

Auburn High School

Athletic Department

Student – Athlete

Handbook

Introduction:

All student-athletes are governed by regulations established by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) in which all Massachusetts high schools hold memberships. The MIAA organization ensures standardized and fair regulations by which all schools must abide. Athletic activities are further governed by the district membership (District E) and the Southern Worcester County League. (SWCL)

Auburn High School Athletic Mission Statement:

The Auburn Athletic program initiative will create an environment in which every Auburn student- athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through respect, integrity, responsibility, leadership, and sportsmanship. Auburn athletics recognizes and accepts the opportunity that sports provide for developing character and leadership potential and in making a difference in the education of our youth.

Purpose and Goal of Auburn Athletics:

When looking back at the history of Auburn athletics, several consistencies are apparent. These would include its dedication to academic achievement along with athletic excellence. Also apparent are the program's role in providing equal opportunities for all student- athletes. Above all, there is an expectation of ethical behavior and a commitment to scholarship, sportsmanship, and leadership.

Throughout our school's history, administrators, coaches, athletes, and parents have used athletics as a vehicle for character development. Our goal, through participation, education, and community involvement, is to continue to develop an atmosphere of integrity. Character and cooperation will embellish our youth as they compete in athletics and life.

Our athletic program should instill a positive attitude, leadership skills, pride of accomplishment, loyalty to others, and self-discipline. We believe that every student athlete in our program should be given the opportunity and should be encouraged to compete in as many athletic opportunities as offered within the system as they choose.

Athletic Participation:

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the Auburn community in a favorable manner.

As with all school privileges, it is important to remember that the school reserves the right to revoke the privilege of any participant who does not conduct himself/herself in an acceptable manner.

Team Selection and Game Playing Time:

The Auburn School District's athletic program is established to offer opportunities to student-athletes to compete on organized teams or as individuals against student-athletes from other high schools. The structure of athletic teams and possible facility constraints may require coaches to limit the number of student-athletes representing the school in seasonal competition. Depending on the number of athletes interested in joining a team, in some sports, it may be necessary to make cuts to reduce the squad to a manageable size. The coach and staff has the sole responsibility of selecting student-athletes to compete on athletic teams and to determine the amount of playing time each athlete receives during the season.

Problem Resolution:

In the event that a student-athlete or parent/guardian has a concern about policies or procedures outlined in this handbook, the concern should be brought to the attention of the following staff members in the order in which they are listed:

- 1. Head Coach*
- 2. Athletic Director*
- 3. Principal*
- 4. Superintendent*

It is imperative that this chain of command is followed. Communication is the key in avoiding problems and conflicts. Parents have a right to understand what expectations are placed on their child. This begins with clear communication from the

coach. To be successful, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment from all involved. Issues that should not be discussed with coaches include playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other student-athletes.

Student-Athlete Behavior:

- A. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others, behaviors which reflect good sportsmanship*
- B. Any athlete who before, during, or after a contest enters into a physical confrontation with an official, coach, opponent, spectator, or teammate will be immediately suspended from the sport pending an outcome of a conference held with the athlete, his/her parent/guardian, the coach, the athletic director, and a school administrator. Fighting will be considered a serious violation of the athletic code of conduct.*
- C. Verbal abuse of officials, other players or coaches by a student-athlete may result in immediate dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.*
- D. Each student will stand at attention during the national anthem until it is completed.*
- E. Student-athletes must travel to and from contests on the team bus, accompanied by the coach unless special arrangements are made with the coach and athletic director.*
- F. The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the athletic code and school rules and may result in suspension or dismissal from an athletic team:*
 - Civil or criminal law infraction*
 - Infraction of school rules requiring administrative action*
 - Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district.*
 - Athletes who are on suspension from school are also suspended from participating in practices and/or contests until the suspension has been served.*

MIAA Rules for Student-Athletes:

The following two (2) rules fall into an area that the athletic department deals with on a frequent basis:

- A. Bona Fide team Rule (Loyalty to the High School Team) A bona fide team member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide team members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school activity/event in any sport or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event recognized by the MIAA. Any student-athlete who violates this standard on the first offense is ineligible for 25% of the remaining contests immediately upon confirmation of the violation. A second offense will result in a suspension for 25% of the remaining contests and will be ineligible from tournament participation.*
- B. Student Eligibility – Chemical Health (Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco) From the first allowable day of fall practice through the end of the academic year or final athletic competition of the year, whichever is later, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. It is not in violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.*

Locker Rooms:

It is the student-athletes responsibility to leave all of his/her valuables at home or to keep those valuables locked in a locker at all times. Lockers will be vacated at the end of each sport season. The school will not be responsible for personal property that was lost or stolen.

Attendance:

- A. Student-athletes must be present for school in order to participate in interscholastic events. If a student-athlete is unable to be in attendance for*

school on the day of an event, he/she may make an appeal to the assistant principal and athletic director.

- B. If absence is due to a family emergency or a situation beyond the student's control, special consideration will be made to help accommodate the student.*
- C. Each student-athlete is expected to attend every practice. In the event an athlete must miss a practice, prior notification to the coach is required.*
- D. Any athlete who may feel the necessity to miss a practice for academic reasons is expected to personally notify the coach of the anticipated absence. Athletes will not be penalized for excused absences with advance notification.*
- E. Athletes will not be excused from school disciplinary sanctions (detentions, etc.) to attend either practice or contests.*

Team Captains:

Selection as a captain of an athletic team is an honor. This student-athlete then becomes an extension of the coaching staff. The captain's responsibilities begin when he/she is selected. Captains are expected to provide leadership and to set a positive example for other athletes and members of the school community. A team captain may be removed from the position by the coach if his/her behavior is not in the keeping with the expectations.

Participation:

To participate in athletics, you must:

- A. be academically eligible to participate. Auburn High School requires that you pass the equivalent of 20 combined course credits. Academic eligibility is determined in the fall from the previous year's final grades. All freshmen are automatically eligible the first quarter of the year.*
- B. be medically cleared. This will require an up to date physical examination that is on record with the school nurse.*
- C. complete and return a "Blue Card" that requires the signatures of the athlete, parent, school nurse, guidance counselor, and athletic director. This "Blue Card" is your ticket to participate in the first practice.*

Athletic Equipment:

Each student-athlete will be issued team equipment and uniforms. They then become responsible for the equipment and uniforms issued. Equipment should not be altered or changed from the way it was distributed without the consent of the coach. Safety is our number one priority in purchasing uniforms and equipment which means that uniform needs will take a second place to safety equipment needs. Student-athletes must also return all issued equipment and uniforms at the end of the season. Reimbursement for equipment or uniforms not returned will be expected prior to that student participating in the start of another sport season.

Medical Needs and Concerns:

We have an athletic trainer on staff for most contests. This will greatly assist in limiting injuries and returning athletes back into competitive condition. Student-athletes must also understand that sport involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports. Even with the best coaching and medical staff, use of the most advanced protective equipment, and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility. In the event of an accident or injury, the coach or the athletic trainer will complete an accident form and submit it to the building principal for record purposes

Community Service Projects:

All teams at all levels are required to complete a Community Service Project before the completion of that sport season.

Awards:

At the conclusion of each sports season, student-athletes will be presented appropriate awards at our annual Letter Night. Athletic awards, including letters, certificates, and senior plaques are given to athletes at the discretion of the athletic department. All student-athletes, parents/guardians, and friends are encouraged to attend sports award night programs.

Acknowledgement:

Dear Student,

It is important that you read and review the contents of the Student-Athlete Handbook. Please sign and return this page to indicate that you have read and reviewed the handbook.

Student Acceptance:

I understand and acknowledge receipt of the Student-Athlete Handbook. I have read and reviewed the contents and agree to the provisions contained therein.

Student Name (Print) Grade Date

Student Signature

Signature of Parent Date

Thank you,

*Bill Garneau
Athletic Director
Auburn High School*

