

**AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**  
**2016-2017**



**For Student-Athletes**  
**and Parent/ Guardians**

## **AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT**

The athletic program of the Avon Grove Charter School is committed to the pursuit of excellence. We strive to be an accepting community that unlocks every student's ability to discover and reach their full potential through sports and exercise.

The program is designed to:

- Promote the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of the individual student
- Maintain the tradition of togetherness and unity among our student-athletes as we build a stronger sense of school pride
- Foster parental and community support

We believe our success stems from the cooperation of all members of the athletic community.

**GOALS:** The Avon Grove Charter School interscholastic athletic program includes coordinated programs in the 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. These programs provide students with the opportunities to:

- Experience a feeling of self-worth and to develop self-confidence through individual and team achievements
- Develop leadership, self-discipline, self-motivation, and a sense of commitment
- Experience working as a member of a team
- Engage in competitive activities
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Hone problem solving and decision-making strategies
- Understand and practice the principles of sound health, safety, and physical fitness

- Engage in organized activities that generate unity among students, faculty, and community which provide a positive rallying point for school spirit
- Practice and compete using facilities that promote a safe, competitive program, and that generate school and community pride
- Receive coaching in the rules and skills of interscholastic sports from knowledgeable individuals who exemplify high standards of professionalism, and who support AGCS's educational mission

### **Avon Grove Charter School Student Athletic Fee 2016 – 2017 School Year**

Each Avon Grove Charter School student participating in Cross Country shall annually pay a onetime, non-refundable fee of \$50.00 for the 2016-2017 school year.

The fee schedule for 2015-2016 shall be as follows:

\$50.00 for competition teams

Waiver of the fee, based on the proven financial hardship, may be considered by the High School Principal, or the Director of Athletics on a case-by-case basis and granted at their sole discretion.

## Eligibility Requirements

Participation in the Avon Grove Charter School athletic program is a privilege for students who meet all eligibility requirements, are selected after a try-out period, and who represent their school responsibly. Playing time is not guaranteed and will be determined at the discretion of the coach. In this handbook, student-athletes and their parents will find information related to the Avon Grove Charter School athletic program. Please read it carefully.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Although AGCS is not a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), which has established certain eligibility requirements, AGCS will align with the rules and regulations of the PIAA as we move towards membership. Failure to comply with PIAA rules will result in loss of eligibility to represent Avon Grove Charter School in interscholastic athletics.

Additional eligibility requirements are set by the Avon Grove Charter School and must be met by all Avon Grove Charter School student-athletes.

These requirements are summarized in this Handbook for student-athletes and their parents. Additional requirements are noted in PIAA publications. Questions regarding PIAA or Avon Grove Charter School regulations should be referred to the Director of Athletics.

**Age Requirements:** High school age students, are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. If a student turns nineteen (19) on or after July 1, the student shall not be eligible, age wise, to compete through the following school year.

**Academic Requirements:** A student-athlete must meet the following academic requirements:

A student-athlete must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum.

Every student-athlete is required to do satisfactory school work.

### **The following regulations govern academic eligibility:**

Grade averages are based on the student's cumulative average to date during the marking period.

During the season, coaches are notified on a weekly basis by the Director of Athletics and Principals about the academic status of their student-athletes.

- If a student-athlete is FAILING a course(s) during the athletic season, he/she will meet with the coach or Athletic Director/Principal to discuss his/her academic situation, but may continue to practice and play that week.
- If the student is FAILING two or more courses, then the student will be immediately ineligible in games and practices for the following week (Sunday through Saturday).
- If a student athlete is FAILING a course for a second week during this/her respective season, they will be suspended from games/meets for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). The student athlete may continue to practice that week. The purpose of the weekly Ineligible PROBATIONARY period is to give students time to improve their grades. A student remains on Ineligible PROBATION for the entire week.
- If a student athlete is FAILING a course for a third week during his/ her respective season, he/she will be eliminated from participation in practice and games/performances for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). The purpose of the weekly Ineligible PROBATIONARY period is to

give students an opportunity to improve their grades. A student remains on Ineligible PROBATION for the entire week. Students experiencing academic difficulty are encouraged to seek help by contacting their teachers and guidance counselors. Students are allowed THREE chances during the season to improve their grades.

- A fourth weekly ineligible infraction, whereas a student-athlete is FAILING ANY COURSE(S), will result in the student-athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Any student-athlete failing a course(s) for a marking period is ineligible for ten (10) school days starting the first official date of the next sport season. Students failing a subject(s) at the end of a school year will be ineligible for twenty (20) school days. In that case, the ineligibility starts the first official date of Fall Sports. Students passing summer school courses may become eligible at the start of the new school year.

**Attendance Requirements:** A student-athlete must be regularly enrolled as a full-time student at Avon Grove Charter School.

If a student-athlete is absent from school for a total of twenty (20) or more days during a semester, a student-athlete will lose eligibility until he/she has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student-athletes twentieth (20) day of absence.

Students must be in attendance for at least 1/2 the school day (by 11:00 AM) to practice or compete on that day. Exceptions must be pre-approved in writing by the Director of Athletics or Principal. This

attendance requirement is in effect for all regular school days, including the days when quarterly exams are scheduled.

Students who are excused from PE class or choose not to participate in PE class on a given day are ineligible for athletic participation (competition or practice) for that day.

### **Communication**

The coaches and administration of the Avon Grove Charter School welcome communication with student-athletes and their parents/guardians regarding athletic issues. Coaches and the Director of Athletics can be reached through email throughout the day and the phone lines after classes end. Refer to the written team rules given out at the beginning of each season for this information.

Contact Coaches to discuss any issue regarding an individual student athlete, including skills development and performance, team policies and regulations, and excuses for missed practices or contests. Contact the Director of Athletics to discuss any health or safety concerns, the overall athletic program, transportation and attendance exemptions, academic or eligibility matters, or any concern that is not resolved through a parent-coach conference.

### **Transportation**

Riding together as a team to and from an athletic contest is part of the athletic experience. The following regulations govern athletic transportation:

All members of an athletic squad must ride to and from scrimmages and contests on school-provided transportation.

Exceptions to the above policy, which will make it possible for a student-athlete to compete and still meet other school or family commitments, may be granted at the discretion of the head coach and should be pre-arranged. School or family commitments are the only grounds for exception.

To be granted exception, the student-athlete must present a written request in advance from a parent or guardian setting forth the reason(s) for the exception. The request from a parent/guardian must include the method of transportation to be used, a statement of the responsibility for the student-athlete's safety, the date(s), and the event(s) for which the exception is requested. Written requests for exemption from student athletic transportation must be signed by a parent/guardian and must be hand delivered to the head coach. It will be the responsibility of the coach to bring the transportation notes to the main office.

There are (4) alternate methods of transportation acceptable to the school:

- Transportation provided by the parent or guardian.
- Licensed student-athletes driving their own cars.
- Student-athletes permitted by their parent/guardians to ride with another licensed student-athlete who also has parent /guardian approval.
- Student-athletes permitted by parent/guardian to ride with a coach must submit a written request to the main office to be pre-approved by the Director of Athletics or Principal.

## **Injuries**

Every effort is made to insure that injuries do not occur. Students are required to follow their coaches' procedures for conditioning, warm-up, stretching, cool-downs and to exercise caution when using athletic equipment.

Students must report all injuries to the coach immediately so that proper treatment may be given. Do not leave a practice or contest without notifying the coach.

There is NO athletic trainer on staff at the Avon Grove Charter School.

Any student that sees a physician for any injury must turn in a clearance note to the athletic trainer from the treating physician.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

Student-athletes are responsible for equipment and/or uniforms issued to them. They will be required to pay for any equipment and uniforms not returned. Students are to return equipment and/or uniforms to their coach. No equipment/uniforms can be accepted by the main office personnel.

Bills will be issued for any unreturned items, and student-athletes may not: participate in the next sports season, receive a parking permit, yearbook, graduation tickets/graduation ceremonies or athletic awards, purchase prom tickets, go on senior and school sponsor trips, or attend school dances until bills are paid or items are returned.

### The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

The following regulations are necessary for the operation of any good sports program. Other rules and regulations are described in the Avon Grove School Charter School Student Handbook. All athletes are encouraged to be enthusiastic about the game and to exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanship.

#### **Use of Illegal Substance, Alcohol, and Tobacco Products:**

Students who violate the Avon Grove Charter School Students Code of Conduct will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season on the first offense.

Student-athletes who violate school regulations regarding drugs and alcohol and possession are subject to the same penalties outlined in the Avon Grove Charter School Student Handbook.

The use of performance-enhancing substances/anabolic steroids is prohibited and shall be removed from the team consistent with the Avon Grove Charter School Students Code of Conduct. Violators may incur suspension from the team for all or part of the remainder of the season and the following season for a second offense.

A student-athlete may not smoke or use tobacco products while an active member of the team. Violators may incur loss of playing time or other athletic privileges, or suspension from the team for the remainder of the season. Student-athletes who violate school regulations regarding tobacco use and possession are subject to the same penalties outlined in the Avon Grove Charter School Student Handbook.

**Fighting:** Fighting will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with by the administration and may incur suspension from school. Any student suspended from school for fighting will also be removed

from the team they are playing on at the time of the suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Profanity:** Profanity and gestures on the part of the student-athlete will not be tolerated at any time. Violations may be dealt with by the coach or by the administration, depending upon the severity of the offense. Student-athletes are expected to treat officials, visiting teams, and spectators with courtesy and fairness at all times.

**Athlete Attendance at Practices and Athletic Contests:** A student-athlete is expected to be committed to the team. Practices and attendance at athletic contests are an essential part of that commitment.

- A student-athlete is required to attend all practices unless excused by the coach.
- Each coach has specific practice times. Student-athletes should check with their coaches about practice times, and should listen to announcements for schedule changes.
- If an emergency arises making it necessary for a student to leave school and the coach is not available, word may be left with the Director of Athletics or Principal.
- If for any reason the student is to be excused from any particular practice, a written request from the parent/guardian is to be presented to the coach.
- It is the policy of Avon Grove Charter School that a student will be excused from practice, or may be excused for lateness to practice, to obtain assistance with school work or to make up quizzes, tests, and labs.
- Any lateness to practice or missed practice as the result of a discipline infraction, including the serving of a detention, will be dealt with according to each coach's stated policy.

- A student-athlete is required to attend all games unless excused by the coach.
- Any student-athlete who has left a team (other than for medical reasons or first time academic ineligibility) shall not be permitted to return.
- Shoes with cleats must be removed before entering the school, gym, and sport buses.
- Violations of the Discipline Code Violations of the Discipline Code as stated in the AGCS Student Handbook may cause a student-athlete to lose playing time or other athletic privileges, or be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.

**Suspension from School:** Any student-athlete who is placed on suspension may also be disciplined by the coach and may return to the team when the suspension has been served. A second suspension for any reason will not be accepted and the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

### **Athletic Awards**

Athletic awards signify accomplishment and commitment at the highest levels. Before any award is received, a student must meet requirements in scholarship, sportsmanship, athletic eligibility, and participation. The following awards are given by the coaches: Varsity Awards, Outstanding Senior and Coaches Awards, and Junior Varsity Certificates. Specialty cases can be considered by the Head Coach depending on the sport and position of the student-athlete.

An athlete who fails to complete the full season will not receive a varsity letter, or any other award or form of recognition.

### **Director of Athletics:**

Mr. Jason McGehean

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### **Upper School Principal**

Mr. Blase Maitland

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### **Avon Grove Charter School**

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