

# ANDES CENTRAL SCHOOL



85 Delaware Avenue  
P.O. Box 248  
Andes, New York 13731

## Andes Central School Athletic Department Code of Conduct

**Thank you for your interest in athletic participation at Andes Central School. ACS is committed to giving all student-athletes a positive experience we hope they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Please remember our student-athletes are students first and athletes second. Athletics are a privilege earned by students who are committed to their school work and their team. Student-athletes are representatives of Andes Central School and will be expected to act accordingly. The following guidelines must be upheld by student-athletes in order to retain their status as an athlete:**

### **Eligibility**

Per the NYSPHSAA Handbook -

1. all student-athletes must be “Bona Fide” Students.
  - a. He/she must be taking four courses including physical education.
2. All student-athletes must receive an adequate health examination - a physical - prior to participation (this includes practice, scrimmages, and games).
3. All student- athletes must maintain “amateur” status.
  - a. An amateur is one who engages in athletic completion solely for the pleasure of the activity and physical, mental, and social benefits.
  - b. Student athletes forfeit amateur status by:
    - i. Competing for money or other compensation, receiving an award or prize of monetary value, or capitalizing on athletic fame for awards and prizes of monetary value.
    - ii. Signing a professional athletic contract.
4. A Student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any individual or team(s) representing a college that season.

Building Administrator  
Maureen Burton

School Counselor / Athletic Director  
Brittany Golden  
Telephone: (845) 676-3166 x.122

Superintendent  
Robert L. Chakar, Jr., Ed.D.

5. Age/Grade

- a. Students may participate in interscholastic competition for four consecutive years, grades 9-12.
- b. Students in grades 7-8 may test up and play more than four consecutive years through the athletic placement process (APP) based on maturity standards.
- c. Students are eligible provided they are younger than the age of 19 prior to July 1st of that school year and have not completed four years of participation in that sport.

**Practice and Attendance**

Team members are required to attend all practice sessions and games unless dismissed by the coach. Whenever possible the students who are unable to attend practice or games must notify the coach for excusal prior to the session. Examples of acceptable excuses include family emergencies, illness, and academic commitments/aid/advancement. Parent, doctor, and/or teacher notes should be presented to the coach stating the reason for needed dismissal. Students will be expected to utilize the time management skills in order to prevent missing practice and games. It is understood by both the student and parent that athletes who misses practices/ games for any reason are expected to make up for missed material at the reasonable time set by the coach when required before returning to full play.

Every athlete must meet the specified number of state required practices for the sport being played. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that the number of individual and team practice sessions required prior to scrimmage/game participation are met.

Athletes must be in regular attendance 80% of the school year. Athletes must be in attendance in school a full day on any date that a practice or game is held unless excused by the office. If late to school without an approved note, athletes must be in school by 11:00am in order to participate in that day. Athletes may not leave school and return to play without an approved note. Approved notes include a doctor's note and the similar. Parent permission notes will not be accepted. Athletes who fail to meet attendance policies will not be permitted to be in attendance at that day's athletic event.

Failure to meet attendance policies will result in disciplinary action to be determined by the coach and/or the school administration.

**Membership**

ACS athletes must abide by all school rules and regulations. Failure to observe these could result in disciplinary action affecting athletic participation.

With both the physical and emotional stress young athletes must endure, it is essential that they maintain a healthy body and mind. Therefore, the following will be observed:

1. No use or possession of any illicit drugs or paraphernalia.
2. No use or possession of smoking, chewing, or any other tobacco and/or vaping products.
3. No consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages.

Failure to abide by these rules will result in disciplinary action via suspension from the following competitive athletic event. Repeat offenders will be excused from further athletic participation for the rest of the season.

Commitment is a key factor in maintaining athletics at ACS. Athletes are expected to uphold their participation obligation of the sport for which they have committed to. Athletes will be given leeway in their first year of participation in a specific sport. After their first year of participation (complete or incomplete), a player who voluntarily removes him/herself at any time after the first two weeks in any sport season without the approval of the coach or is removed by the coach/administration due to failure to uphold the ACS Athletic Code of Conduct will revoke their privilege to participate in the following two sport seasons.

- Example: Quitting the soccer team will result in ineligibility to participate during basketball AND track season.

Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE Policy**

Andes Central School Athletics maintains a ZERO TOLERANCE harassment policy. Any athlete found to be in violation of any of the following forms of harassment will be immediately dismissed from the team and their participation in future athletic participation discussed by the athletic director and administration. Harassment in any way, shape and form including but not limited to verbal, physical or cyber-attacks will not be tolerated. Any athlete who feels they are being harassed must report it to their coach, who will further report it to the athletic director and ACS administration.

### **Hazing**

Hazing is defined as, “any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. “Hazing includes but is not limited to forced appalling acts upon an individual/group in order to be part of the team, beatings and paddling, and intentional humiliation acts against an individual/group.

## **Dignity for All Students Act**

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act seeks to provide students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function including interscholastic athletic play.

## **Social Media**

Athletes and parents are prohibited from posting any negative comments, posts, or the like about their or their child's teammates, coach, team or ACS as a whole on social media. In addition, athletes and parents are prohibited from posting any negative comments, posts, or the like about opposing teams, team members, coaches, sport officials, or schools. cyberbullying will NOT be tolerated. Athletes are permitted to use social media to promote their team in a positive manner.

## **Sportsmanship**

Sportsmanship is defined as "an aspiration or ethos that a sport or activity will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors. " Sportsmanship will be conducted in both practices and competitions. Unsportsmanlike conduct in practice will be disciplined at the discretion of the head coach. If issues persist, unsportsmanlike conduct will be reported to the athletic director and administration for further disciplinary action. Athletes who receive unsportsmanlike penalties during competition must abide by the NYSPHSAA handbook sportsmanship violation protocol, stating removal from subsequent contests. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to negative statements or actions towards other players, officials, coaches, fans, or facilities before, during, or after play.

ACS student-athletes are representatives of our school. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a befitting manner. Abuse of such will be addressed by the coach, the athletic director, and administration.

Additionally, Parents are expected to positively support their child at athletic events and refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct. Failure to do so could result in removal from the event.

## **Equipment/ Facility Usage**

Athletes are responsible for the care of any equipment issued to them during the season including but not limited to uniforms, water bottles, and sport specific equipment. ACS property items must be returned at the end of the season. Any damaged (beyond normal wear and tear) or unreturned item must be paid for (full value) to the athletic department. Athletes will not be permitted to begin a new sport season until past sport season items have been returned. If an item is not returned, the parent will be notified and billed for the item.

Locker room usage is a privilege. Athletes are expected to be respectful of locker room equipment and maintain a respectful environment while using locker room facilities. Horseplay, roughhousing, poor language in front of others, and verbal and/or physical abuse within the locker room towards another individual or equipment will result in removal from the locker room for a period of time dependent on the severity of the offense to be determined by the coach, the athletic director, and administration. This includes locker room use at ACS as well as at away competitions. Athletes are expected to leave any locker room they enter as it was when they arrived. Theft, damage, abuse, or any other negative attribute of locker room use will result in removal from locker room usage privileges.

Athletes will not abuse any of the facilities or equipment granted to them. This includes but is not limited to the ACS gymnasium, athletic fields, weight room, and ACS issued equipment and competitor buildings, properties, and equipment. Property damage, equipment damage, or any other negative assault of a facility will result in disciplinary action.

## **Transportation**

All students riding on buses are to adhere to the accepted rules and regulations pertaining to school safety as assigned by the transportation department. This includes but is not limited to cell phone usage, food and drink allow-ability, and behavior expectation.

All students going on a trip as a member of an athletic team must ride to and from the event on the assigned bus. Athletes will be returned to ACS after away events. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has transportation home from ACS.

An athlete's parent/guardian is permitted to sign (only) their child out after away competitions. If an athlete wishes to ride home with an adult (21 or older) that is not their parent/guardian after an away competition, they must have prior written permission from their parent/guardian approved by ACS administration. This must be approved by ACS administration prior to the end of the school day of the day of the event.

Student-athletes are not permitted to drive themselves to or from off-site athletic events.

Riding the bus is a privilege. violation of any bus rules and regulations will result in loss of bus privileges and inability to compete in away competitions for the violator.

Parents are expected to assist in the transportation needs of their student-athlete. This includes ensuring safe transportation to and from the ACS building for practices/games, such as over school breaks.

### **Academic Policy**

Student-athletes are students first and athletes second. Student athletes must abide by ACSs academic policy. Any athlete who is placed on the ineligible list will not be allowed to attend or participate in practices or games for a minimum of 10 days. Once the athlete has been removed from the ineligible list they will be allowed to return to play. Please note, while these are excused absences, the athlete has likely missed a substantial amount of necessary information and activity. The athlete must work with the coach before the athlete is physically and mentally capable of returning to full play. Athletes are expected to utilize time management skills and seek out extra help BEFORE ineligibility becomes an issue.

### **Health & Safety / Injury Insurance**

All athletes must receive a health physical prior to the start of participation at the beginning of the sport season for which they will be participating, athletes and parents must complete an athletic issued health history form. Coaches must know of all athlete medical issues/concerns to prevent injury and be equipped to handle medical emergencies. If there is anything your child's coach needs to know (allergies, information the ER may need to know in the event of an emergency, etc.) it is the responsibility of the parent to inform the coach.

Coaches are responsible for teaching proper (safe) techniques in regard to sport specific skills and equipment/facility use. Athletes are responsible for maintaining their own health and safety as much as possible. Horseplay, improper equipment and facility use, and practicing unsafe sport specific skills are unacceptable and will result in removal from the said activity at hand until the athlete is capable of performing the act safely. Athletes must abide by all safety rules and regulations given to them by their coach in order to prevent injury.

All injuries regardless of how minor must be reported immediately to the coach. DO NOT wait until after practice, after the contest, or the next day. An injury report will be filled out by the coach and given to the school nurse for processing when applicable. Please note, all coaches are trained and responsible for administering first aid when applicable. In the event of a medical emergency, all coaches are trained to call 911 and your child will be taken to the Emergency Room.

If an athlete has a severe injury (requires professional medical attention - ER or doctor), a release form from the attending physician must be given to the school nurse before the athlete may resume participation.

Injuries sustained by an athlete that require professional medical treatment are covered through ACS insurance, providing the injury occurred during a school sponsored activity. The insurance contract is intended to assist parents in the payment of expenses resulting from injury to their child but will not duplicate benefits available to the parent under a different contract with a different insurance group. For further explanation, please speak with the athletic director and school nurse.

### **Merger**

Athletes who participate on merged school teams must abide by all ACS school and athletic rules and regulations. In addition, the merged school is permitted to enforce their rules and regulations upon ACS athletes.

In the event of athletic injury on a merged team, ACS is responsible for insurance coverage of the athlete, not the merged school at which the injury occurred. Athletes are to report injuries to their coach who is then responsible for contacting the ACS athletic director and the school nurse.

### **Coach Additions**

All head coaches are permitted to add their own "team rules" in addition to those laid out in this handbook. Violation of team rules will be dealt with by the head coach. In the event that an issue arises with the coaches "team rule," the Athletic Director and ACS administration will be informed and the nature of the issue discussed in order to determine the correct course of action.

### **Summary**

**Athletes are expected to abide by all rules and regulations as laid out in the ACS Athletic Handbook. These rules are put in place to ensure all student-athletes are receiving the best experience possible. Athletics offer students the ability to learn life-long skills, such as time management, commitment, team work, leadership, and positive social, emotional, and physical fitness practices. Through your participation, we hope you will find success on and off the court or field of your choosing. Thank you for becoming a Mountaineer!**

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN**

I have read the ACS Athletic Department Code of Conduct and give my child permission to participate in athletics at Andes Central School. I understand violation of these rules and regulations will result in disciplinary action affecting my child's participation in athletics.

(Parent's and Student-Athletes must sign and return this slip before the athlete is permitted to participate in practice or competitions.)

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Sport & Season

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Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Name Printed

Comments for the Coach:

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