

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST BUSHWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Policy

Approved 12/09/13, Revised 12/10/13

The rules and regulations developed here are designed to promote the effective operation of athletic programs in Achievement First Bushwick Middle School. This provides a written guide on how these programs are expected to function for athletes, coaches, parents, advisors, spectators, and participants.

All students and/or participants will be subject to the rules that follow. These rules will be binding from the time a participant enters into an activity until the cessation of that activity or while on school property home or away.

Parents are expected to read the athletic and activities handbook and support their child in meeting his/her responsibilities as a team member.

Parents are expected to support their child and his/her team in a manner that reflects the expected level of the code of conduct. Parents who attempt to advise their children from the “sidelines” during an event may be putting their child in a difficult position. Parents who wish to discuss a concern should make an appointment to see the coach/advisor.

Parents are asked to be prompt in picking their children up after games or practices. Parents are also responsible for informing the coaches in writing of any individual or special circumstances regarding their child (for example medical or custodial). This can be done on the “comment” section of the emergency medical form.

In order to Participate:

- A. A participant must meet all eligibility requirements imposed on him or her by Achievement First Bushwick Middle School.
 1. **Academic Standard:** Students must be passing all classes they are taking. All activities will be governed by a weekly eligibility list (Monday to Monday). Those students who have not passed all classes at the conclusion of a nine-week period will be considered ineligible until the next progress list appears.
 2. **Emergency Information Form:** A participant must have (prior to the start of any practice) an athletic participation and emergency information form signed by his or her parent on file in the school office.
 3. **Attendance in School:** The participant must be in school all day the day of the game, practice or activity. The participant must be in school all day after the activity. Violators will be excluded from participation in the next contest. Students who leave school without permission or are considered truant for any reason will not be allowed to practice or play on the same day.
 - a. Exceptions to the Above: Approved prearranged absences, medical reasons (must have doctor’s excuse or administrative approval) or family emergencies. This rule only applies when school is in session.
 4. A participant must have read these procedural rules and have signed a statement of compliance. His or her parents must have read and signed a statement of compliance. This will be on file at the school office.
 5. All requirements listed above will be met prior to the student being allowed to participate in any practice, game or event.

Practices:

Practices will be held Monday - Friday during the season. Contests will be scheduled Monday - Saturday. No practices will be held on Saturday or Sunday without the written permission of the athletic director. Permission will only be granted under very special circumstances.

Change of Sport:**Dual Participate:**

Dual participation in will permitted on a petition basis only. Athletes interested in participating in two concurrent athletic activities must receive approval from both head coaches and the athletic director before beginning either sport. The athletic director will develop the criteria for allowing dual participation.

Game Transportation:

School buses will be used on all trips. Participants are required to be in attendance on the bus to and from the game. Exception may be made by a parent in returning from games. The coach must personally turn the athlete over to the parent or guardian before leaving. The parent or guardian must sign a release form before the student will be released. Violation of this policy will be considered a major offense.

Personal Appearance and Conduct:

Athletes are to give close attention to their appearance as they are representing Achievement First Bushwick Middle School. All athletes and participants will conduct themselves in a proper manner to insure no negative reflection on themselves, the school, or community traveling to and from the activity.

Injury:

Any athlete who requires medical attention for an injury must bring to the coach a note from the doctor that clearly states that the athlete may continue participating in that sport or that clarifies the limitations under which the athlete has been restricted. Students who are injured are required to remain a part of the team for the season by assisting the coach in whatever manner the coaches see fit in order to qualify for a letter.

Equipment:

In the event of lost school equipment the athlete shall be charged a replacement cost of the lost items and shall not be allowed to draw equipment for another sport until such charges have been paid. It is the desire of the school, however, that whenever possible we should make every effort to get the equipment rather than charge the cost of the equipment. The reason for this is that sometimes equipment is difficult to replace. Athletes are not to use school athletic apparel for casual wear. Athletic uniforms will be worn only during participation in the appropriate activity.

Discipline:

Minor Offenses: (Determination is the responsibility of the coach)

1. Use of profanity during a practice or game.
2. Displays of poor sportsmanship.
 - a. A function of the Achievement First Bushwick Middle School athletic program is to promote good sportsmanship. Flagrant acts of unsportsmanlike conduct will result in immediate removal (benching) for the duration of the event. Further consequences will be at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director.

- b. Lesser offenses will result in discipline by the coach.
 - c. Disqualification by an official will result in a 1-game suspension for the next event.
- 3. Failure to attend practices:
 - a. Failure to attend a regularly scheduled practice necessitates the coach of the athlete to take some sort of action.
 - b. Any unexcused absences from practice in one week will automatically suspend that player from any game participation for that week. Continued absences from practice must be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director for disciplinary action. For minor offenses coaches may suspend athletes from game participation and/or place them on probation for the remainder of the season. Minor offenses may be handled by the individual coaches but disciplinary action that includes any game suspension will be written up with a copy submitted to the Principal, Athletic Director, and parent.

Major Offenses: (Allegations as observed by a current employee and processed by the Athletic Director.)

- 1. Use and/or possession of tobacco.*
- 2. Distribution or use of alcoholic beverages or possession of same, and/or conviction of breaking of liquor laws.
- 3. Distribution or use of drugs or possession of same, and/or arrest and conviction of breaking of drug laws.
- 4. Arrest and conviction of criminal laws, excepting minor traffic violations.
- 5. Stealing of school property that belongs to this school or any other school.
- 6. Major vandalism of school property of this or any other school.
- 7. Extreme cases of poor sportsmanship or behavior (more than one ejection from an athletic contest during a sport season will constitute a major offense).
- 8. Violation of game transportation rule #5.

A participant found guilty of a major offense automatically serves a twenty (20) school day and minimum of (2) game suspension from participation in athletic contests and practices. The offense must occur during a sport season and the athlete must serve the full twenty (20) school days and two (2) game suspensions within one year of the time of the offense.

A second major offense during a school year will result in a one-year athletic suspension from the date of the offense. A third major offense at any time during a student's four-year career will result in that student no longer being considered eligible for athletic participation at Achievement First Bushwick Middle School. Students suspended due to a major violation will not be permitted to attend any athletic event during the duration of their athletic suspension.

*The Principal may waive up to 10 days of the suspension provided the student successfully completes an approved tobacco cessation class for the first offense only.

Spectator Conduct:

Spectators of sports activities on the grounds of school facilities are considered guests of Achievement First Bushwick Middle School. The school reserves the right at any time to eject or deny attendance privileges to any guest of the school for any reason that the school determines is sufficient. It is the responsibility of the school to teach and model good behavior and to maintain a safe and orderly environment at all times. Spectator conduct that is identified, at the discretion of the school administration (or designated

supervisor) as unruly, profane, or disorderly, or any behavior that interferes or threatens to interfere with the event shall result in the following consequences:

Warning: a warning will be given if the spectator conduct is not considered profane or has not yet interfered with the event. Warnings do not have to be given if the behavior is considering profane or has interfered with the operation of the game from a coach or officials' perspective.

Ejection: spectators will be removed from the event should their behavior disrupt the operation of the game or is considered profane. Spectators that have been warned previously shall be removed should the inappropriate behavior continue.

Suspension: a spectator who has been removed from an event may have their spectator privileges revoked for a period of time. This period of time may range from one game to one calendar year, depending of the severity of the behavior. This will be determined by the administration of the school. Any spectator who has been removed from an event must meet with school administration prior to attending a subsequent event. At this time, the spectator will be informed of suspension, if necessary. For behavior that is severe in nature or for failure to follow the directives of the administration or event supervisor, law enforcement officials will be contacted. In the event that this is necessary, spectators may be "trespassed" from school property for all events.

END OF POLICY

Spectator Expectations

Thank you for coming to support youth sports. In order to provide the best experience possible for our student-athletes, we ask that all spectators follow these rules and expectations:

- Respect all players on both teams
- Respect the coaches and other adult staff
- Respect the referees, even if you may not agree with their call.
- Positive and supportive cheering is encouraged
- Put downs, taunting, or any negative comments will not be tolerated
- Use appropriate language for a school setting
- Please clean up after yourself

****Any spectators not following these rules may be asked to leave****