

# Avondale Athletics



## Student-Athlete Handbook

Revised 2024

# Table of Contents

<b>Athletic Program Philosophy.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Athletic Information.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Rules of Eligibility for Participation.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Outside of School Athletic Competitions.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Attendance Policy.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pay to Play Policy.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Transportation.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Uniforms and Equipment.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Insurance.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Injuries.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Use, Possession, or Sale of Tobacco, Alcohol, or Drug Substances.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Summer and Off-Season Programs.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Extenuating Violations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Social Media Policy.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Awards.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Booster Club.....</b>	<b>12</b>

# **Avondale School District**

## **Athletic Program Philosophy**

The goal of athletics in education is to help young people develop physically, emotionally, and intellectually. As a student-athlete you are a highly visible representative of your team, your school and your community. You are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct and sportsmanship as a member of the team. Whether on the court, on the sidelines or just wearing your colors, you will be commended for, or held responsible for, your actions. It is expected that when you participate on a school team that you make a substantial commitment to that team with the following priorities: Avondale Schools expects good sportsmanship, fair play and good citizenship at all times for its athletes, coaches, and teams. Student-athletes not in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Athlete Code of Conduct during the Michigan High School Athletic Association athletic school year of August through June inclusive of both will be disciplined under both. Rules which have been adopted by Avondale Schools and are also covered by MHSAA (Michigan High School Sports Athletic Association) rules are indicated by an asterisk (\*). Students are subject to all MHSAA rules and regulations even though such rules may not be included specifically in this document.

### **Athletic Information:**

**Avondale High School .....(248) 537-6100**

**2800 Waukegan Street**

**Auburn Hills, MI 48326**

**Avondale Middle School .....(248) 537-6300**

**1445 W. Auburn Road**

**Rochester Hills, MI 48309**

**Athletic Director: Melissa Tuccini [melissa.tuccini@avondaleschools.org](mailto:melissa.tuccini@avondaleschools.org)**

## **NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center:**

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

## **RULES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**

An asterisk (\*) indicates an MHSAA Rule

The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the interscholastic athletic program.

### **A. \*ENROLLMENT**

The student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in which he/she competes or must move into the school district with his/her parents or guardian with whom they lived during the current school year. The student must reside in the school service area in which he/she attends school unless he/she has received prior district and MHSAA approval to compete in a different school.

### **B. \*AGE**

**High School:** A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under nineteen (19) years of age. When a student's nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of the school year.

**Middle School:** A sixth, seventh or eighth grade student must be under fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age respectively. A student who reaches that age after September 1 is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

### **C. \*PARTICIPANT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

A student must have a physical examination by a physician certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. This physical must take place after April 15 of the previous school year to be used for the current school year. All high school and middle school athletes must be registered into Final Forms and have their physical form scanned and uploaded. Student athletes cannot try out or practice until fully registered into Final Forms.

#### **D. \*SEASONS OF COMPETITION**

A student, while enrolled in grades nine through twelve, shall be eligible to compete in no more than four (4) seasons in either first or second semester athletics. For example, a student may not compete in more than four (4) seasons of a particular sport: football, soccer, tennis, etc. Students enrolled in grades seven or eight are not limited in the number of seasons of competition. A student shall be limited to participation in only one sport season when that sport leading to a state championship is sponsored twice during the school year.

**E.\*SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:** A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students in grades six, seven or eight are not limited in the number of semesters in which they may be eligible.

**F. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY -** A student must earn credit in a minimum of five (5) classes during the previous semester and must maintain passing grades in a minimum of five (5) classes during the current semester to be eligible to participate in athletics. Middle School: A student must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes during the previous semester and must maintain passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes during the current semester to be eligible to participate in athletics. For a student to maintain academic eligibility during a semester he/she must be passing the required number of classes. Compliance will be checked at the end of each marking period. If the student is not meeting the requirements, the student will be ineligible for competition until the requirement is met, a period of not less than one calendar week.

#### **\*OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

A student who has participated in any athletic contest as a member of a school team may not participate in the same sport in the same season in any athletic competition outside of and not sponsored by the school. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sports meets or contests during that sport season while not representing his/her school. Seniors may participate in All Star contests subject to approval from school administration and the MHSAA, contact your athletic administrator with questions

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a period from a minimum of the next three contests up to a maximum of one school year, depending on the violation.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR ATHLETICS**

---

**Students are to attend school during the total school day in order to participate in athletics during the same day or evening. Should there be a situation whereby a student cannot attend school they must email the athletic directors (melissa.tuccini@avondale schools.org) to receive an excused absence, the student will be allowed to practice/play due to a family emergency, college visit, funeral or medical visits during the school day.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY: A student with an unexcused absence from school may not participate in the athletic contest or practice scheduled for that day.**

### **ATTENDANCE AT ATHLETIC PRACTICE SESSIONS AND CONTESTS**

**A. Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury and other required school or family commitments; the student shall communicate and make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.**

**B. Participants shall be excused from team practice during regular school vacation periods when taking part in a school sponsored or parent approved trip. It is the expectation of the coach and athletic administration that the student will notify the coach prior to the excused absence.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY: A participant, who fails to attend a regularly scheduled practice session during a season and receives an unexcused absence, will be withheld from athletic contests at the discretion of the head coach and team rules and policies. Upon reinstatement, the participant will be considered a regular member of the team. If an additional unexcused absence occurs, the participant may be excluded from team membership at the discretion of the head coach.**

## **PAY TO PARTICIPATE**

---

The Avondale School District has a Pay to Participate program for Athletics: Grades 6-12.

Pay fees here: <https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/56710/>

**High School Sports \$150 per student per sport**

**\$75 for a Student who qualifies for Reduced Lunch**

**FREE for students that qualify for Free Lunch**

**\*\*There is a \$300 student cap or a \$500 family cap**

**Middle School Sports \$100 per student per sport**

**\$50 for a Student who qualifies for Reduced Lunch**

**Free for Students that qualify for Free Lunch**

**\*\*There is a \$200 student cap or a \$500 family cap**

Payments can be made by check to Avondale School District or through Avondale E-Funds. There is also a program available to assist families who are experiencing hardship and cannot afford the fees.

<https://avondale.familyportal.cloud/benefits/onlyapplying>

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

### **IMPORTANT PARAMETERS TO UNDERSTAND:**

- 1. Fees and a parent/student-signed Athletics Pay to Participate contract must be submitted to the coach or Athletic Office before an athlete may participate in any scrimmage or competition. Resolution of a non-payment issue will ultimately result in the student's removal from the team.**
- 2. The participation fee in no way guarantees contest-playing time for an athlete. Teams will continue to operate as they did before a participation fee was accessed, including any expenses for uniforms, equipment and transportation for which students previously funded personally or through team fund-raising efforts. There will be no refunds of participation fees for withdrawal, ineligibility, code of conduct violation or movement from the district except for the following circumstance:**

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

**The student and family must submit a request for refund in writing to the Avondale School District Athletic Director.**

**The request must include a written verification of the injury from the student's physician;**

**The student and family must acknowledge that they understand the receipt of such a refund will constitute the student's official resignation from the team and the forfeiture of all team activities, awards, honors, attendance at team banquets, etc.**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

**DISTRICT PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION:** The District's choice to offer round-trip transportation to an away contest/practice is dependent on several factors including (but not limited to) location, contest level, bus availability, and parent involvement. Drop-only transportation may be offered based on the same factors.

**RETURN TRANSPORTATION POLICY:** Any student traveling to an away athletic contest/practice with round-trip transportation provided by the District, shall return to their home school on the same vehicle after the contest/practice is over. The only exception is if a parent/guardian notifies the head coach in writing that they will take their student athlete home after the contest in lieu of a return bus. For drop-only transportation, parents should make prior arrangements with the coach for the student's return with the student's parents or the legal guardian.

### **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Athletic participants are responsible for the care, security and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Athletic participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in athletics in succeeding seasons until this obligation is met.



## **INSURANCE**

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

## **INJURIES**

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

## **USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF TOBACCO, CANNABIS, ALCOHOL, OR DRUG SUBSTANCES**

Excellent physical and mental condition is necessary for high performance in athletics as well as to protect the personal health and safety of the participant. Students participating or planning to participate in the athletic program are prohibited from the use, possession, or transmittal of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, performance enhancing substances, or any prescription drug substance not prescribed to the student by a doctor. Said students are prohibited from attending any activity or gathering at which illegal drugs are present and/or being consumed. In addition, said students are prohibited from attending any activity or gathering at which tobacco or alcohol are present and/or being consumed, unless the activity or gathering is supervised by a parent or legal guardian of a student or students, and the tobacco and/or alcohol are not being used or consumed by persons under the age of 18 with respect to tobacco, or under the age of 21 with respect to alcohol.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** All referrals for disciplinary action shall go to the administrative personnel designated by the principal.

**FIRST OFFENSE:** A student found in violation o for the first time shall be restricted from interscholastic athletic competition (non-scrimmages) for 20% of scheduled contests. If less than 20% of the regular season remains, the suspension shall carry over to any post season contests in that sport. This policy will be enforced on the next consecutive date(s) of student's current athletic

season or next athletic season whichever comes first following the alleged violation barring weather cancellations of games or other unforeseen circumstances.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** A student found to be in violation a second time will be excluded from all interscholastic participation for the remainder of the season.

**THIRD OFFENSE:** A student found in violation a third time during his/her middle school or high school years will be excluded from all interscholastic participation for the remainder of his/ her middle school or high school years.

#### **INTERPRETATIONS:**

1. **ATTENDING:** Being present on the property. A student will not be deemed to have attended a prohibited activity or gathering of this code if the student can present convincing evidence that the student immediately left the prohibited activity or gathering after the student knew or reasonably should have known that tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs were present and/or being consumed at the activity or gathering, and that the student in question did not himself or herself consume such tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs. Whether or not the student can present convincing evidence shall be left to the judgment of the building administrator or designee.

2. Athletic coaches or team rules may impose greater penalties than these minimum penalties.

3. The penalties for violation of this section are cumulative for the four (4) years of a student's participation for high schools or the three (3) years for our middle schools.

4. Interscholastic athletic competition is defined as contests between two, or more schools and complies with the MHSAA limits of competition.

5. A scrimmage does not count as an athletic contest. Suspended students are ineligible.

6. A student's penalty will be enforced on the next consecutive contest(s) of the current athletic season or next athletic season whichever comes first following the alleged violation. Cancellation due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances will not count as an athletic contest.

7. A student, in completing his/her penalty must begin and finish the sports season in good standing.

8. A student with two (2) offenses (second offenses penalty) that occur in different MHSAA calendar years will be required to fulfill the game suspension(s) and will be placed on the “second offense step” with eligibility for the remainder of the school year.

9. Any athlete disciplined of this Student Athlete Code during his/her current sports season as defined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association calendar will not be nominated by his/her coach for any Avondale Schools’ honors (i.e., Captain, MVP).

## **SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON PROGRAMS**

A variety of sports camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered to athletes during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches, parks, and recreation, and the district community education program. These programs provide opportunities to aspiring athletes to improve their skills in a chosen sport. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary. Athletes shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team the succeeding season.

## **EXTENUATING VIOLATIONS**

Students participating in the Avondale Athletic Program are to refrain from any infraction of school and \*team athletic rules not covered explicitly by the above Student Athlete Code and the Student Code of Conduct. A team member who is suspended from school as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct may not participate in practices or contests because the suspension covers all school activities. However, a team member ruled academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages may still be able to practice with the team. Any participant who is dismissed from the team for the remainder of a sports season will have forfeited the opportunity to earn an athletic award.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA USE & OTHER BEHAVIORS**

Student-Athletes are prohibited from the following acts on social media:

1. Posting derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, other student athletes, teachers, or administrators of our school or other schools.
2. Posting demeaning statements, inflammatory language, or threats to any other person, school, or organization.
3. Incriminating photos or statements depicting or insinuating violence, bullying, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, or the selling, possessing, or use of controlled substances.

4. **Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.**
5. **Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or felony criminal damage to property.**

**Student-Athletes are reminded that:**

1. **Personal identifying information posted on social networking sites becomes semi-public information. Your personal page and information can be easily accessed.**
  2. **Potential current and future employers and college admissions offices often access information you place on social media. You should think about how the information or photos you post could affect your future.**
  3. **Freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social media sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.**
  4. **Photos put on the social network site's server become their property.**
- Student-Athletes are reminded that:**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** The coach and/or athletic director reserve the right to deny athletic participation to any student whose inappropriate actions or conduct are not specifically covered in this handbook or individual team rules.

## **Awards**

---

**The following awards are available to athletes:**

- **Purple & Gold (Awarded by Boosters) – All teams – for spirit, sportsmanship, leadership**
- **Numerals (graduation year) – Freshman team**
- **Numerals (graduation year) – J.V. Team**
- **Varsity Letter – 1 st Year Varsity**
- **2 nd Year Varsity Certificate – 2 nd Year Varsity**
- **3 rd Year Varsity Certificate – 3 rd Year Varsity**
- **4 th Year Varsity Certificate – 4 th Year Varsity**

### **Academic Awards:**

- **Avondale Scholar Athlete (all levels) 3.3 Unweighted GPA or better**
- **OAA Scholar Athlete (Varsity only) 3.5 Unweighted GPA or better**

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

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

The Avondale Booster Club is dedicated to the support of the Avondale High School athletic program. The Booster Club has been involved in the fundraising of many projects over the past several years, and also has purchased a great deal of equipment, complementing and supplementing the athletic program. The Booster Club provides the Purple & Gold Award for each team, and also purchases the League Championship patches for teams that have achieved this status. The club also sponsors the annual Dick Bye Scholarship Award.

The Booster Club has included all sports and interested boosters to act as Sport Representatives for individual sports. These representatives attend Booster Club meetings and are the principal contact between the Booster Club and the sport they represent. All sports reps provide their respective coaches a ready contact for support. Parents and others are urged to join the Avondale Booster Club and become active. Regular Booster Club meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, September thru June. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*THANK YOU for your  
support of Avondale  
Athletics!*

