all academic or classroom work missed because of the dismissal.

### **ATHLETIC DRESS CODE**

The athletic dress code will be strictly enforced. (Student-athletes will not participate in games if they are not in compliance of the dress code.) This includes following the school uniform dress code throughout the school day and while going to and leaving games, practices, etc. As a member of the Advantage Academy Athletic Program, all athletes are expected to be uniformly dressed and well groomed.

Appearance plays a part in the perception of an individual athlete or team as a whole, whether it is positive or negative. In addition to existing policies listed in the Student/Parent or High School Handbooks and the Student Code of Conduct, the following athletic dress guidelines shall be adhered to at all time. These adoptions include practice as well as games:

- Coaches will determine individual or team dress for game day.
- Only uniforms issued by the athletic department will be permitted or worn.
- No jewelry is to be worn while participating in any athletic activity.
- Girl's hair length will be evaluated by the head coach for each sport\*.
- Showers are recommended after practices and games.

\*The main concern for coordinators and coaches when evaluating hairstyle and/ or length is safety.

### **RETURNING TO ATHLETIC ACTIVITY (After injury/illness)**

In the event an athlete sustains an injury that is serious enough to require a physician's examination and/or treatment or has a serious prolonged illness, that athlete will not be allowed to resume athletic activities (e. g. competition, practice) until the athlete has obtained and presented to the AC a written "release" or "permission to participate" letter from a physician. All such injuries should have been reported to the coach within 14 days of occurrence.

All notes regarding an athlete's fitness or health must be copied to the Campus Nurse to be kept on file in the student's health records. In the event a question should arise concerning the athlete's injury, fitness or health the Nurses office should be contacted for the information.

In the case of extended absence due to injury or illness an athlete may be required to take a subsequent health physical before returning to activity. This decision will be made with discussion from the parent/guardian, student, coach and the Athletic Department.

### **QUITTING OR CHANGING SPORTS**

Whenever students enlist in the athletic program for a specific sport or team, they assume the responsibility of a commitment to that team, its players and the coach. Quitting or changing sports is highly discouraged and shall be communicated as such. Quitting or changing sports and the subsequent transfer to another sport (if approved), shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 1) There shall be a two-week Trial Period for every sport where by an athlete may Try or Experience that sport. If not suitable for the athlete, he/she may quit that sport without repercussion or consequence.
- 2) If an athlete remains with a team passed the two weeks, he/she will be considered Committed or “part of the team” (even if cuts or team selection has not occurred).
- 3) Choosing not to participate after the committed date will be considered Quitting.
- 4) An athlete who wishes to change sports after the committed date must make a Formal Transfer Request to the Athletic Department.
- 5) Transfer Request will be considered only after the athlete has discussed their situation with both coaches involved and both agree with the Transfer Request.
- 6) No transfers may take place without written approval from the Advantage Academy Athletic Department.

Any athlete who quits or is removed from a team or sport may not participate in another sport until the completion of the season of the sport they quit or were removed from. If an athlete quits or is removed from a team or sport for a second time, that athlete may be denied the right to participate in any athletic event or activity for the remainder of the school year.

An athlete who is dismissed from a team or sport for disciplinary reasons (e.g. violation of the Student Code of Conduct, violation of team or sport rules, un-sportsman-like conduct, insubordination, excessive unexcused absences from contest or practice) shall not be allowed to participate in another sport until the completion of the season of the sport they were removed from and all consequences imposed have been served.

*A student-athlete who quits a sport after the committed date or is removed for disciplinary reasons will not be reimbursed any fee(s) or payment(s) made for any reason or purpose.*

## **NON-SCHOOL SPORTS AND/OR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

School sport participation shall take precedence over other non-school activities in which a student may be involved. If the student-athlete misses practice, a game, or just is not able to perform up to their potential due to their participation in non-school or outside activities, the coach, with the concurrence of the campus athletic coordinator and with approval of the athletic director, shall decide the appropriate action. A season is considered to extend from the first day of the activity until the last game is completed.

## **TRAVEL**

All athletes are required to travel to and from all away contest, activities and events in transportation as provided by the school. Parents/guardians are not allowed to transport their student-athlete without prior written approval from the Athletic Department. Athletes who travel by means other than school provided school transportation without prior approval will not be allowed to participate in that contest, activity or event. Athletes shall maintain the proper level of conduct while traveling on the bus.

The Athletic Department is fully committed to helping each and every student-athlete reach his/her full potential in their chosen sport(s). In closing, we would like to assure all athletes that Advantage Academy cares about you and that the safety and well-being of our athletes is of the utmost importance to us.

If you have questions concerning your Athletic Department, Campus or individual sport program(s) or any information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact the Athletic Coordinator or the Athletic Department [eagleathletics@advantageacademy.org](mailto:eagleathletics@advantageacademy.org)

## **PARENT / GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS**

The Athletic Department, School Administrators and the coaching staff at Advantage Academy believe that parent/guardian support is essential to the success of any student- athlete. The school understands that every parent/ guardian loves their child and is concerned about their welfare and wants the best for him/her. However, allowing the coach to instruct and guide the players or team without interference is extremely important for individual and team success.

Parents are asked not to undermine the coach's authority or question his/her decisions or methods in front of their child the team or other adults. This method only increases the chance that your child and the coach will never be able to work together. As parents/guardians you have great influence over your child and they look to you for guidance. Parents are asked to help the Athletic Department in its efforts to develop their child's athletic talents by:

- Remembering that athletics is a learning experience;
- Offering positive reinforcement;
- Praising them for their attempt to improve;
- Reinforcing the importance of academics;
- Showing appreciation for their effort;
- Supporting the athlete along with all players, coaches, officials, and school administrators;
- Helping them understand the concept of team;
- Helping your athlete develop integrity;
- Explaining to the athlete, what is required of them to make his/her commitment work;
- Encouraging the athlete to continue to work hard and not be tempted to quit; and
- Volunteering your time and talents to the athletic program.

## **PARENTAL INTERACTION**

It is the responsibility of each parent to maintain positive relations with the Athletic Department and their child's coaches. Advantage Academy coaches are expected be professional, use good judgment and strive to maintain their temper. Profanity or abusive language at any time will not be tolerated by the school for any reason. Parents are entitled to answers to legitimate questions that are in regards to their child's performance and/or status.

Advantage Academy coaches are not subject to verbal abuse, intimidation or other negative behavior by parents. Any incident of abuse from a parent will be reported immediately to the Campus Principal, AP or SDA for possible administrative action. If hostile feelings or arguments ensue at any meeting, the coach will immediately terminate the meeting and ask the parent to schedule a subsequent meeting at which time the Campus Principal or a representative of the Athletic Department will be in attendance.

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS**

From time to time, conflicts between student, parents and school employees may arise. Conflicts can usually be addressed simply with an e-mail or phone call at the point of concern. The School's Conflict Resolution Process requires that conflicts be reported and addressed at the

lowest level (student/parent/guardian-employee) for proper resolution. All informal (verbal) resolution requests must be made directly to the appropriate employee at the point of concern and must be conflict specific. School staff will not address mass complaints/concerns, or resolution request that are accompanied by inappropriate behavior.

*While there's no guarantee that all parties will agree; a respectful airing of different perspectives usually leads to mutual understanding and a more productive relationship between the parties concerned.*

**Conflicts should never be discussed:**

- While an employee is performing their duties;
- Immediately following an employee completing their duties;
- During a time when other employees, parents or students are present; or
- When emotions or tempers are not controlled (employee, student, parent, administrator).

**Step 1: Informal:** Student/Parent/Guardian – School Employee (point of concern)

*Meetings may include the student unless otherwise inappropriate.* The parent/guardian should speak to the school employee most closely related to the conflict and as soon as possible.

Informal decisions or resolutions agreed upon by both parties must be communicated to and approved by Campus Administration. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached after several attempts through direct or indirect contact (**Step 1**), the student's parent/guardian should contact the campus front office to request a Conflict Resolution Form that shall be completed and forwarded as Step 2.

**Step 2: Campus Principal/Administrator**

*This conference may include all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.* The parent/guardian shall discuss the issue with campus principal/ administrator. No other issues/items will be discussed at this conference that is not **related** to the **original complaint**. Step 2 decisions or resolutions must be approved by District administration.

If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached through the Step 2 conference, the original Conflict Resolution Form will be forwarded to Step 3.

**Step 3: District Administrator**

*This conference may include all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.* The parent/guardian shall discuss the issue with a district administrator. No other issues/items will be discussed at this conference that is not **related** to the **original complaint**. Step 3 decisions or resolutions must be approved by the Superintendent and are considered final.

## INSURANCE

Injuries happen and unfortunately are sometimes inevitable when participating in sports. It is strongly recommended that parents have medical and health insurance covering their children as injuries can get expensive without coverage. Advantage Academy does not provide insurance coverage for students who sustain accidental bodily injuries while participating in school-sponsored athletic activities. Advantage Academy is not responsible for medical expenses accrued from injuries received while competing in athletic activities.

Insurance information is provided so you as the parent of a student athlete are prepared if and when your child is injured and needs medical attention. You assume all liability by allowing your student athlete to participate and by signing the required Emergency Information sheet. Below is



information about insurance policies that are independently recommended for parents/students to purchase on their own for their child(ren).

Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Co-Hub International Insurance Group - For information please contact:

Hyla Robinson-Rice, CLTC  
Manager Employee Benefits

HUB International Insurance Services  
2001 Bryan Street, Suite 800  
Dallas, TX 75201

[214-979-6246](tel:214-979-6246) Direct

[214-680-7471](tel:214-680-7471) Cell

[214-979-6204](tel:214-979-6204) Fax

<mailto:hyla.robinson-rice@hubinternational.com>

Texas Kids First - Providing affordable accident coverage and life insurance for the student in your family.

<http://www.texaskidsfirst.com/Student1.aspx>

[www.texaskidsfirst.com/docs/UFLIC\\_Plans\\_Brochure\\_2010\\_No\\_FB.pdf](http://www.texaskidsfirst.com/docs/UFLIC_Plans_Brochure_2010_No_FB.pdf)

Advantage Academy is not liable for injuries to student athletes. Each athletic who participants in grades 6-12 athletics should be adequately covered by a personal insurance policy. Students are responsible to report all injuries to their coach within 14 days of the date of the injury.

## **IN GENERAL**

Advantage Academy wishes to promote a competitive work ethic and attitude in all areas of the school's athletic program. The Athletic Director, Coordinator and Coaches have worked diligently to establish a positive rapport and successful working relationship with leagues, officials, other school districts and representatives; therefore, it is essential that parental/guardian and fan support enhance, not hinder these ongoing efforts. All concerned should be advised that Advantage Academy will not tolerate inappropriate behavior by any individual(s) who is associated with our school or students. One must understand that an athlete can be suspended from any athletic contest or event and that parents/guardians and spectators may also be suspended from attending athletic events if their behavior warrants such action. Please remember the importance of being a good role model for your child.

While one may not agree with all decisions made by the district, the athletic department or by a coaching staff, knowing when and how to address concerns, questions or specific situations is crucial. If a parent/guardian has a question or concern about the mental and physical treatment of their child, what their child needs to do to improve, or concerns about their child's behavior, please follow outlined procedures and refrain from approaching the Coach before, during or after any practice, contest or event to discuss these matters. The Campus Principal will be glad to schedule an appointment for you to meet with a coach where you may voice your concerns. Coaches are not required to discuss playing time, team strategy, play calling, or any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

The Athletic Department is fully committed to helping each and every student-athlete reach his/her full potential in their chosen sport(s). In closing, we would like to assure all parents/guardians that Advantage Academy cares about your athlete and that their safety and

well-being is of the utmost importance to us. If you have any questions concerning your Athletic Department, Campus or individual sport program(s) or any information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact the Athletic Coordinator or the Athletic Department at [eagleathletics@advantageacademy.org](mailto:eagleathletics@advantageacademy.org)

**NOTE:** PLEASE PROCEED TO PG. 19 for the *“Personal Code of Ethics for Parents, Family Members and Guest.”*

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **Personal Code of Ethics for Parents, Family Members and Guest**

The essential elements of ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship using several core principles which include: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of an athletic program is achieved when all parties involved reflect these principals. Parents and other spectators should always provide positive support, for their child, all other players, coaches, game officials, school administrators and the athletic program itself by demonstrating encouragement, good sportsmanship and support at every game, practice or other athletic activity or event. Parents shall treat all players, cheerleaders, coaches, fans, game officials and school administrators with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed or ability. Furthermore, they must respect the game officials, coaches and school administrators' authority and direction(s) at all times.

Parents and other spectators will refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products at all times during any athletic activity or event, home or away. Parents, family members (and their guests) should not engage in any kind of negative conduct with the game officials, coaches, opposing players or other parents such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures. Parents must not discuss, question or confront the coaches concerning the actions or decisions he/she has made; before, during or after any game or practice. Parents who wish to speak with coaches must schedule a meeting through the Athletic Coordinator. The Athletic Department, School Administrators and Coaches will always try to be receptive to parental input, questions and concerns.

**The Advantage Academy Athletic Department asks that all parents, family members and guest abide by the following:**

- Respect the playing of the game, appreciate and enjoy the effort of the participants;
- Recognize the officials as persons of integrity and qualification and respect their decisions accordingly;
- Refrain from creating disturbances that would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or the safety of the participants involved;
- Respect all players, coaches, and officials, regardless of team loyalty (essential for raising the standards of good sportsmanship);
- Follow all directives from school administrators, crowd control personnel and local law enforcement officials;
- Be a positive role model and supporter by encouraging the positive aspects of the sport or play. (Refrain from sideline coaching or officiating);
- Maintain a distance from players and coaches during games and contests. (team benches are for the use of team members only);
- Refrain from the use of name calling, harassment (includes sexual content) or badgering;
- Provide support for the School, Campus Administrators, Coaches, Game Officials and your child;
- Demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco free sports environment by example and by assisting in its enforcement by notifying school administrators of its use; and

- Refrain from providing food or drink to players during games and contests.

Parents should read and understand all Advantage Academy policies, procedures, rules and district handbooks as they pertain to student and parent responsibilities. Parents should also read all provided TCSAAL and TEA INFORMATION that pertain to athletics and the athlete. Parents are asked to support and assist the school's coaches and administrators with implementation and the enforcement of all required aspects of league and district athletics. Parents can demonstrate their pledge to their athlete and the school's athletic program by participating and volunteering when and where they can.

**As a caring responsible parent/guardian of an Advantage Academy student-athlete, I will:**

- 1) Remember that participation in sports should be fun and that the game is for the players, not the adults;
- 2) Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning;
- 3) Praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard;
- 4) Make my child feel like a winner regardless;
- 5) Never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition;
- 6) Not encourage any behavior(s) or practice(s) that would endanger the health, safety or welfare of my child or others in attendance;
- 7) Teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;
- 8) Emphasize skill development and the importance of practice along with their benefits and communicate such to my child;
- 9) Demand that my child treat others with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability;
- 10) Abide by all school district and campus policies and procedures;
- 11) Learn the rules of the game, the policies of the school and league regulations;
- 12) Promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win;
- 13) Refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and/or practices;
- 14) Inform the coach of any physical or health issues or concerns that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others; and
- 15) Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

## APPENDIX B:

### ATHLETIC CONTRACT

Dear Student-Athlete

We are pleased that you have expressed a desire to participate in the Advantage Academy athletic program. Each student-athlete must understand that it is an honor and privilege to be selected to represent the school and to become a member on an athletic team. By becoming a member, you assume a responsibility and must fulfill your commitment to your teammates, your coaches and ultimately to yourself and your family. As a student-athlete you must recognize that you will be held to a higher standard of accountability than that of the general school population. Student-athletes are considered representatives of the school and must demonstrate the highest levels of character, leadership, and behavior at all times. Before any Advantage Academy athlete begins play, they must make their commitment known by signing this contract and complying with the following Requirements:

As a **student-athlete**, I commit to:

- Following the spirit and the letter of the rules and regulations of my chosen sport(s) and of Advantage Academy at all times;
- Maintaining regular attendance at school and attending all scheduled games, practices, and meetings on time. (athletes must be in attendance at school the day of any contest/game to be eligible to play);
- Maintaining passing grades in all classes from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year; ***below 70%-Failing.....75% or below-Required Tutoring***
- Abstaining from the use of illegal chemical substances including drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- Exhibiting leadership and being a positive role model for my teammates and my classmates;
- Continually striving to contribute to the program and exercise responsible sportsmanship;
- Trusting and following all decisions of my coaches, especially the head coach;
- Abstaining from bullying, discrimination, and harassment in any manner;
- Discussing issues of concern with my coach, team captains and parents before they become problems;
- Communicating my sports schedule well in advance to my parents and teachers;
- Scheduling my personal life so that it does not conflict with team expectations;
- Giving my coach notice well in advance of any commitments I have that conflict with the team schedule;
- Abiding by all the training rules set forth by my coach, the athletic department and Advantage Academy;
- Maintaining a positive and healthy training regime and
- Returning all issued equipment and paying for replacement of missing or lost items.

As **parent/guardian**, I pledge to:

- Work closely with all school personnel to ensure an appropriate academic and athletic experience for my son/daughter throughout his/her school year;
- Cooperate with coaches, school personnel and other parents for a successful and wholesome athletic experience;
- Support my son/daughter's commitment to their team by attending as many contests, team meetings, and special events as my schedule will permit;
- Help my son/daughter understand the school policies and procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, the Student-Parent and Secondary Handbooks;
- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other athletic event;
- Arrange for my son/daughter to attend all practices, contests, special events and follows all training rules;
- Stay informed about my son/daughter's athletic schedule to minimize conflicts between their academic schedule and our family schedule;
- Discuss issues of concern with my son/daughter and the coach before they become problems; and
- Affirm that it is the responsibility of the coach to determine strategy and player selection.

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**Please Note:**

When participating in athletics, the possibility exists that an athlete may sustain an injury; it is imperative that parents and the athlete acknowledge this risk. While our overriding concern is the physical well-being of our students, there is a possibility that an athlete may suffer a severe injury as a result of participation in athletics.

***\*Please confirm your pledge and your permission for your son/daughter to participate in Advantage Academy's Athletic Program by signing the acknowledgement page and returning it to the Campus Athletic Coordinator.***

## APPENDIX C:

**Advantage Academy**  
**Athletic Handbook / Personal Code of Ethics**  
**Athletic Contract**  
**2023-2024**  
**Acknowledgement Page**

We (athlete & parent/guardian) have viewed the Advantage Academy *Athletic Handbook for 2023-2024*, the *Personal Code of Ethics for Parents, Family Members and Guest* and the *Athletic Contract* on line. We understand that these policies have been approved by the school's Board of Directors and are part of the districts rules and regulations that apply to all student-athletes and their parents/guardians. We acknowledge and consent to all requirements stated and implied in each publication/document and have been made aware of the possible consequences faced by failing to adhere to the outlined rules. By signing below we (athlete & parent/guardian) agree to all Athletic Handbook, Personal Code of Ethics and Athletic Contract terms and conditions.

Print <i>Athletes Name</i>	Grade	Campus
Athletes Signature	Date	
Print <i>Parent/Guardian Name</i>		
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date	
Print <i>Parent/Guardian Name</i>		
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date	

Please sign, date and return this acknowledgement page to the Athletic Department. Students will not be allowed to participate in athletic events or practice until this page is completed and returned. The Handbook, Code of Ethics and Contract are available on line for your future reference. If you would like a printed copy of any of these documents, please let your Coach know.