



Student-Athlete and Parent  
Handbook  
Department of Athletics  
2021-2022

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The Athletic Department at AASD consists of:

**Varsity:**

Co-ed Soccer  
Volleyball  
Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Track and Field  
Flag Football

**Purpose of Extracurricular Activities**

The purpose of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is to provide a positive and well-rounded learning environment that will assist in each student-athlete's growth and maturity. It is our goal to develop strong character in our student-athletes and to prepare them for their future after they graduate from our school. This part of their school experience emphasizes academic excellence, discipline, hard work, and high moral standards. As teachers and coaches of our young people, we constantly strive to build a strong foundation for our student-athletes so they will grow and mature into responsible and productive citizens.

**Governing Associations**

The State of Georgia Department of Education and the Atlanta Athletic Conference (AAC) govern all extracurricular activities and athletics for the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, including academic eligibility, residency rules and policies, are set forth by the State of Georgia Department of Education and the Atlanta Athletic Conference (AAC).

**What is the AAC?**

Over twenty years ago, a number of small, independent schools in the metro area joined to form an athletic league, the Atlanta Area Conference. For more information, visit the AAC's official website: [www.atlantaathleticconference.com](http://www.atlantaathleticconference.com).

**What is the APAC?**

Five years ago, The Cottage School, along with Cumberland Academy, Sophia Academy, The Swift School, and the Waldorf School came together to create a middle school league called the Atlanta Private Athletic Conference (APAC). It was designed with similar attributes to the AAC. This league has grown and both Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and Mills Springs Academy have joined.

## **Physical Examination**

1.41 Students must have a certificate of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic tryout, practices, voluntary workouts or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

(a) Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. **EXCEPTION:** Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next school year.

(b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant. (c) The exam must be signed by an M.D., D.O., or by a Physician's Assistant, or an Advance Practice Nurse who has been delegated that task by an M.D., or D.O.

AASD Athletics Department strongly encourage each student-athlete to complete their physical examination during the summer before the next school year so the students will be cleared to play all sports during the school year.

## **Code of Conduct:**

Student-athletes who participate in the athletic program at Atlanta Area School for the Deaf are expected to be positive leaders and role models in their school and community. Participation is a privilege, not a right and with that comes responsibility to lead on and off the field/court. As a student athlete, you are not only representing your team, but your school, community, and family. You are expected to be on your best behavior, in and out of school. The following addresses all Panthers student-athletes "Code of Conduct" in school, before and after a particular sports season, and away from school.

## **Requirements for Student-Athletes:**

- Physical Examination-AASD is committed to the health and safety of our student athletes. With that in mind, we require an annual sports physical each year after May 15th to be included with their athletics registration.
- Team Fee(s)
- Wavier/Liability Form and Athlete's Information
- Concussion Fact Sheet
- Commitment, dedication and great attitude!

**Sports Fee(s):**

Each player must pay the sports fee for each sport they participate in the school year. The player can pay in full or be on a payment plan. The payment plan must be approved by the Athletic Director.

- The player may not participate in next season's sports if he or she did not pay for the previous season. The player must pay the previous season's sport fee in full before he or she participates in the next sport, unless they are on a payment plan approved by the Athletic Director.
- If still have outstanding balance from the previous year, the player can't participate in sports until the balance is paid (previous year and current season).

**Teachers/Coaches:**

The coaches who lead these young people are teachers first. They are part of the AASD family because they are ALL excellent teachers who care about their students and are willing to work hard to provide the most successful environment possible.

**Supervision:**

Coaches are responsible for the athletes under their supervision and should be present and in control of the activities taking place while students are under their care. The coach's responsibility starts at the time the students have been instructed to report for practice, games, or meets (home or away) and ends when the last student athlete has left. Since the coaches are required to remain until all student athletes have been picked up, transportation arrangements by parents need to be done in advance. Parents should be on time for pick up after games and practices.

**Age Policy:**

- Players must be age of 13 or in 7th grade, to play on a coed team.
- On single-gender team, the player must be in 6th grade or up.
- Players must be age of 14 and up or in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to go on out of state trips or overnight trip.

**Transportations for Games:**

Transportations will be provided for the teams to the games and back to the school. The coaches and players will communicate with the parents for the pick-up times. Coaches and players will try to tell their parents/guardians the ETA once they leave the campus and to keep them updated.

- If parents/guardians are present at the away games, you may bring your child home from the games. You need to let the coaches know before you leave.

**Late Pick Up:**

Parents need to pick up their child up at a reasonable time after their practices or games. If the parents are late for more than 30 minutes at three different times, the athlete(s) will be removed from the team for the current sport and season.

**MARTA/Uber:**

The student-athletes can take MARTA if we have the permission form that is signed by parents/guardians on file.

- Must be the age of 14 and up

Uber/Lyft: You must be the age of 18 or up and have an account with the Uber on their personal phone to ride Uber/Lyft.

**Athlete Playing Time:**

There are many factors that determine playing time, such as practice attendance, attitude, commitment, effort and athletic ability. There are many decisions made on a regular basis by the coaching staff. It is the coach's responsibility to decide which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play what position, and how long each athlete should play. These decisions are often difficult to make, but are made **only by the coaching staff** and are approached very seriously after having observed the athlete in practice sessions and scrimmages.

**Missing practice:**

An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with at the discretion of the coach.

**School Day Attendance Eligibility:**

A student must be in attendance for at least a half day in order to participate in a practice or game, (3 full periods on a traditional schedule, 2 full blocks on the block schedule).

**School Attendance after Game Days:**

The student-athlete must attend school the day after game days. If missed school without an excuse note, the player will not play the next game.

- 1st offense: the player will be benched
- 2nd offense and on: the player will not dress or travel with the team

## **In-School and Out-Of-School Suspension**

Students will not be allowed to participate in activities on the days they have been assigned to in-school suspension or until they have served their out-of-school suspension. There will be no adjustments made in the assignment of suspension days to allow a student to participate in any activities.

- For each ISS or OSS day, they will be benched a game. The players are required to go to the games to support their team while being benched but they will not dress to play.
- Players will be sent home on the day(s) and not practice for each ISS or OSS day assigned. For example, if the player was assigned one day of ISS on a Friday but the team does not have practice, the player will be sent home on the next scheduled practice day.
- If the player receives a total of three suspensions for three different incidents in the same season (Fall, Winter or Spring), they will be banned from the current sport and season.
- If the player receives a half day of ISS or OSS, he or she will sit out half of practice and will be benched for half a game.

\*Subject to change\*

### **Authority:**

As per order by the school principal, the assistant principals of high school and middle school are required to notify the athletic director to suspend or release the player based on their misconduct resulting in in-school suspension or out of school suspension. Athletic director can suspend or release the player based on their misdeed during the game or practice. Head coaches can only suspend or release their player based on their misdeed after school hours. Teachers cannot make any decisions for the sports.

### **Grade Policy:**

At AASD, we want our student-athletes to strive for excellence in the classroom and on field/court as they are ambassadors for our school and the community.

Student-athletes will write in their “Homework Agenda” worksheet daily. They will show their agenda to after-school program staff and the staff will sign their initials when the student-athletes have completed their work.

Student-athletes’ grades will be checked every two weeks by the Athletic Director along with the coaches.

- If the student-athletes have a class average of 72 or below, they are required additional mandatory tutoring/study hall before they participate in practices or games. They will miss a half of practice or game when they are in tutoring/study hall daily until they bring up the class average to 73 or up.
- If a player is failing two classes, then the player is on academic probation and is barred from participating in the athletic program until they bring up their class average within in two weeks.

### **Fines, Loss of Uniforms and Issued Equipment:**

All athletes must return all issued and designated uniforms and equipment issued by the Head Coach of the sport of their participation. All indebtedness must be cleared. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to either return the equipment, uniform, etc., or the athlete will be charged for the amount of the equipment lost and or not returned. Once again, athletes are responsible for ALL materials issued to them.

### **Sportsmanship:**

It is the responsibility of all participants in a contest, including but not limited to, players, managers, athletic trainers, coaches, administrators, parents, fans, to conduct themselves in such a way and to promote and value good sportsmanship in our practices, team activities, games, events and contests.

### **Parents and Sportsmanship:**

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our interscholastic athletic activity programs, he/she has committed to certain responsibilities and obligations. Likewise, we feel you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would encourage you to help provide the financial and volunteer support essential to your school's interscholastic athletic activities program. We would also like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with expectations of parental involvement and sportsmanship.

### **Parent/guardian expectations:**

1. Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
2. Show courtesy and respect to visiting teams, visiting parents/fans, and officials.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and accept their decisions without showing inappropriate emotions.
4. Do not confront coaches or referees at the game or after the game – arrange another time to speak to coach or the Athletic Director.
5. Do not use profane language or gestures.
6. Help your child set realistic goals. The primary value of athletics is the opportunity for self development allowing them to develop life-long values and self-esteem.

7. Remember an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for a player, coach, school official, fan, community, state or nation.

8. Parents and supporters understand that inappropriate behavior may result in criminal trespass charges which would prevent them from coming back on campus to watch their child's activities.

### **Illness Policy**

We will follow AASD's illness and COVID policy regarding student-athletes. Please refer to that policy regarding symptoms, fever, and quarantining/isolating.



I received, read and understand the Student-Athlete and Parent Handbook. As a student-athlete and parent, I will abide by the rules and policies. Sign and return this paper slip to Ben Smth.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_