

Abby Kelley Foster High School



Athletic Handbook

ABBY KELLEY FOSTER HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICY

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School is currently a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association (MIAA). Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School is committed to excellence in academics and athletics. As a member of the MIAA our school competes in the Worcester County Athletic Conference comprised of teams from the surrounding communities while learning about teamwork, fitness, and wellness. Participation in Abby Kelley Foster Athletics is a privilege and may be taken away from a student-athlete for violation of any of the policies and rules listed below and/or detailed in the Parent/Student Handbook. No student will be denied the right to participate in any extra-curricular activities in the school on the basis of age, disability, marital status, national origin, race, color, sex, or English language proficiency.

Code of Conduct

- Abusive or foul language will not be tolerated. (Consequences determined by severity of offense.)
- Players will avoid unsportsmanlike gestures, and make a commitment to moral and ethical standards.
- Players will display respect for staff, coaches, teammates, opponents and officials at all times.
- Team members will travel to and from all away games on transportation provided by AKFCS. The use of student transportation is prohibited.
- Hazing is prohibited (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, ss17-18)
- Students are not to leave away game sites for any reason.
- All injuries should be reported to the coach.
- Abby Kelley Foster Code of Conduct as detailed in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Hazing

Athletes found responsible for hazing or leading initiation activities; for failing to report such hazing and initiation activities of which they have knowledge; or for retaliating in any way against any other student who reports such hazing or initiation activities, are subject to removal from participation on their team for a period up to and including the duration of their time at Abby Kelley Foster.

Hazing refers to “any action, situation, activity or complicity in activity, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental, emotional, and/or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any AKF program.”

I. Eligibility

A. Medical Eligibility

Students must have an up to date physical exam on file with the nurse's office to participate in MIAA sanctioned athletics. Physical exams are good for 13 months from date of the exam. No student will be eligible to try out for without an up to date physical. Any athlete that has a physical exam that expires midseason will need to provide the school with an up to date physical in order to continue participating in the season.

B. Academic Eligibility

All students should maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average to participate in any extracurricular activity including sports teams, academic clubs, student government and student council. The principal/assistant principal or designee reserves the right to make final eligibility decisions. Students with two failing grades may try out for an athletic team but **not** participate practices, scrimmages, games or any other team activities until they become eligible. Student participation academic eligibility is based on the following schedule:

- **Fall Sports:** 4th Quarter Grades of the previous academic year.
- **Winter Sports:** 1st Quarter Grades of the current academic year.
- **Spring Sports:** 2nd Quarter Grades of the current academic year

C. Age and Grade Eligibility

A student is eligible for MIAA athletics for twelve consecutive seasons beginning with his/her entry into ninth grade.

Students who are 19 years old prior to September 1 of the school year are not eligible for high school sports.

D. Athletic Department Standing

All student athletes must be in good standing with the AKF Athletic Department. Students that meet any of the following criteria will be considered **NOT** in good standing with the AKF Athletic Department and be ineligible for participation:

- Unpaid athletic fees from any previous season
- Student has voluntarily (quit) or involuntarily been removed from another sports team during that school year.

II. Absences and Extracurricular Activities

If a student has been absent during the School day he or she will not be allowed to attend an extracurricular or athletic school activity that day. A student will be considered absent if they are out for more than 50% of the school day.

III. Playing Time

Playing time of each participant is the sole prerogative of the coach of the sport in his/her discretion and judgment. There are many factors that govern an individual playing time. Some of the most important are: attendance at practice, effort, attitude, commitment, and athletic skill. Playing time is not guaranteed to any member of a Varsity Athletic team.

IV. Games and Practices

Student athletes have made a commitment to be at all practice sessions, contests and team meetings. Any team member who must be late, or miss practice, games or meetings must confer with their coach with the following stipulations put in place for all athletes.

- Any athlete that misses the practice immediately preceding a game contest will be required to sit for the first half of the next game.
- Any athlete that misses a game will be ineligible to play in the next game contest.

MIAA Rule 45: Loyalty to High School Team: Bona Fide Team Member

A Bona fide team member of a school team is a student who is regularly present for and actively participates in all team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to practice or compete with an out-of-school team or club. Any student who violates this standard is ineligible for 25% of the season. Any student who violates this standard a second time is ineligible for an additional 25% of the season. Repeated violations are grounds for removal from the team. Students who violate this rule are also ineligible to participate in any MIAA sanctioned tournaments.

V. Schedule Limitations

A student-athlete shall participate in only one MIAA interscholastic sport in any defined MIAA sport season (Fall, Winter, or Spring), including tournaments and/or championships in that season. A student-athlete officially becomes a member of his/her team for the sport season on the date of that school's first regular season contest in that sport.

A student-athlete that quits one sport is therefore unable to join another team during that athletic season.

A student-athlete is not allowed to play more than one season of the same sport in a school year.

VI. Tryouts

Any student that plans on participating on an AKF Athletic Team must complete on-line registration, submit up to date physical exam, and attend tryouts.

Tryout Dates:

Fall Sports	5 days prior to the first day of school (Exception Football)
Winter Sports	Monday following Thanksgiving
Spring Sports	Third Monday in March

VII. School Equipment Responsibilities

Students are responsible for, and are expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any items lost, stolen or damaged. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned within three days of the completion of the season.

VIII. Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco

MIAA Rule 62.1: From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol, any tobacco product (Including: e-cigarettes, vape pens and all similar devices), marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance.

This policy applies to the entire calendar year, applies to any location, and is in effect seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

Penalties

- A. First Violation:** the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling a minimum of 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. If the violation occurs during the season, the penalty shall be applied to that sport for that season. In the event that inadequate contests remain in the sport's season such that the full penalty cannot be served in that season, the remaining penalty may be applied to contests in another sport for which the student otherwise is eligible and makes the roster in the next season or a subsequent season, even if those remaining contests occur during the next academic year
- B. Second Violation/Subsequent Violations:** the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling a minimum of 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport.

IX. Athletic Participation Warning

Although most athletic injuries are usually minor, serious injury, including permanent paralysis or death, may occur.

Please see AKF Athletic webpage for complete information regarding Concussion Policy and Graduated Return to Play Guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your building principal.

X. Athletic Fees

All students participating on a Varsity or Sub-Varsity Athletic team are required to pay athletic fees. Athletic fees are due prior to the first athletic contest. Students that do not fulfill this requirement are subject to removal from their sport until this balance is paid off. Payment of athletic fees does **NOT** guarantee an individual playing time on their team.

Athletic Fee Schedule:

Football: \$200.00

All other sports: \$150.00

Family Cap: \$350.00

Students on Free/Reduced Lunch:

All Sports: \$50.00

Family Cap: \$100.00

XI. Appeals

Any appeal involving athletics should be made first to the head coach. If not resolved at that level, the athletic director should be the next level. If still not resolved, the next level would be the principal. The final decision resides with the associate superintendent

ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE FOUND IN THE ABBY KELLEY FOSTER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL HANDBOOK OR THE MIAA WEBSITE. WWW.MIAA.NET