

## Academy of Tucson High School Athletics

Available Sports:

<b>Fall:</b> Soccer (coed)	Volleyball (W)	Cross-Country (MW)
<b>Winter:</b> Basketball (MW)		
<b>Spring:</b> Baseball (M)	Softball (W)	Track & Field (MW)

### PAY TO PARTICIPATE POLICY AND AGREEMENT

Academy of Tucson understands the important role of extra curricular activities, including athletics, may have on a student, therefore it is our mission to offer a variety of sports to enhance the student's overall educational experience. Your participation fee goes to help defer some of the increasing cost associated with athletics such as gym rental, referees, insurance, league and tournament fees etc.

1. Athletes **Will NOT** be allowed to participate until payment, application, and sports physical are received in the school
2. The \$50.00, per sport, payment will be accepted by cash, check or money order payable to: Academy of Tucson.
3. Payment of the participation fee is **NOT REFUNDABLE** unless a student is not selected for a team or if a team is cancelled because of low participation and does not meet the required number of athletes.
4. Payment of the participation fee is **NOT REFUNDABLE** if the student voluntarily withdraws from the team, if there is a lack of playing time, if the student becomes ineligible during the season due to grades, or if an athlete is removed from a team for disciplinary reasons.
5. Participation fee **DOES NOT** guarantee an athlete any playing time.
6. Student athletes will be expected to meet all AIA, School, Athletic Department, and Team rules, regulations, policies, and code of conduct.

# Academy of Tucson High School Athletic Handbook

## For Student Athletes & Parents

### PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Academy of Tucson High School (ATHS) Interscholastic Athletic Program is a natural extension of the high school curriculum that provides activities for the growth and development of our students. The program includes a living laboratory of experiences in human relations as well as opportunities for developing each student physically and emotionally. We view the Interscholastic Athletic Program as the other half of education. ,

At ATHS, we believe that the Interscholastic Athletic Program contributes significantly to preparing our students for becoming productive, contributing citizens of our community and society. A comprehensive program of athletic activities expresses our commitment to ensure the development of physical fitness and personal health, and the achievement of excellence in the student's chosen sport.

In addition, our aim is to develop a student with an improved self-image, the ability to learn a new skill, and an intrinsic motivation for growth and development. We want to see a student who will demonstrate a willingness to accept responsibility for his/her actions, measure him/herself against standards of quality, express ideas and solutions to problems, and value fair play, honesty, and cooperation.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other ATHS teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance on and off the field, and citizenship in and out of school.

6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.

7. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

## **PRE-SPORTS MEDICAL SCREENING**

A student who wishes to participate in interscholastic sports must follow these procedures:

1. Submit to the high school a physical examination performed by a physician.
2. Bring a clearance note from a personal physician if the student has any medical problem that necessitates taking medication by injection, orally, or with an inhaler (All medications must be kept and dispensed through the office.)
3. Understand that the coach will not allow any student to participate in a sport, even to practice, unless the athlete has had a physical.
4. A sport physical examination is valid for a period of 12 months. A new physical examination is required after May of the previous school year.

## **OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

- Signed consent form
- Driving/riding form
- Insurance information
- Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs abstinence form

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

The student athlete is required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and have no current F's in any class.

Student athletes who are academically ineligible may practice with the team but not participate in interscholastic contests or travel with the team.

Academic eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis. Once an athlete is determined ineligible he/she will be ineligible for all contests that week.

All student athletes are required to attend school the day following a game particularly after away games. ("Being tired" is never an excuse for missing school.) Failure to do so will result in a one game suspension. Medical/injury exemptions permitted.

Student athletes must not engage in any behavior in violation of the student code of conduct or behavior which is disruptive of the athletic activity or event in which the student athlete is participating in or which constitutes a violation of any law or ordinance involving an act of violence, or dishonesty. The student athlete must comply with these standards of personal behavior through the entire twelve-month calendar year.

Failure to do so will subject the student to disciplinary measures, which may include suspension and/or expulsion from participation in the student athletic program. The athletic director shall determine disciplinary measures, after consultation with the head coach.

## **THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF A TEAM CAPTAIN/LEADER**

- Role Model- Hardworking, committed, dedicated, humble, leader by example, positive attitude, shows respect for coaches, teachers, adults & peers.
- Exhibits good citizenship - dependable, loyal, trustworthy and selfless - has a great deal of pride in the team, school and community.
- Committed to be alcohol and drug free - shows social confidence.
- Has a strong self image, mature, motivated, good communication skills
- Good school behavior - Acceptable academic progress
- A willingness to follow team rules and act as a liaison between teammates, coaches and athletic director

## **ATHLETIC TEAM SELECTION**

### **1. Philosophy**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program at Academy of Tucson High School, we encourage coaches to select as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously, time, space, facilities, equipment, athletic ability and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing procedure in this regard, coaches should strive to maximize the opportunities for student athletes without diluting the quality of the programs.

### **2. Team Selection-Coach's Responsibility**

Choosing the members of athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the coach.

#### **A. Junior Varsity Teams**

This level of competition has an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. Although being successful on the J.V. level is important, winning is not the sole objective. This is the level at which the athlete displays his/her readiness for the execution of skills at game speed. Athletic abilities, commitments, and positive attitudes will be rewarded and tested in competitive game situations.

An attempt will be made to allow as many participants as possible to play but not all will play equally. At the J.V. level, playing time will be based on the degree of effort, skill improvement, ability to compete and execution of skills at game speed demonstrated by the student athlete in practice and during games.

## B. Varsity Teams

Varsity competition is the culmination of each sport program. Normally, juniors and seniors make up the majority of the roster. However, sophomores and freshmen may be included on the team, provided that evidence of advanced levels of physical development, athletic skill, and appropriate social-emotional development are demonstrated.

Squad size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of the number needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to play the contest. It is vital that each team member have a role and be informed of its importance. The number of roster positions is relative to the students, acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team's goals. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed. It is the coach's responsibility to make clear to the student athlete what his/her role is on the team.

A sound attitude and advanced level of skill are prerequisites for a position on a varsity team, as is the realization that a varsity sport requires a significant commitment. This commitment is often extended into vacation periods for all sport seasons. While contests and practices are rarely held on holidays or vacations, the dedication and commitment needed to conduct a successful varsity program should be taken seriously.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS**

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer or seventh stringer, players must follow rules pertaining to curfew, drinking, smoking, promptness and school
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer your head off, but do not become belligerent. Respect that Coaches work with athletes and know their talents.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.

8. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because he/she is sincerely fond of children and is an experienced professional. Coaches have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Athlete's lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.

9. Remember: at a competition you, the parent, represent your town, your school and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the sports program at AHS, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. This is the opportunity for your child to talk with their respective coach and discuss the situation. When your child handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. Please follow the following procedures to help promote a resolution.

1. Parent/guardian should speak directly to the coach to discuss a concern.
2. If the concern is not resolved, call the Athletic Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach, parent and Athletic Director.
3. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or during a practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.