

AVELLA AREA
JR/SR
HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

CODE OF DISCIPLINE FOR ATHLETES

This discipline code will govern the attitude, behavior and actions of all team members and managers.

1. Alcohol Use or Use of Controlled Dangerous Substances:

If you are found to be drinking alcoholic beverages, or using illegal drugs or steroids by any coach, teacher, or administrator, you will not be permitted to participate in any school sports program until you have had an intake session with C.A.R.E., dealing with drug and alcohol abuse. Depending upon the findings of the intake meeting, you may be required to participate in a C.A.R.E. program before being reinstated to the team. A repeat infraction will result in a dismissal from the squad.

2. Use of Tobacco Products:

If you are found to be using tobacco, in any form, during the season (in or out of school), you will be suspended for one scheduled event. A repeat infraction will result in a dismissal from the squad.

3. Care of Property:

A. If you are caught stealing equipment or personal possessions from any member of your team, you will be disciplined by the high school administration.

B. If athletic equipment is not returned at the end of the season, the athlete will not be issued equipment for any other sport. If the athlete is not participating in another sport, he/she will come under the jurisdiction of the school's obligation rules and will be required to pay for the replacement cost of all items.

C. Each team member is responsible for keeping the dressing room clean and will be disciplined for defacing or destroying any team or school property.

4. Time Regulations Involving Away Contests:

Everyone will be advised of the bus schedule the day of the contest. We will not wait for anyone, except in case of emergency and only if the coach is notified in advance.

5. Overnight Athletic Event Meal Reimbursement:

When a student athlete attends an athletic event that requires an overnight stay, the District will provide a meal allowance of $25 per day. Receipts must be turned into the District within one week of the athletic event. The head coach is responsible for collecting all athletes' receipts. No cash advances prior to the events will be awarded. If at such events receipts will not be available to show proof of purchase, the athlete will be responsible for purchasing his/her own meals, or upon request the District will provide a bagged lunch for the athletes. The District will not provide meals to athletes for events not requiring an overnight stay.

6. Drug Testing

There is a drug testing policy in effect for all athletes. (See Drug Testing for Student Athletes Policy adopted by the Board of Education on 9/18/97, in the Secondary Administration Office.)

7. Regulations Regarding Practice:

A. If you are not at practice and your name is on the absentee sheet, the coaches will assume you are legally absent until it is proven otherwise. If you are suspended, for any reason, you are suspended from the squad until that suspension is lifted.

B. If you are absent from school on any given day, including the day of a contest, you will not practice or participate on that given day. Students arriving at school after 9:00 a.m. will be counted as absent. Cutting school for any part of the day will result in disciplinary action which may lead to non-participation in that sport, either for practice or for a game. You will be excused only if you provide a medical excuse or release due to a funeral.

C. If you are excused from school earlier than the regular dismissal time, you will be permitted to practice or play in the game that day, only if you have attended at least 50% of the school day (at least four periods).

D. If you miss practice without the consent of your coach, you may face disciplinary action. Please do not ask to be excused from practice unless you have a legitimate reason. Excessive absence from practice will result in dismissal from the team.

E. If students have to drive to practice, they must go directly to the practice area from school. Violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action.

F. Lateness to practice will not be permitted. Continued lateness will result in disciplinary action.

G. If practices are not held right after school, students are to leave the school premises and return at the assigned practice time.

H. If the student(s) do not serve their detention on the assigned day, they will not be permitted to participate in any Extracurricular Activities until the detention is served.

8. Attitude During Games and Practice:

A. If an athlete is found to be guilty of exhibitionism, displaying open hostility, profanity, or obscene gestures towards any coaches, officials, opposing players, teammates, or fans, he/she will be immediately removed from that contest. If, in the opinion of the coach, the actions are considered flagrant, additional disciplinary action will be taken.

B. The coaches expect cooperation during practice routines. If the coaches and players are to achieve maximum success on the practice field or in the gym, it is imperative that each player be in the right place at the right time; performing the right task.

9. Behavior on Game Buses:

Violation of established bus regulations will not be permitted. Discipline will result from the violation of any of the following behaviors:

a) Use of tobacco in any form
b) Profane language
c) Throwing articles while riding the bus
d) Any immoral act
e) Loud and boisterous noises
f) Defacing or destroying bus equipment

g) Fighting
h) Any behavior which would endanger the safety of the bus and its occupants
i) Refusal to obey a legitimate request of the driver
j) Heckling the driver
k) Use of alcohol or drugs
l) Use of radios or headsets

10. Injuries and Illness

A. If a player is injured or ill, that player must personally report to the coach. The coach will make a decision as to whether or not the injury or illness will permit practice.

B. In the event of an injury to an athlete during a contest, the medical doctor in charge will make the final decision. In the absence of a medical doctor, the head coach will consult with the trainer (if available) concerning the further participation by the athlete in that event. If the medical doctor or trainer is not available, participation of the athlete will be at the discretion of the coach.

C. Athletes under a doctor's care must provide the coach with written permission from the doctor before continuing practice.

D. If any coach has an inquiry concerning an injured player's medical status, he/she will consult with the district nurse.

11. Quitting a Sport:

An athlete who decides not to finish a particular sports season, who wants to start participating in another sport, must first receive a written release from the coach of the sport which is being deleted. All such requests must come before the first PIAA event of the season. Without such a release, the student may not substitute a new sport for the deleted sport.

12. Obligations

If fines or obligations are owed from the prior or current year a minimum of 25% must be paid before start of season. A payment plan will then be set in place for the remaining balance.

13. Miscellaneous:

A. Any incident that warrants disciplinary action that may not be covered in this Code of Discipline shall be handled by a conference consisting of the Principal, Athletic Director, coach, player, and any individuals who have knowledge of the incident.

B. Any incident that warrants athletic disciplinary action, could also lead to suspension or expulsion from school.

C. If there are any problems or concerns with the athletic program, the chain of command will be followed: Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent.

D. All parents/guardians are required to drop off and pick up his/her student athlete(s) in a timely manner to/from all practices and games. Violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action.

POLICY GOVERNING SPORTS AWARDS

Section I - Letters

A. The requirement for earning a letter in:

Football	must have participated in one half of the quarters played plus one more quarter.
Basketball	must have participated in one half of the quarters played plus one more quarter.
Wrestling	must have participated in one half of the matches plus one more match.
Baseball	must have participated in one half of the games plus one game during the regular season; pitchers must pitch at least three games.
Softball	must have participated in one half of matches plus one additional match.
Volleyball	must have participated in one half the matches plus one additional match.
Tennis	must have participated in one half the matches plus one.
Golf	must have participated in one half the matches plus one.
Track & Cross Country	must have participated in one half the meets plus one.
Rifle	must shoot in one half the matches plus one.
Cheerleading	must complete one school year of cheerleading activities as set in the Cheerleading Constitution.
Managers	must successfully complete one season in one sport.
Scorekeepers	must successfully complete two seasons in one sport.

B. Dispositions in Case of Injury

After one-third of the season, you must have participated in one half of the quarters, periods, matches, games (baseball, softball), and sets, before the injury occurred.

Section II - Participation Award

A person who earns a participation certificate in the same sport, for three years will receive a varsity letter at the end of the third year. This does not entitle the athlete to receive a varsity jacket.

Section III - Letterman's Jackets

1. Any athlete or manager may order a jacket after they have lettered for two years in the same sport. They will be expected to pre-pay 100% of the cost of the jacket prior to the finalization of the order.

2. A scorekeeper may order a letterman's jacket after lettering for three years in the same sport. They will be expected to pre-pay 100% of the cost of the jacket prior to the finalization of the order.

Section IV - Special Awards and Award Schedule

1. The first time a student letters, they will receive a varsity letter and a pin.

2. Any athlete who has lettered in any sport will receive a bar after their first letter, at the conclusion of the sport season.

3. A student lettering in more than one sport will receive one letter only. Each sport will be recognized by the issuance of a pin.

Section V - Participation Certificate (Non-Letter Earners)

1. The athlete must present him-herself for each and every practice, unless a waiver has been granted by the coach for a legitimate excuse.

2. The coach will award the Participation Certificate without regard to the exact amounts of time or number of games/matches in which the athlete participated. Instead, the award will be based on readiness to participate by the athlete. Clearly, the athlete must present a proper attitude and be in proper physical condition at all times. Failure to participate, at the request of the coach, immediately disqualifies the athlete.

3. Any athlete who is disciplined by the coach, for any reason, may be disqualified. This action must have the approval of the administration prior to the notification of the athlete or their parents.

TEAM TRANSPORTATION

There has been a recent trend involving parental requests for athletes, band members, cheerleaders, and other individuals to be excused from the bus travel of the various sports and activities. For the most part these requests have been based on convenience rather than need. A number of concerns arise when such requests are made:

1. As we attempt to be accountable for the safety and welfare of each child, it is increasingly difficult to account for the cumulative total number of students, as individuals come or go at will.

2. As we try to maintain team/group unity, which is very critical to performance, we find that the loss of team/group members is counterproductive to that outcome.

3. As we are engaged in the management of our student groups at away activities, it distracts our personnel as they must try to cope with various last minute requests from a variety of sources.

4. As we try to protect our school district and our coaches/advisors from various legal liabilities, it places critical decision-making in the hands of too many individuals and thus presents jeopardy.

We understand all of the reasons which contribute to your requests for your son/daughter to ride to or away from a given activity with you or your designee. However, we must ask you to relegate your requests to absolute necessity rather than convenience. The following rules will apply to all such requests.

1. All requests must be directed to the coach, directly by the parent. This should be done by direct contact (including a written request), parent square or email. All requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the activity.

2. You will be asked to establish the necessity for your request.

3. Students will be released only to the parent/guardian of the child and only when that individual establishes direct and personal contact with a coach or advisor.

4. Any student who leaves an away activity in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate administrative action.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school which is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. ("P.I.A.A.") must adhere to the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules for student athletes. If you fail to comply with the P.I.A.A. rules, you will lose your eligibility to represent your school in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, your school or team may be penalized. It is therefore important for you to be aware of the requirements to which you are subject.

The information contained here highlights and summarizes the major eligibility requirements you must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. It does not list every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to grades 7 through 12.

The principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either present or future, you should see your school principal/athletic director, who have available a complete copy of all the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules. Your principal/athletic director may also obtain from the appropriate P.I.A.A. District Committee a formal ruling as to your athletic eligibility.

AGE

You may not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30th immediately preceding the school year. (15th birthday where interscholastic competition limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where limited to grades 7 through 9.)

ATTENDANCE

1. You must be regularly enrolled in your school and in full-time attendance there.

2. You are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled.

3. If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of 60 school days following your 20th day of absence.

TRANSFERS

See Article VI, Transfer and Residency, of PIAA Handbook.

PERIOD OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION AND GRADE REPETITION

1. You will lose your eligibility when you have been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade. If you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior.

2. You may participate only one season in each sport during each school year.

3. A junior high/middle school student may not participate in any sport for more seasons than there are grades in his school above sixth grade.

MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for the remainder of the season if, while a member of your high school team, you participate in an athletic contest as an individual or a member of another team in the same sport during the same season, unless your school principal waives this rule by sending an appropriate letter to the P.I.A.A. executive director.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

1. You must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by your principal as a full-time curriculum.

2. You must maintain an acceptable grade in that approved curriculum throughout each grading period. Your school will determine what constitutes an acceptable grade. Grades will be reviewed on a weekly basis. You cannot fail 2 classes.

3. You must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period. A major subject is defined as math, science, English, or social studies. One credit will be permitted for VoTech majors and one credit will be permitted for VoAg majors. These credits may substitute as "equivalent" units of credit for the students in those departments.

CONCLUSION

Participating in a high school sport at Avella is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the coach of a team at Avella has the right to establish rules and regimentation for the common good of the team. In order for a team to function properly, controlled, reasonable, and impartial discipline is a matter of necessity.

The coach's door is always open. We encourage communication between player and coach. We cannot have good team morale if players are secretly harboring anxieties. If you have questions, come to the coaches and get them answered. The ultimate goal of any coach of any team sport is to win, and to maintain harmony, happiness, and good will among players and the coaching staff.

I have read the Athlete's Code of Conduct and I understand and agree to the rules and regulations as they are stated. It is clear to me that I am responsible for conducting myself in conformity with these rules and that I will face sanctions in those instances where I violate the code of conduct.

_____
Print Athlete's Name

We have reviewed the Athlete's Code and we have discussed the rules and regulations.

_____

Date Signature of Parent Signature of Athlete

RELEASE FORM

_____ has my permission to leave with his/her parent/guardian on _____.

REASON:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____
Parent/Guardian

_____
Coach