

General Information from the Aynor High School Handbook

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful educational experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication and sacrifices required when making this kind of commitment.

Philosophy of Athletics at Aynor High School:

At Aynor High School (AHS), we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

AHS Athletic Team Information

Standards for Participation

To participate in organized athletics, all student-athletes must have the following:

A) Signed release forms which includes an Updated Medical Clearance form, Permission of Parent to Participate, Emergency Information, Concussion form and Student Agreement. These documents must be signed and will be held on file at the start of each athletic season. This packet can be found on the AHS website.

B) Four components:

- 1) Valid Physical examination completed since April 1 of the previous school year,
- 2) Medical Release form,
- 3) Parent consent form,
- 4) Authorization of medical release form

C) Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) and the Horry County Schools.

Remember, participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

Team Tryouts / Selection

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/ her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other AHS athletic opportunities on teams that have not finalized their rosters.

The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining the level of play, and apportioning the amount of playing time for each student-athlete.

Commitment

Each member of an athletic team MUST:

- Commit to being present at all team activities (including try-outs, practices, meetings, and contest with other schools).
- Dedicate herself to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Commit to maintaining passing grades throughout the season of play and attending tutorial sessions and/or Coaches Study Hall sessions during, before, or after school as needed to improve academics if in danger of failing a course(s) for the semester or school year.
- Strive to continually improve as a student-athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in herself as members of a team and of AHS.

Game/Practice Sessions

Practices are held daily for approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours, or as deemed appropriate to the activity. Some practices and games may be held on weekends. Varsity practice begins at 4:45 p.m. Junior Varsity and B Team practice begins at 3:45 pm. Any team member who must be late or miss practice, games, or meetings must contact their head coach. Practice and game schedules, particularly in the case of winter and spring sports, include school vacation times. Students and families should take this into consideration when deciding to try-out for the teams.

Absence Policy

Unexcused absences from practices may jeopardize retaining a position on the team, an opportunity to earn a varsity letter, and/or playing time at the coaches' discretion.

Four unexcused absences in a sports season will result in dismissal from a team.

Excused absences from practices may impact position on the team and playing time, not as a punitive measure, but for the safety of that individual, fairness to the rest of the team, and strategic reasons. Attending tutorial during practices is considered an excused absence. Student-athletes are responsible for communicating with coaches in advance if he/she will miss a practice or part of practice due to attending tutorial sessions.

Leaving the Team

It is to be understood that once an athlete has been dismissed from a team, he/she will not be readmitted to any other team for that particular season. It is also to be understood that an athlete voluntarily removing himself from a team without permission of the coach shall not be admitted to any other team during that season. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in any sport in the season following until his or her previous team's season is completed.

Parent Coach Relationships

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in a program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as a member of the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off season conditioning, etc.)
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the head coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at Aynor High School, 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. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

If at any time a student-athlete or parent desires to lodge a complaint or discuss an alleged conflict, the following protocol should be observed:

1. Contact the coach involved. For example, JV team players/parents would contact the JV coach.
2. If the conflict is not suitably resolved, contact the Head Coach of the program.
3. If the conflict is not suitably resolved, contact the Director of Athletics.
4. If the conflict is not suitably resolved, contact the High School Principal.

Note: Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

Sportsmanship Policy:

AHS expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat AHS coaches and players, opponents, game officials and always visiting spectators with respect.

AHS reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend (for up to one calendar year) any player, team, coach, or school official determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship.

Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests.

If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule:

Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle coaches, players, opposing teams and/or officials. We, at AHS, want the spectators to have fun at all events, but not at the expense of someone else.

Three important SCHSL Rules pertaining to student-athletes should be noted:

1. A player "thrown out" of a game shall, at a minimum, miss the next game.
2. A player "thrown out" of two games during the same season shall, at a minimum, serve a two-week suspension.
3. An athlete who has been ejected from three contests during a school year (all sports) shall become ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
4. Striking or assaulting an official results in disqualification for one full year.

School Athletic Equipment Policy:

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Additionally, those student-athletes will not be allowed to participate in another sport. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specified team regulations. Seniors will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony until all fees are paid and/or equipment returned.

Athletic Training Room Policies:

AHS is fortunate to have a highly qualified and skillful full-time trainer as a member of our staff. On school days our trainer's hours usually begin at 11:30 a.m. and last until the conclusion of the last practice or home game. During weekends and times when school is not in session, the trainer is required to be on site only for contests and for some scheduled scrimmages. Occasionally, the trainer will be on site for non-school day practices.

The training program exists to help student-athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, however, the trainer and training room facilities are extremely busy. Consequently, access to the training room and its services is limited to student-athletes who require care only. Training services are granted on a first come, first served basis on practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow bus and/or game commitments to be met.

In the event of an athletic injury, the trainer is in immediate control. At away contests, if the trainer is not present, the host school medical personnel are in control. If no medical personnel are present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to "take charge" of the situation and, if warranted, call for emergency care. All sport-related injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and a student may not return to competition without clearance by the trainer, which may also include written permission from a physician.

Transportation Policy:

When AHS provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the "guardian" during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all student-athletes and ensure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in appropriate disciplinary actions by the school. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace. In the event a parent wishes to take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son or daughter from the game, it is required that a parent/guardian must present himself/herself to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her and sign him/her out on the coach's sign-out sheet. Student-Athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian. Student-Athletes may not ride with anyone else other than their parent/guardian. Failure to follow the sign-out policy may result in disciplinary action to the athlete.

South Carolina Interscholastic Athletic Association Rules

Student eligibility: If you have any questions regarding student eligibility, please visit the South Carolina High School League website or contact the Athletic Director.

Section: Drug and Alcohol Policy

Possession of, use of, or being under the influence of Alcohol or any controlled substance while representing Horry County Schools at practices, games, overnight athletic trips, etc. will result in disciplinary action.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Daily Attendance:

Any student-athlete absent from school the day of a scheduled game or practice session must have Principal approval to play. Students who display an excessive or inappropriate pattern of leaving school early, regardless of length, will similarly be withheld from practice and/or games.

Academic Duty:

Students will plan their day so that they will devote sufficient time, effort, and energy to their studies to ensure grades representing their true abilities. Students will strive to maintain passing grades through-out the season of play /activity and will seek appropriate assistance as needed to prevent failing course(s) of study.

School Representation

Students-athletes are always considered representatives of the school. Their representation impacts their community, school, and team. Therefore, the student-athletes need to be on their best behavior. All student-athletes are required to adhere to school and district code of conduct as outlined in the Aynor High School student handbook.

Respect

A. Respect for the coaching staff- Students will understand that their coaches have their best interests in mind as they plan and guide the athletic team. They will obey the specific rules of the coach.

B. Respect for the school buildings and grounds- Students will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment will result in immediate suspension from the team. The length of the suspension will depend on the severity of the damage as determined by the Athletic Director and Coach.

Note: No cleats are to be worn in the building.

Athletic Insurance Information

- Every athlete is covered by the school's insurance provider while participating in an Aynor High School athletic event
- It is a **SECONDARY INSURANCE**
- Please be advised that this policy does not provide 100% of medical coverage. There is no guarantee it will pay the entire bill or even a percentage of the bill. This is determined on a case-by-case basis
- If you have insurance, your primary provider will pay first. The school insurance will act as a secondary insurance provider to help pay a percentage of the remainder (Again, no minimum dollar amount is guaranteed from the school's insurance provider)

- The parent/guardian of the child is responsible for any and all remaining medical expenses. The athletic trainer must be made aware of any injury in order to fill out an insurance claim. The claim has to be sent to the insurance company no later than 90 days after the incident.
- Failure to report an injury to the Athletic Trainer will forfeit the right to utilize the insurance program.

Final Message:

We urge you to support AHS Athletics by:

- Placing academics as a number one priority.
- Attending sporting events.
- Lending positive support to our teams and coaches.
- Encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team as a Student-Athlete.
- Helping other spectators and parents to maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude. Showing respect for the authority of the game officials.

Aynor High School Softball Coach, Player and Parent Contract

I, _____ plan to attend softball tryouts for the Varsity, Junior Varsity or B Team. I understand if I make one of these teams, in exchange for the privilege of being on the team, I promise to do the following:

1. **STUDENT FIRST** – I will maintain academic eligibility during the season. My grades and class work come before softball. Missing practice for tutoring may impact my playing time.
2. **BE ON TIME:** – I will arrive at all softball activities on time. If practice starts at 4:45 pm, I will be there ready to go at 4:30 pm. Ready to go means all jewelry removed, cleats on, hair braided and have all my necessary equipment. I will not have unexcused late arrivals to practice. I understand that this can result in additional conditioning after practice. I also understand having four of these can result in removal from the team. Four unexcused late arrivals may remove you from the team.
3. **BE THERE EVERY DAY:** – I am expected to be at all softball activities unless excused. If I am not at school, I cannot practice or play that day. The following are some of the approved exceptions to miss practice. (Make every effort to let your child's head coach know personally before this happens, not after).
 - A. Excused school absence
 - B. Funeral, Court, Family Emergencies, Religious Activities
 - C. College Visits (Saturdays), SAT/ACT's and school related academic events.

Unexcused absences will be dealt with in the same way as unexcused lateness. I understand four unexcused absences may result in my removal from the team. Being grounded by your parents is not an excused absence.

Remember: If you miss a practice, the team must prepare without you so you may drop on the depth chart, and you could possibly lose playing time. **A player will not play in an AHS softball game if she misses the practice before the game with an unexcused absent.**

4. **RESPECT:** I will not be disrespectful to any proper authority figures (coaches, teachers, administrators, adults, parents). AHS student / athletes should be model citizens at school and in the community. Players who are disrespectful, get office referrals, suspensions and after school detentions will be dealt with on an individual basis by the coaching staff.
5. **PLAYER CONDUCT:** I will conduct myself in a manner that will represent the AHS softball team, AHS, and the AHS community and their families always in a positive light. Each time I do not, I will be dealt with on an individual basis. I will come to my coaches first if I have a problem related to the team. Complaining and excuses will not be accepted nor tolerated. I will talk with my coaches if I feel an individual or team issue arises.
6. **SUPPORT:** I will support all coaches' decisions without complaining or displaying a disapproving vocal or facial expression. Negative body language will not be tolerated. I will accept coaching tips as a teachable moment, not a personal attack. Regardless of the position I play in the game, if my coach substitutes me temporarily, permanently or relocates me to a new position, I will not take it personally and will continue giving 100% on the field at my new position or in the dugout while supporting my teammates.

7. **PLAYING TIME:** I understand there is not a “must play rule” in high school athletics. I understand the coaching staff will put the best nine players on the field they feel like will make us more competitive. Coaches will try their best to get players playing time, but that does not guarantee playing in every game. **MY PLAYING TIME IS EARNED IN PRACTICE.** I understand playing time is a decision made by coaches only and not based on age or how long I have been on the team. The mere fact that I work hard does not automatically earn me playing time.

At no time will there be any discussions about playing time, what position you play or where you bat in the lineup with a player or parent. Upon request, the player or parent will be given feedback on what needs to be approved upon.

8. I will not allow personal feelings about my teammates or coaches to interfere with our team goals and team unity.
9. **LANGUAGE:** Profanity, foul or vulgar language is unacceptable. Violations will result in extra conditioning or parents / guardians not allowed at AHS athletic events. I understand If any profanity, foul, or vulgar language is played in any songs at any time players will lose the right to play music on the bus and at practice and games.
10. **INJURIES:** I will report any personal injury/illness or teammate’s injury/illness to a coach immediately.
11. **FAMILY:** We will respect each other like we are brothers and sisters. All players, REGARDLESS OF AGE, will be responsible for cleaning up after practice and games and carrying equipment to away games. There will be no hazing or mistreating of one another. **Any hazing will result in automatic removal from the team.**
12. **UNIFORMS:** I understand that I will not wear any uniforms in any scrimmage, tournament or game without the uniform being approved by the head softball coach, the athletic director, and the principal.
13. **TRAVEL BALL:** The SCHSL allows athletes to play travel softball during high school softball season. I understand that my head coach prefers athletes do not play or practice travel ball until their high school season has ended. I will not be punished if I choose to play or practice travel ball during the season. However, if I am unable to perform at the level expected during practice or participate in a game, my playing time may be affected.
14. **COMMUNICATION:** I understand that my coach may communicate with the team via text messages. I will respond to all texts as soon as possible.
15. I will Follow the AHS handbook, all AHS athletic guidelines, athletic rules, and team rules. Any issues that may come up will be dealt with on an individual basis, with the outcome being what is best for the team.

As a parent and/or guardian of the above-named player, I promise to do the following:

1. Influence my child to abide by the contract she has signed. I will also abide by the contract I have signed. My daughter and I have read the attached AHS athletic handbook and the contract.
2. I will notify my child's head coach if she is having any academic issues or any other personal issues that may prevent her from attending practice or games.
3. Be an example of good sportsmanship at games by making only positive comments about the players, keeping criticism of the officiating to myself, and treating other fans and our parents with respect.
4. Be patient with coaches who are not giving my child the playing time I feel she deserves. I will not discuss playing time with the coaches under any circumstances and I understand this is not a topic of conversation my daughter should have with the coaches. I will encourage my child to discuss with the coaches' things she can do to improve. I understand the only stats used by the coaching staff to make decisions are stats they maintain.
5. I understand my role is to support my child, our team, and the coaches.
6. If an issue presents itself, I will set up a meeting with my child's coach so we can resolve the issue(s). I have read and understand the chain of command in the AHS athletic handbook and will not contact the athletic director, or principal until I have tried to resolve the issues with my child's coach and/or the head coach of the softball program. Under no circumstances will I text or call an assistant or volunteer coach to discuss any potential issues with my child.
7. I understand that under no circumstances will I engage in any fundraising without first contacting the head coach for my daughter's team or the head coach of the softball program. Before any fundraising activities are approved the head coach of the softball program will receive approval from the athletic director who must receive approval from the principal.

We, the coaches, promise to do the following:

1. Treat each player as if we would want our child to be treated.
2. Be examples of good sportsmanship and character.
3. Teach your child the skills to become the best player she can be.
4. Discuss anything with parents or players, except your child's playing time. **(PLAYING TIME IS NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION)**
5. Any stat used for playing time or awards will be maintained by the coaching staff. These stats will be reviewed after the game or the following day.
6. Love your child and do any and everything possible for them to succeed in life.

7. Notify the parent/guardian as soon as possible if your child is injured or disciplined for violating the contract

Consequences of Violating this contract:

Violations of any of the above said rules, depending on the severity, will result in one or more of the following consequences:

1. Being sent home from practice.
2. Additional individual and team conditioning during or after practice
3. Suspension from practice and/or a game
4. Removal from the team

By signing below, you affirm that you have read the AHS athletic handbook along with the contract and fully understand the rules set forth by the handbook and this contract. You are also stating that you understand that violations of the AHS athletic handbook and/or this contract could result in the athlete being dismissed from the athletic program. Failure to read the AHS handbook and contract is an unacceptable reason for not following rules.

Aynor High School Softball Player

Date

Parent / Guardian (Father)

Date

Parent / Guardian (Mother)

Date

Aynor High School Head Softball Coach
Tony Mills (843) 251 – 9476
wolp@sccoast.net

Date