



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

**Updated AUG 2025*



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 in 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,

Jonathan Murray
Athletic Director

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, 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. Positively, 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 scholarly 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 ensure female athletic programs are equally funded as male athletic programs.
 - a.) At Argosy Collegiate Charter School, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all students. In alignment with our values of equity and diversity, students are encouraged and supported to participate in athletic programs and sports teams in a manner consistent with their gender identity.
- 6.) Every student-athlete deserves the opportunity to compete, learn, and thrive in a safe and affirming environment. Our athletic program upholds policies that respect the rights and dignity of all participants, and we work closely with students, families, and coaches to ensure that every individual feels valued and included.
- 7.) First and foremost, Argosy Collegiate is an academic institution. Satisfactory academic and citizenship performance must be maintained throughout 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 and school nurse 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 before 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 of diseases 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.

3. Attendance

Scholar-athletes must prioritize attendance. Scholars must be in school for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the day to compete in practice or games. If a scholar starts the school day on time and leaves for any circumstance, the said scholar is practice/game eligible only if their total seat time is equivalent to or greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the day.

CONCUSSION POLICY

Concussion Law (Chapter 166 of the Acts of 2010)

- Athletes and their parents or guardians must inform their coaches, trainers, and administration about any prior head injuries at the start 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. It 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 them or other players, *i.e.*, tackling in flag football.
- 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 parents or guardians must read the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents before they authorize their son or daughter to play their respective sport.
- All Scholar-Athletes must read the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’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.
- All coaches will take the online Concussion course, offered through the National Federation of High Schools; the course is available via www.nfhslearn.org.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

Scholars try out voluntarily for all programs. In all sports, there is a chance of not making the team. It is the coaches' judgment that 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 complex 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 explain their expectations. It is the scholar's responsibility to establish if they 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 for 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.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION CONTINUED

Playing Time

The most emotional aspect of a scholar-athlete's involvement in school athletics is often related to 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 their overall standing on the team. A player should also be encouraged to be proactive in communicating with the coach concerning their team role and seek feedback as to opportunities for increasing playing time. Communication should be proactive from both sides, conducted during practice or school hours, not on social media networking sites. This communication also shall not take place during an athletic event. Meetings regarding playtime shall be scheduled with the athletic director.

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 before 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 must pass all of their classes during the selection process. 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 owner must pay for it. If payment in full for 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 sports season until past-due fees are settled.
- Scholars in grades 6-8 are unable to try out for an additional sport until all equipment needs are met.

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 their children 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 team.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

- Concerns were expressed directly to the coach.
- Notifications of any schedule conflicts will be sent well in advance.
- Specific concerns about 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 essential 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 on the team.

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with Coaches

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

Some situations above may require a conference between the coach, athlete, and parents. These meetings are encouraged. Both parties involved must 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, held within 24 hours of conflict, often fail to 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 voicing an opinion or concern, using the proper forum and method, is not only free from penalty or retribution but also 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 their 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, they should contact the Athletic Director immediately.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

All participants, coaches, spectators, and anyone associated with or involved in an athletic 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 an MIAA or FRPS 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 on an athletic team will be determined at that time.

- **Physical Altercations** – any participant, coach, or spectator who willfully attempts to injure anyone associated with an MIAA or FRPS 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 MIAA or FRPS athletic directors until a hearing can be scheduled and conducted. The offender s) future participation in the MIAA or FRPS 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 an MIAA or FRPS contest/event before, during, or after said event, must be removed from the game site and suspended for the next two (2) league games.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT CONTINUED

- **Indirect Profanity** - any participant, coach, or spectator who uses profane language indirectly during an MIAA or FRPS contest/event will receive a warning on their first offense. Any further violations are subject to all rules about technical fouls.
- **Spitting** - any participant or coach who spits directly or indirectly at an opposing player, official, or coach during an MIAA or FRPS contest/event will be removed from the game site and suspended for the next two (2) games.
- **Failure to Report** – any incident that goes unreported by coaches or players will be considered a violation, and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Our program has a zero-tolerance policy for hazing in any form. Hazing is defined as any action, situation, or activity that endangers the physical, emotional, or mental health and safety of a scholar, regardless of consent, and regardless of intent (e.g., tradition, team bonding, or initiation).

Expectations:

All scholar-athletes are expected to treat one another with respect at all times.

Team bonding activities must be positive, inclusive, and approved by the coaching staff.

Any scholar-athlete who organizes, participates in, or fails to report hazing may face consequences, including suspension or removal from the team, and possible referral to school administration or law enforcement.

Reporting:

Scholar-athletes are strongly encouraged to report any suspected hazing to a coach, athletic director, or school administrator immediately. Reports will be handled confidentially to the greatest extent possible.

Argosy Athletics Behavioral Policy

All scholar-athletes will have the opportunity to represent their school. Every team member, including coaches, players, and managers, must uphold our school values during the school day and at games (home/away). ACCS athletes must follow our ACCS school policy regarding behavioral infractions. Each coach will hold their team accountable for their actions and hold their team to the highest standards. Coaches will discuss team values that they must uphold with their team. Failure to uphold these team values can affect a scholar's ability to practice and play games.

ACCS HIGH SCHOOL :

DETENTION

If a scholar receives detention on the day of the game or practice, they are subjected to a loss of practice/game time up to the length of the full game/practice. All team members must be held to the same standard.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If a scholar receives an in-school suspension on the day of a game or practice, they cannot participate in that practice or game for that day.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If a scholar-athlete or team manager receives an out-of-school suspension, they cannot participate in practices or games and will be removed from the team for the rest of the season.

ACCS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

GENERAL NOTE

Any middle school scholar participating on a high school sports team through an approved "Rule 53 Middle Level Waiver" will be held to the "ACCS Middle School" guidelines and expectations outlined in this section.

DETENTION

If a scholar is assigned an After School Detention on the day of a practice or game, the scholar is required to attend the After School Detention prior to participating in the practice or game.

- Requests to reschedule an After School Detention in order to attend a practice or game will not be granted.

- If the practice or game is held off-site, and the scholar's team has already transitioned to the practice or game location, a parent/guardian or other authorized adult must escort the scholar to the practice or game location.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If a scholar earns an In School Suspension (ISS), they are ineligible to participate in the next sporting event (e.g. sports practices, and/or games).

- If the next sporting event is a practice, the scholar will be ineligible to attend the entirety of the practice.
- If the next sporting event is a game, the scholar is eligible to attend the game; however, they will be ineligible to participate in the first half of the game.
- If a scholar earns more than one ISS in a week, or their assigned ISS is a multi-day ISS, the scholar will be suspended for 1 week of the season, starting at the conclusion of their assigned consequence.
- If a scholar earns a third day of ISS in a season, the scholar will be removed from the team.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If a scholar earns an Out of School Suspension resulting in up to 2 days of removal from school, the scholar is ineligible to participate in any sporting events (e.g. sports practices, and/or games) during the period of suspension, and one week following their return to school.

- If a scholar earns an Out of School Suspension resulting in 3 or more days of removal from school, or the scholar earns an Out of School Suspension for two separate events during a given season regardless of the length of the Out of School Suspension, the scholar will be removed from the team.
- If issuance of an In or Out of School Suspension results in a combined, cumulative 3 days of suspension during a given season, the scholar will be removed from the team.

Note: Once oral and written Notice of a Suspension Hearing has been provided to families, the scholar is ineligible to participate in athletics practices/games until the hearing has been held, and an outcome has been determined. At that point, the aforementioned policies will take effect if a suspension is earned.

EMERGENCY REMOVAL

- If a scholar is subject to an Emergency Removal from school, they are ineligible to participate in any sporting event (e.g. sports practices, and/or games) until an Out of School Suspension hearing has been held. The outcome of the Out of School Suspension hearing will determine next steps in accordance with this policy.

ATHLETIC BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION

- Any scholar who has been assigned an In or Out of School Suspension will participate in a supportive check-in with the Athletic Director or a member of the Athletic Staff following their reinstatement to the learning community.

ARGOSY COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC POLICY

ACCS aims to establish a robust athletic program that provides all scholars with opportunities to excel and showcase Argosy's DREAM values: determination, respect, excellence, altruism, and maturity. As part of our system of scholar support, we outline the following Scholar-Athlete Policy to support our scholars in achieving academic and athletic excellence.

ACCS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACADEMIC POLICY

ACCS MIDDLE SCHOOL

All scholars must be passing all their classes to participate in all athletic games. A scholar's grades will be evaluated each week during an athletic season. After each week, scholars will have the opportunity to improve their grades and participate in games.

Please note: Any middle school scholar participating on a high school sports team through an approved "Rule 53 Middle Level Waiver" will be held to the "ACCS Middle School" guidelines and expectations outlined in this section. Additionally, any middle school scholar missing class time as a result of participation in a high school game must complete all missed schoolwork in the timeline outlined by their teacher.

ACCS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC POLICY

ACCS HIGH SCHOOL

All scholars begin the school year eligible to play for Argosy Collegiate Charter School sports teams. Every third week of the season, there will be an athletic grade-pull, which will place scholar-athletes into a four-tiered system. The tiers are in place to determine a scholar-athlete's academic eligibility.

ACCS HIGH SCHOOL Scholar-Athlete Tiered Supports

Every three weeks, Argosy will review scholars' grades and place each scholar-athlete into one of four tiers. These tiers will help scholar-athletes achieve academic and sporting success.

Once assigned a tier, scholar-athletes will remain in that tier for the next three weeks. Argosy's vision is that scholars consistently demonstrate Argosy's DREAM values and strive toward academic and athletic excellence. Scholars cannot change tier during each three-week window; this is their opportunity to show they can consistently improve.

Eligibility is based on semester grade, not cumulative grade.

Tier 1 - Scholar-athlete is passing all classes

Scholar-athlete **is gameplay eligible and is practice eligible.**

Tier 2 - Scholar-athlete is earning 60%-67% in 1-2 classes

Scholar-athlete **is both gameplay and practice eligible, but has been placed on academic probation.** Tier 2 academic probation means this scholar must attend tutoring and/or after-school study hall for two study sessions a week to remain gameplay eligible and practice eligible.

Tier 3 - Scholar is earning 60%-67% in 3-4 classes or falls below 60% in any single class

Scholar-athlete **is not gameplay eligible but is practice eligible.** Tier 3 academic probation means this scholar must attend tutoring and/or after-school study hall for a total of two study sessions a week to remain practice eligible. Scholars may not travel with the team if they fall in this tier.

Tier 4 - Scholar is earning 60%-67% 5+ classes or falls below 60% 2+ classes

Scholar-athletes are **only eligible to be part of the team** if they can move to Tier 1-3 by the following grade pull. Tier 4 academic probation requires this scholar to attend tutoring and/or after-school study hall for two study sessions per week to be eligible for the next grade pull or to try out for the next calendar season.