



**Argosy Collegiate  
Charter School  
Scholar-Athlete/Parent  
Athletics Handbook  
*2021 / 2022***



## ***WELCOME TO ARGOSY COLLEGIATE CHARTER ATHLETICS***

On behalf of the Argosy Collegiate Charter School Athletic Department, we would like to welcome all returning and incoming scholar-athletes, and their respective parents or guardians to the Argosy Collegiate Charter Interscholastic Athletic Program.

The purpose of the Scholar-Athlete/Parent Handbook is to inform both parent/guardian and scholar-athlete about policies, procedures, and regulations governing interscholastic competition and the overall athletic program at Argosy Collegiate Charter School. Ultimately, the athletics handbook is intended to clarify expectations between the Athletic Department, the scholar-athlete, and their parent or guardian.

The primary goal of the school's athletic program is to help facilitate the academic mission of Argosy Collegiate's DREAM Values: ***Determination, Respect, Excellence, Altruism, and Maturity***. Participation in interscholastic athletics is not only an extension of the classroom, but also serves a vital role in enriching the overall educational experience of its participating scholar-athletes. Thus, our Athletic Department is committed to providing all resources necessary to ensure its scholar-athletes achieve their fullest potential, both academically and athletically.

Being part of a school sports team requires major sacrifice and commitment from an individual, but can also be one of the most rewarding experiences within your lifetime. We look forward to working with you this year, and wish you the best of luck and good fortune in your upcoming seasons.

Best,

*Coach Zhang*

# **Go Navigators!**

## ***ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY***

- 1.) The Interscholastic Athletic Program at Argosy Collegiate is committed to the overall development of its scholar-athletes: the physical, emotional, social, and mental development of its participants. Athletics are an extension of the academic day where scholars learn values and life-skills: discipline, accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, work ethic, teamwork, taking instruction, sacrificing for the common good and physical well-being and chemical health. The Athletic Department believes that these are necessary traits to possess and incorporate to experience personal success in their adult life.
- 2.) Building self-esteem and self-confidence is an ongoing process, used both in games and practices. Through this process, Argosy Collegiate coaches challenge and develop players through both instruction and personal accountability. In a positive manner, the coach will use both praise and constructive criticism, motivated to make praise personal and criticism impersonal.
- 3.) Argosy Collegiate expects all to ***“play with class and poise.”*** As members of the Argosy Collegiate Athletic Program, athletes and coaches are expected to demonstrate proper respect for each other, opposing teams and coaches, teammates, officials, spectators, and equipment.
- 4.) Scholar-athletes and coaches are expected to exhibit the highest level of conduct, both on and off the playing field, as they are at all times representatives of their team, school, and community. Scholar-athletes are expected to set positive examples to their respective peers and classmates, endeavoring to be leaders regarding all school policies governing scholar behavior.
- 5.) The Argosy Collegiate Athletic Program strives to be fully compliant with the mandates of Title IX and Chapter 622, which have established standards of equality for female and male scholar-athletes, and to assure female athletic programs are equally funded as male athletic programs.
- 6.) First and foremost, Argosy Collegiate is an academic institution. Satisfactory academic and citizenship performance must be maintained throughout the course of the academic year to exercise the privilege of athletic participation. Scholar-athletes are strongly encouraged to be proactive in their academic progress, seeking extra-help from teachers, if necessary. Please see the section on eligibility on page 10 regarding academic eligibility requirements.

***Remember, athletics are a privilege and not a right, with one earning the right to play!***

## ***REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION***

### **Pre-Tryout Requirements:**

A scholar must be declared eligible by the Athletic Director according to the standards listed in this section before a scholar-athlete is allowed to try out for a team.

#### **1. Physical Examination/Form**

All scholars must pass a physical examination within 13 months of the start of each season. Physical examinations must be performed by a duly registered physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner. Proof of a valid physical exam must be submitted to the school nurse prior to the start of the respective athletic season. Physicals expire 13 months from the date last performed.

#### **2. Medical Authorization & Emergency Treatment Form**

Parents/guardians must give authorization for scholar-athletes to be evaluated or treated by a duly licensed physician or hospital facility, and to be transported by medical staff, in case of illness or injury. The form allows the parent/guardian to provide emergency contact information, medical history to illnesses or physical conditions, and insurance information. Every coach will carry copies of forms for each individual on the team, to take with them for all away games in case of emergency.

## ***CONCUSSION POLICY***

### **Concussion Law (Chapter 166 of the Acts of 2010)**

- Requires athletes and their parents or guardians to inform their coaches, trainer, and administration about prior head injuries at the beginning of the season.
- If a scholar-athlete becomes unconscious or suffers a known or suspected concussion during a game or practice, the law mandates removing the scholar-athlete from play or practice, and requires written certification from a licensed medical professional stating the individual is symptom-free and can “return to play.”
- The law prohibits coaches, trainers, and others from encouraging or permitting a scholar-athlete to use sports equipment as a weapon or to engage in sports techniques that unreasonably endanger the health and safety of him/her or other players, *i.e.* helmet to helmet hits.
- The law makes sure that all schools, scholar-athletes and their parents, coaches, school nurses and physicians learn about the consequences of head injuries and concussions through training programs and written materials.

## ***EDUCATION***

- Both, parent or guardian, must read the Center for Disease and Control’s Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents before they authorize their son or daughter to play their respective sport.
- All Scholar-Athletes before must read the Center for Disease and Control’s Concussion Fact Sheet for Scholar-Athletes before they register to play.
- Online education courses are offered through, *NFHS Concussion In Sports-What You Need to Know*, [www.nfhs.com](http://www.nfhs.com).
- All coaches will take the online ConcussionCourse, offered through the National Federation of High Schools; the course is available via [www.nfhslearn.org](http://www.nfhslearn.org).

## ***PARTICIPATION AND TRYOUTS***

Scholars tryout voluntarily and for some programs there is a chance of not making the team. It is the judgment of the coaches which dictates the selection and number of participants for teams. That number is based on several factors; including the nature of the sport, availability of time and facility, an exceptionally large number of scholars trying out for a sport, or safety factors. Scholars are selected for an individual team based on:

- Current academic standing
- Athletic ability (as it relates to a specific sport/activity)
- Attendance and participation during tryouts
- Conduct during tryouts

Cutting scholars is a difficult process, and all coaches realize that sensitivity and communication are essential.

All scholars are given fair and ample opportunity to demonstrate their abilities during pre-season tryouts. During the tryout period the coach will provide an explanation of his or her expectations. It is the scholar's responsibility to demonstrate if he/she can meet those expectations. Scholars who do not make the team will be informed as to the reasons by the coach. If a scholar is cut from a team, they are encouraged to try out for another team if there is space and if final cuts have not been made. After tryouts begin, no athlete may voluntarily leave a team and try out for another without the consent of both coaches and the Athletic Director.

### **Commitment to the Team**

Once selected to a team, Argosy Collegiate scholar-athletes are expected to attend all team sessions, including practices and games. Weekend practices or games vary by sport and should be expected. Captains' practices will sometimes be held at the discretion of the head coach and will be led by team captains.

## **Playing Time**

Perhaps the most emotional part of a scholar-athlete's involvement in school athletics, centers around playing time. Factors such as practice attendance, attitude, “coachability”, commitment and athletic skill enter into the decision making process of a coach. A coach has a responsibility to make personnel decisions that are in the best interest of the team. Thus, a coach will decide which athletes should start a contest, what position, and how long each athlete should play. Coaches will inform an individual of their playing status for a game, and what their overall standing is on the team. A player should also be encouraged to be proactive in communicating with the coach concerning his/her team role and seek feedback as to opportunities for increasing playing time. Communication should be proactive from both sides, with it being conducted during practice or school hours, not on social media networking sites.

## **Team Captains**

It's a coaching decision or program philosophy as to how team captains are selected. Team captains are expected to be model scholars, both on and off the playing field by exhibiting the characteristics that a coach would want all of their players to demonstrate. They may be elected by the team or appointed by the coach prior to the first regularly scheduled contest. Captains may also be elected or appointed on a game by game basis. It is expected that team captains be leaders of their team and should be ready to assume duties as outlined by their coach. Captains are expected to communicate with the coach, team and Athletic Director in the event of any problems that may affect the team or its members. Captains may be asked to meet with the Athletic Director during the school year to discuss the Athletic Program. Captains of teams may be relieved of their position for violation of team, athletic department, or school rules.

## **Equipment**

Scholars are responsible for all equipment that is issued to them. Scholars must return equipment at the end of each season. If equipment is not returned, a letter will be sent home reminding parents and scholar-athletes of equipment that is owed to the school. If the equipment is lost or misplaced, the equipment must be paid for. If payment in full of lost or misplaced equipment is not received by Argosy Collegiate the following consequences will result:

- Seniors will not be able to receive their caps and gowns for graduation;

- Scholars in grades 9-11 will not receive equipment for their next sport season and will be unable to receive their caps and gowns for graduation until past due fees are settled.

## ***PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION GUIDE***

The following section is designed for parents and guardians of athletes participating in the Argosy Collegiate Athletic Program. Parents/Guardians have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child when they join the Argosy Collegiate athletics program. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
- Locations and times of all practices and contests

### **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notifications of any schedule conflicts, well in advance
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your child becomes involved in the athletic programs at Argosy Collegiate, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. If necessary, concerns may also be brought up to the school's Athletic Director.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Coaches make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all scholar-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.



### **Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with Coaches**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other scholar-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach, athlete, and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

### **If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the following procedures should be used:**

- Scholar-athletes should first discuss concerns directly with the coach
- If parents/guardians still have concerns, they should contact the coach to make an appointment.
- **DO NOT confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.**
- If the conversation/meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation with the coach.
- Never hesitate to follow the above procedures to make your concerns known.

### **Retribution**

Scholars and parents must be confident that the voicing of an opinion or a concern, using the proper forum and method, is not only free from penalty or retribution, but also is strongly encouraged. The Athletic Director and coaches are committed to ensuring that after a scholar-athlete or parent raises an issue or concern, there shall be no "retribution" in any form within the Athletic Department at Argosy Collegiate. If at any time, a scholar or his/her parent suspects that some form of retribution is surfacing as a result of the voicing of a concern, opinion, or issue, using the proper forum and method, he or she should contact the Athletic Director immediately.

## ***MCSAO RULES AND REGULATIONS***

All Argosy Collegiate athletic teams will follow the rules set down in the current MCSAO (Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization) Handbook, which is available on the MCSAO website at: [www.mcsao.org](http://www.mcsao.org). The entire handbook is also available in the athletic office. Scholar-athletes are responsible for adhering to all MCSAO rules and regulations. Below are some key rules:

### **Eligibility**

- **Transfer Students** - any student who transfers from one MCSAO member high school to another will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic program in which that student participated in the previous school year for a period of one (1) year.
  
- **Academics** - participants must have a passing grade of a 60 or 2.3 in each subject in accordance with the academic guidelines set forth by their school.
  - All new high school member schools or current schools that have updated their policies are required to submit their school's Academic Policy to the league office by September 15, current to the upcoming school year and that this policy remains in effect and be adhered to for the entirety of that calendar year.
  
- **Argosy Collegiate maintains an academic eligibility requirement of all scholar-athletes to be passing all of their current classes at the time of bi-weekly grade checks. If a scholar-athlete is not deemed eligible for that time period, they will be enrolled in after-school tutoring until they meet the requirements satisfactory to their teachers and coaches. They will not be eligible for practices and/or official matches until they fulfill their duty as a scholar first and are academically eligible to return to play.**
  - Any participant who is currently receiving special education services under General Laws Chapter 766 and who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) can be declared eligible if all of their academic requirements satisfactorily meets the special education director's approval.

- **Injuries** - If any injury or illness occurs during the season which requires medical attention beyond basic first aid practices, the participant must submit written approval from the attending physician to the Administrative Team or Athletic Director prior to returning to athletic participation.
  
- **Student Handbook** - all participants, first and foremost, are subject to the rules and regulations governing student behavior as cited in the Member School's student handbook. Violations of school rules resulting in suspension (in/out of school) from school will automatically preclude that participant's involvement in MCSAO contests until they have been officially readmitted to school.
  
- **Attendance** - students should not be allowed to participate in any MCSAO contest on the same day they are absent from school unless the absence has been approved in advance by an Administrative Team member. Participants must be in attendance for at least 57% of the school day in order to be eligible to participate.
  
- **Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs** - during the course of the season, participants are prohibited from using, consuming, possessing, purchasing, giving away or being in the presence of any beverage containing alcohol. Participants are also prohibited from using tobacco products, marijuana, non-prescription steroids or controlled substances.
  - Penalties incurred should be (1) in strict accordance with the school's student handbook and (2) will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the MCSAO Board of Directors.
  
- **Steroid Use** - the use of non-prescription steroids or other associated growth enhancement products is strictly prohibited. The MCSAO will take a proactive approach in educating participants about the harmful short and long term effects of steroid use.

- **Amateur Status** - all participants must be of amateur status. An amateur is defined as an athlete/participant who competes for the intrinsic value of the game and at no time, under any circumstances, accepts money or compensation of any kind, for their efforts involving the activity in question.

## **Sportsmanship / Conduct**

All participants, coaches, spectators and anyone associated with or involved in a MCSAO event are required to display, at all times, the characteristics associated with "good sportsmanship". Sportsmanship is the ability to treat everyone involved in an athletic contest with fairness, generosity, respect and courtesy regardless of the outcome of a game.

- **Taunting/Trash Talk** - any action or comment that is used to demean, bait or embarrass/humiliate others is strictly prohibited. Game officials are to treat any form of taunting as a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul and immediately disqualify the offender(s). The offender(s) are required to leave the contest area immediately and are not allowed to return.
- **Threats of Physical Bodily Harm** - any participant, coach or spectator who willfully threatens physical bodily harm to anyone associated with a MCSAO contest/event(including spectators) before, during or after said event, must be immediately removed from the game site and will be suspended until further notice by the MCSAO Board of Directors until a hearing can be scheduled and conducted. The offender(s) future participation in the MCSAO will be determined at that time.
- **Physical Altercations** – any participant, coach or spectator who willfully attempts to injure anyone associated with a MCSAO contest/event (including spectators) before, during or after said event, must be removed from the game site immediately and will be suspended until further notice by the MCSAO Board of Directors until a hearing can be scheduled and conducted. The offender(s) future participation in the MCSAO will be determined at that time.

- **Direct Profanity** - any participant, coach or spectator who uses profane language directed towards a game official, participant, coach, spectator or anyone associated with a MCSAO contest/event before, during or after said event, must be removed from the game site and suspended for the next two (2) league games.
- **Indirect Profanity** - any participant, coach or spectator who uses profane language indirectly during a MCSAO contest/event will receive a warning on their first offense. Any further violations are subject to all rules pertaining to technical fouls.
- **Spitting** - any participant or coach who spits directly or indirectly at an opposing player, official or coach during a MCSAO contest/event will be removed from the game site and suspended for the next two (2) league games.
- **Failure to Report** – any incident that goes unreported will be considered a violation of the “Member in Good Standing Agreement.”