

Aiken County Public School Middle School Athletic Manual

development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

Athletic Offerings:

- *Football*
- *Girls Volleyball*
- *Girls/Boys Basketball*
- *(Golf)*

*****Note:** *Cheerleading*
competitive cheer but *Cheerleading* still follows the Aiken County Student Code of Conduct and ACPSD Middle School Athletic Code of Conduct.

confer with his/her coach. Practice and game schedules, particularly in the case of winter and spring sports, include school vacation weeks. Students and families should take this into consideration when deciding to try-out for a team.

6. Maintain a respectful distance from players and coaches during games and contests.
7. Refrain from providing food or drink to players during games and contests.
8. The use of name calling, or badgering is prohibited.

***Parents and spectators who cannot abide with these expectations will be removed from the athletic contests. Extreme misbehavior can result in banishment from future contests.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Respecting the Spirit of the Game:

Students will realize that officials do not lose a game but are there for the purpose of ensuring the game they are playing is a fair and safe contest for all participants. The officials will be shown courteous respect at all times. Student-athletes will also not employ illegal tactics to gain an advantage.

Respect for the Coaching Staff:

Students will understand that their coaches have their best interests in mind as they plan and guide the athletic team. They will obey the specific rules of the coach.

Respect for school buildings and grounds:

Students will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment will result in immediate suspension from the team. The length of such suspension will depend on the severity of the damage as determined by the Athletic Director and Coach. Please note, cleats are not to be worn in the building or on the track at any time.

Social Media Policy:

Playing and competing for your Middle School is a privilege. Student-athletes are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As a student-athlete, you are responsible to portray your team, your school and yourself in a positive manner at all times.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by many people in one form or another.

Student-athletes should be aware inappropriate social media behavior may result in suspension and dismissal from a Middle School athletic team.

Examples of inappropriate behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posts showing the use or depiction of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or illegal activities.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, demeaning or threatening toward individuals or entities.
- Content online that would constitute a violation of team, school, and league rules (examples: commenting publicly about a coach, teammate, opponent, official, student or staff member).
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information.

**All Social Media Policy concerns will be addressed by school administration following the ACPSD code of conduct policy for students.*

MESSAGE TO ALL SPECTATORS AND PARENTS:

We urge you to support ACPSD Middle School Athletics by:

- Attending sporting events.
- Being a positive influence at school, practices and games.
- Lending positive support to players and coaches.
- Encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team.
- Encouraging athletes, spectators and parents maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude.
- Showing respect for the authority of the game officials.
- Enjoying the athletic experience.

Aiken County Public School Middle School Athletic Policies & Contract

1. The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) determines eligibility.
2. Each season begins on the official SCHSL starting date.
3. A student-athlete must be in good academic standing at the discretion of the coaches, athletic director, and administration.
4. A student-athlete is expected to be committed. A student who quits one sport may not participate in another sport without the approval of both coaches of the teams involved, the athletic director, and the principal.
5. A student-athlete is expected to attend school. A student-athlete must attend school at least half of the scheduled school day to be eligible to participate in any athletic event on that day. (A proper excuse must be provided.)
6. A student-athlete is expected to behave. A student-athlete recommended for expulsion will not be permitted to participate in any sport for the remainder of the year even if the student athlete is re-admitted to the school.
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