



# **ARBORBROOK ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

*Last Updated March 2022*

## **1. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Academics Over Athletics**

This school policy should be viewed as a natural consequence rather than a punishment. Because we value student-athletes and firmly believe it is a privilege to participate in sports, we have purposely set a high standard. Academics must still take priority over athletic participation. It is recommended that student-athletes who are having trouble keeping up with class responsibilities consider hiring a private tutor.

### **B. Academic Eligibility**

In order to participate in any school-sanctioned sport, student-athletes are required to ***maintain a grade of 70 (C-) or better in all core classes*** which includes Science, History, Math, English, and Foreign Language. Those unable to meet this requirement will be placed on Academic Probation.

### **C. What Does Academic Probation Mean?**

When on academic probation, student-athletes lose the privilege of dressing in their uniform for games and playing in games. Student-Athletes on academic probation are allowed to participate in practices and may sit on the bench during games. If a student-athlete is failing to make positive progress, he/she may be excused from attending practices and/or games in order to use that time to get caught up (may be recommended in some situations).

### **D. How Can Student-Athletes Regain Eligibility?**

Academic Probation will be evaluated on a weekly basis beginning the third Wednesday of each new semester (mid-September and mid-January). School administrators will check grades on Wednesday mornings to determine the eligibility of all student-athletes (update emails will be sent). Those meeting the requirement will remain eligible or be reinstated effective immediately. Those not meeting the requirement will remain ineligible or be placed on academic probation effective immediately.

### **E. What Happens if a Student-Athlete Finishes a Semester with a Low Grade?**

If any student-athlete fails to meet the requirement at the end of a semester (final grade is below a C-), he/she will be placed on Academic Probation until *the third Wednesday of the next semester* (at that time, the past semester will no longer apply, eligibility will be determined based on the current semester grades). This means second semester final grades will carry over to the first semester of the next school year for returning student-athletes.

#### **F. Code of Conduct**

Student-Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times – both on and off the field/court. Involvement in any inappropriate activities may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

#### **G. Illness Policy**

If a student-athlete is unable to attend school due to illness, he/she will not be permitted to participate in a practice or game later that evening. This policy only applies Monday-Thursday.

#### **H. Time Commitment**

It is important for those interested in playing sports to be fully committed to attending all practices and games (aside from illness, required school activities, and family emergencies). The consistent absence of one or more players can lead to challenging situations for the team. Vacations/family trips should be scheduled for before or after the season in which a player is playing (Example: A boys soccer player should not be on vacation on Monday-Friday after August 1st through the rest of the soccer season. If this does happen, the player should expect that there will be playing time lost. Head coaches will determine the amount of playing time lost due to a situation such as the one stated above).

If a player will not be able to play in a game or practice for any reason during the season, this needs to be communicated to the head coach ASAP. Telling a coach you can't be at a game or practice on short notice, unless it is an emergency situation, hurts the team in multiple ways and will likely result in less playing time.

Players who are on an Arborbrook sports team while also playing on another team (Club, AAU, Rec.) in the same season is allowed. However if there is missed practice time with the Arborbrook team because of the Club, AAU, or Rec team, the player will likely see less playing time during the games they play for Arborbrook. As a school sport, this should take precedence over other leagues during the school season.

(We do try to leave Wednesdays open for families who attend church/church functions. If a team has to reschedule a practice or game to a Wednesday, the coach will let the team know ASAP).

- *School Sports* require a commitment of at least 3-4 days/week (multiple practices/games during week, possible Saturdays and Wednesdays if needed)

- *Recreational Sports* require a commitment of 2 days/week (one practice during week, one game on Saturday)

## **2. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Registration Fees**

Each student-athlete will be required to pay a registration in order to participate on any Arborbrook Athletic team. The registration fee per player will vary from sport-to-sport and year-to-year and will be used to cover the cost of uniforms, equipment, facility rental fees, referees, awards, and other expenses. If a family has multiple players participating during the same sports season (same team or different teams), they will receive a discount for each additional player. Registration fees will need to be paid online through FACTS at the time of registration. Payment plans will often be available.

### **B. Volunteering**

Parents of players are asked to help with carpooling to and from practices and games. They are also asked to support each team by volunteering with concessions, ticket sales, clean up after games, etc. A minimum level of volunteer participation will be determined and communicated for each sport. Volunteering also goes towards PVC hours. (Parent volunteers are vital to putting on athletic events at ACA. We appreciate your help and time investment into our athletics program!)

### **C. Waiver of Liability & Statement of Faith**

During the online registration, Parents will need to accept a Waiver of Liability and agree with the Arborbrook Statement of Faith. Both are required in order for any student-athlete and homeschool student to participate in the Arborbrook Athletic Program.

### **D. Communication with Coaches**

Please do not try to speak with your child's coach before, during, or after practice or at any time on a game day. It is crucial for coaches to have time to prepare for and evaluate the day's activities without interruption.

If you need to speak with your child's coach, set up an official appointment that does not interfere with the times stated above. You may call the office to leave a message for the coach or you may email the coach directly. Please do not call coaches at home or work.

## **3. TEAM INFORMATION**

### **A. Equality of Teams**

At Arborbrook, all teams and sports are not created equal when resources are limited. High School teams and sports will be given priority in all situations (gym space, coach availability, practice times, etc.).

### **B. Tryouts**

Each team will conduct tryouts before the season and official practices begin. Depending on the sport and how many players come out for the team, there may be cuts made in order to have the proper amount of players on the roster. The head coach has the final say in who makes a team.

### **C. Participation of Homeschoolers**

Arborbrook values its on-going relationship with the home-schooling community. For this reason, homeschooled students are allowed to try out for Arborbrook athletic teams (only those officially registered with the state). The number of homeschoolers allowed per roster varies from sport to sport and season-to-season.

In order for a homeschooler to be eligible to tryout for a team, the family will be required to agree with and sign Arborbrook's Statement of Faith during registration. You can also find the full statement on the Arborbrook School Website ([www.arborbrook.org](http://www.arborbrook.org)).

Homeschooled students will be invited to tryouts at the same time as Arborbrook students. Coaches have the freedom to select homeschooled students over Arborbrook students, however they are not required to do so to meet a quota. Selection is based on performance and attitude during tryouts.

### **D. Younger Players on High School Teams**

Middle school players (grades 6-8) are only permitted to tryout for the high school team if invited by the coaches. In addition, based on the situation of each team as the season progresses, one or more middle school players of any age may be asked to join the high school team to help fill a void left by an injury, academic ineligibility, or other situations where the team is in need of additional players. If the middle school season concludes before the high school season, coaches are permitted to invite one or more middle school players of any age to join the high school team. "Moving up" to the high school team at the end of a season does not guarantee that that player will play on the high school team the next season.

## **4. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Athletics To Be Offered**

Arborbrook is interested in offering as many sports as we have time and resources for. However, in order to offer team sports at Arborbrook, many things have to come together: players, coaches, adult supervision and facilities. Athletics are an extracurricular activity and are not guaranteed from year to year.

### **B. Player Interest**

All sports require a minimum number of players to create a team. If the minimum number of players is not established the sport will not be offered that season.

**C. Coaching Availability**

Teams can only be created based on coaching availability, which may vary from year-to-year.

**D. Facility Availability**

When no on-campus athletic venues are available, Arborbrook will attempt to rent field and gym space at the best possible price in the best possible location. This means practice and game venues may change from year-to-year, week-to-week, and possibly day-to-day. If there are no available facilities that sport may have to be canceled until such time as the appropriate space can be secured.

**E. Adequate Supervision**

A minimum of two (2) adults known by and in good standing with Arborbrook must be present at all athletic practices. If two (2) adults are not able to be present, the practice will be canceled for that day.

**F. Athletic Awards Night**

All student-athletes (including homeschoolers) will be recognized and honored at the end of each school year during the Awards Banquet. Location and time will be announced in the Spring semester.

**G. Arborbrook Sports Website**

Updated information, registration forms, calendars, game results, cancellation information, and more can be found on the Arborbrook Sports Website ([www.arborbrooksports.org](http://www.arborbrooksports.org)).