

2021-2022



**ANTWERP STUDENT
ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK**

Antwerp Local Schools

Mission Statement

The mission of the Antwerp Local School District is to enable all students to become productive and resourceful members of an ever-changing world using a variety of strategies and technologies.

Vision Statement

The Antwerp Local School District's vision is for all students to graduate from its PK - 12 educational facilities with 21st Century skills, knowledge, and behaviors that will enable them to successfully participate in the global economy as productive citizens. Ultimately, all students will graduate well prepared for success.

Welcome

Antwerp administration and coaches would like to welcome you to this year's athletic seasons. The policies, procedures, rules, and regulations identified in the handbook have been established to provide a safe and productive learning environment for our athletes. They are a result of a concerted effort among coaches and administration.

Many opportunities are available to you as an athlete at Antwerp Middle/High School. The coaches and administration will provide you with a productive athletic experience to help you grow as an athlete and develop quality leadership skills needed in our global society. Antwerp places great value in the development of its student-athletes. The school provides the background and the discipline to assist students to achieve their goals and enable them to grow into productive adult citizens.

Antwerp student-athletes become a part of an established tradition of excellence. This tradition has led many successful student-athletes to rewarding and fulfilling lives. Dedication and work ethic to academic and athletic education are key characteristics of success, which will lead to confidence and self-respect. Self-respect will translate into appreciation for all members of the Antwerp Local School community.

As a student-athlete at Antwerp, it is extremely important that you read and familiarize yourself with the handbook. The administration and coaches wish you the best of luck this school year. The administration and coaches will put forth their best efforts to help you reach your full potential.

Administration

Superintendent – Dr. Martin Miller

Principal – Mr. Travis Lichty

Athletic Director – Mr. Drew Altimus

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Antwerp Athletic Philosophy

The emphasis in each sport will be to develop a successful varsity sports program. Each sport will be viewed as one program presided over by the Varsity Head Coach. The Varsity Head Coach will be involved with the program at all levels and be responsible for the performance of the entire program. In all sports, student athletes will be taught one system from seventh grade through the varsity level. The Varsity Head Coach will determine the offensive, defensive, and fundamental skills and training methods to be taught to the entire program. In addition, the Varsity Head Coach will be responsible for recommending quality coaches at all levels to the athletic director and building principal.

The first step toward a successful varsity program begins with Middle School Athletics. Middle School Athletics will not be a continuation of the youth sports' philosophy of "everyone plays". Beginning with seventh grade, student-athletes will be gradually immersed in the world of competitive athletics, and with each successive level of play, will be introduced to an increased level of competition.

*****PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT!*****

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The objectives of athletics are within the larger goals of the entire school program. We believe that athletics must make a positive contribution to the individual's mental, physical, and social growth toward adulthood. The following items represent the specific objectives for the girls and boys that make-up the Antwerp Athletic Program:

1. To develop a sense of Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship to the letter and spirit of the rules
2. To develop capacities of Leadership.
3. To realize the value of Hard Work. The participant's experience in a planned athletic program is nurtured on the fundamental principle that hard work is the key to success. It does not guarantee the athlete that s/he will succeed if they work hard, but rather, the athlete learns that hard work is an integral part of realizing any objective
4. To develop a Positive approach to winning. Playing to win is probably the most important prerequisite to gaining the benefits from athletics. By playing to win, the athlete uses all the valuable resources that each participant is trying to develop through athletics. Playing to win does not mean that benefits cannot result unless one wins. The positive approach does mean, however that every task is approached with the thought of providing maximum effort will result in a victory.
5. To develop an "Appreciation" for individual excellence. To make the maximum contribution to a team, school, job, or profession requires the individual to deliver his/her full potential. Sports places a premium on the athlete always being prepared to do his/her best.
6. Surrounding these objectives are a number of "by-products" that exemplify the athletic program:
 - a. Athletics are fun. Fun arising from comradeship, anticipation, excitement of a contest, and the enthusiasm that surrounds a team working toward a common goal.
 - b. Athletics presents an opportunity to excel.
 - c. Athletes are a strong influence on the younger girls and boys in our community. The athlete contributes to the character growth of this group.
 - d. Through athletics a girl or boy can recognize that each individual has limitations and through effort they can increase their abilities.
 - e. The athletic program affects the morale of the entire school. The contagious enthusiasm and spirit of sports permeates all activities.
 - f. Interscholastic competition affords the opportunity to meet girls and boys from all types of homes and community backgrounds. It will help to broaden perspective.
 - g. Athletics present, to the participants, a planned program whereby each person can develop strong and healthy mind and body.

7. The privilege of participating on an athletic team, therefore, entails certain responsibilities on the part of the athlete:
 - a. The athlete should maintain a satisfactory classroom record. Satisfactory, in this case does not mean merely passing, but working at one's best ability.
 - b. The athlete should develop a standard of social conduct similar to the "adherence of rules" and sportsmanlike spirit of sports so that each person is a credit to his/her school and community.
 - c. The athletes respect their bodies and therefore respect the training rules that are formulated to get them into top physical condition. They recognize that the training rules are a year-around obligation if they are to represent themselves and their teams in the best light.
8. The school has a responsibility to the girls and boys who are representatives of the athletic program. The athlete can expect the school:
 - a. To enthusiastically foster school spirit and athletic support by recognizing the contributions made by the athletic teams to the total school program.
 - b. To willingly provide, within its' means, the best facilities and equipment available.
 - c. To adopt and maintain hiring procedures that will provide the best instruction and coaching. This will help the athlete not only grow into a better participant, but also into a mature adult.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

1. To afford an opportunity for participation for all students who desire to participate.
2. To allow the participant to reach his/her full potential.
3. To create an atmosphere that will promote a positive social attitude.
4. To provide an opportunity to extend student interest beyond classroom experiences, within and outside the community.
5. To provide an opportunity to develop skills and attitude that can be employed in daily life.

SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETICS

1. FALL SPORTS
 - a. Cross Country
 - b. Football
 - c. Golf
 - d. Volleyball
2. WINTER SPORTS
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Wrestling
3. SPRING SPORTS
 - a. Baseball
 - b. Softball
 - c. Track

*Cheerleading in the fall for Football, winter for Boys' Basketball and competition cheer

ATHLETES SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

1. I will participate because I want to and not because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper since fighting and disrespectful behavior can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. I will respect my opponent.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player. (know & understand my role on the team)
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends, and giving my best effort are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by my teammates and opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given up their time to be there for me.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC POLICY

LOCAL BOARD POLICY:

1. QUARTERLY

- a. The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) that are consistent with State and Federal law and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.
- b. Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. (Note: Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards along with those participating via state law that permits home educated and non-public school students to participate at the public schools in the district of residence of the parents).
- c. Those athletes who are taking NOVA (Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy) will have eligibility checks. If the student is taking a yearlong course, s/he must have successfully completed at least 25% of the course by the end of each grading period. If the student is taking a semester course, s/he must have successfully completed 50% of the course by the end of each grading period. The letter grade is looked at for weekly and grading period eligibility.

*Note: "Grading period" is defined as your school's Board-adopted calendar, which consists of nine-week sessions.

2. WEEKLY

- a. Students receiving two or more failing grades will be ineligible to participate the following week, beginning Sunday midnight and concluding midnight the following Sunday. Students receiving two or more cumulative failing grades are ineligible for one week.
- b. A weekly check of the student's academic achievement will be conducted by the Athletic Director. The AD will be responsible for notifying the Principal, affected student and his/her parents. Any NOVA courses being taken will be included in the weekly academic check. The student must have at least the minimum percentage of the course complete and academic grade.

**Students declared ineligible, who believe extenuating circumstances do exist, may appeal to the building principal.

****IN ALL CASES, THE MINIMUM OHSAA STANDARDS MUST BE MET***

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The objective of the OHSAA is to promote wholesome athletics in the schools of Ohio. In carrying out his objective, the Association regulates, supervises, and administers interscholastic athletic competition among its member schools to the end that the interscholastic program will be an integral factor in the total educational program of the school.

The Antwerp Local School District is a member of the OHSAA. The membership permits all girls' and boys' teams to enter and participate in OHSAA tournament play.

A current copy of the OHSAA Handbook will be kept in the offices of the Middle/High School Principal and Athletic Director. Coaches should check this book to find the answer to any interscholastic sport questions.

OHSAA Rules and Regulations

Student Eligibility:

The eligibility rules in this Bylaw 4 are an integral part of the member schools of the OHSAA and the Commissioner's Office in order to create, administer and maintain the valuable and unique form of competition interscholastic athletics has to offer. This unique form of competition is a carefully constructed system that promotes competitive balance and serves the mission and purpose of education-based sports and activities. Interscholastic sports and activities are intended to foster a sense of community as well as to teach teamwork, citizenship and discipline. Other sporting organizations (and other forms of competition) exist to promote free player movement and are primarily designed to promote athletic development of the individual and provide a showcase for the athletic talents of those individuals. These organizations do not share the primary purposes of the member schools of this Association or the Commissioner's Office and therefore cannot provide the unique type of competition created and maintained by the OHSAA through its member schools. Efforts randomly to impose adjustments or favoritism on these eligibility rules damage and undermine the very purposes for sponsorship of interscholastic competitions, the member schools and their Association and, in turn, damage all the students who either participate in an Association sport/activity or who support them. The member schools of the OHSAA and the Commissioner's Office established by these member schools and charged with the ultimate authority to enforce these eligibility rules are committed to maintain this unique form of competition.

1. **Residence:** You may attend any public or non-public high school in which you are accepted when you enter a high school from a 7th-8th grade school.
 - a. Eligibility at the school is established by:
 - i. Participating in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season game) prior to the first day of school or
 - ii. Attending the first day of school at any member school

*If there is a change in custody, you must live in the same school district as your legal guardian.

*If your parent or legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the OHSAA exceptions is met. Please refer to the OHSAA website for details.

2. **Transfer Students:** Once eligibility has been established at a member school, those who transfer to a different school will be ineligible for the first 50% of each season the athlete participated in prior year.
 - a. Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.
 - b. Those athletes with disabilities may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director or Principal
3. **Semesters of Enrollment:** After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted eight semesters of athletic eligibility.
 - a. Semesters are taken in order of attendance once eligibility has been established
 - b. Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not
 - c. Those athletes with disabilities may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director or Principal

4. **Age Limitations (Scholarship):**

- a. **4-2-1**- Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.

Exception 1: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEA requirements was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the Commissioner’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty. High school students (grades 9-12) who turn 19 years of age prior to August 1 of the school year, are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

- b. **4-2-2** – If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

Exception 1: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the Commissioner’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student’s teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student’s eighth grade year with the 7th-8th grade school, the Commissioner’s office may declare the student eligible notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the following criteria can be met:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and

- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes of her/his grade level; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

*Those athletes with disabilities may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director or Principal

5. **Participation on Non-School Teams:**

- a. ***Definition*** – A non-interscholastic program is defined as an organization composed of players in grades 7-12 either in or outside of school in which the primary purpose is to compete in contests no matter whether admission is charged, fees or expenses are collected, or whether or not a coach is present, and regardless of whether instruction is given. Examples of non-interscholastic programs include but are not limited to: church, intramural, Y.M.C.A., C.Y.O., A.A.U., USAVB, USSF, City Recreation, All-Star, Club or any non-interscholastic team or combination of players involved in team play.
- b. ***Member of an Interscholastic (School) Squad*** – A student is considered to be a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest in a sport that is sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board and the sport is one of the 24 recognized sports as authorized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic program is labeled as a game, meet, match, preview, scrimmage or other type of competition.
- c. ***Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs – Team Sports*** – A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball) shall not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on a non-interscholastic squad in a team sport in the same sport during the school’s interscholastic sports season. This regulation is applicable for those invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practices at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school team such as a club.
- d. ***Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs – Individual Sports*** – A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board in an individual sport (bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling) shall not participate in a contest on a non-interscholastic squad in the same sport during the school’s interscholastic sports season.
- e. ***Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs Outside the Interscholastic Season – Team Sports*** – A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board may participate in non-interscholastic contests, tryouts, training or practices prior to, and after, the school’s interscholastic season under the following conditions:
 - i. The number of interscholastic squad members from the same school on the non-interscholastic squad is limited to a maximum of 50% of the members of a team as defined in the playing rules of the sport. From June 1 through July 31 (in the sports of baseball and softball, the period is the Friday before Memorial Day-May 23 in the current school year-through July 31) this restriction is not in effect, provided the squad members have concluded their school season. The 50% limitation is defined as follows for all OHSAA recognized team sports.

- ii. 50% Limitation on Sport Number of squad members

- Baseball 4
- Basketball 2
- Field Hockey 5
- Soccer 5
- Softball 4
- Volleyball 3

- iii. An interscholastic squad member may continue participation with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the squad is eliminated from the national qualifying tournament but no later than Labor Day.
- iv. Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic squad after their final interscholastic contest in a season in the same sport are exempt from this limitation.

- f. ***Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs Outside the Interscholastic Season – Individual Sports*** – A member of an interscholastic squad in an individual sport sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board may participate in non-interscholastic contests, tryouts, training or practices prior to, and after, the school’s interscholastic season with no restriction except as stipulated in regulation 7.11 – Members of the Interscholastic Coaching Staff.

6. **NCAA Eligibility Rules:**

- a. It is the coach’s responsibility to direct a player and his/her guardians that are looking to participate in a collegiate sport, to the athletic director or guidance counselor. There will be a booklet of NCAA rules in both guidance and athletic offices.

Antwerp Local General Athletic Regulations

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:

It is the policy of Antwerp Local Schools that physical examinations for interscholastic sports shall be the responsibility of the parents and shall select the doctor of their choice. (Note: OHSAA By-Law 3, Section 4 – Physical Examination Forms). Physical forms may be picked up in the athletic director’s office.

No student will be allowed to begin official practice without a valid physical on file in the athletic director’s office. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY!!**

1. PHYSICALS

- a. Must be OHSAA prescribed physical exam
- b. Must be completed before participation
- c. Physician, participant and parent/guardian must sign the physical card
- d. Coach/Supervisors’ responsibility to see that NO participation occurs until the student’s completed/signed physical is filed with the A.D.

2. EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS

- a. All students must have this form on file in the middle/high school office
- b. Coaches/Supervisors will also have a copy of each participant’s from with the team/group at ALL times.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION:

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. A concussion can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, ***all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.*** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms or concussion, or if you notice the symptoms of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

1. SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Headaches
- b. Pressure in Head
- c. Nausea or Vomiting
- d. Neck Pain
- e. Balance Problems or Dizziness
- f. Blurred, Double or Fuzzy Vision
- g. Sensitivity to Light or Noise
- h. Feeling Sluggish or Slowed Down
- i. Feeling Foggy or Groggy
- j. Drowsiness
- k. Change in Sleep Patterns
- l. Amnesia
- m. Don’t Feel Right
- n. Fatigue or Low Energy
- o. Sadness
- p. Nervousness or Anxiety
- q. More Emotional
- r. Confusion
- s. Concentration or Memory Problems
- t. Repeating the Same Question/Comment

2. SIGNS OF A CONCUSSION OBSERVED BY TEAMMATES, PARENTS OR COACHES

- a. Appears Dazed
- b. Vacant Facial Expression
- c. Confused About Assignment
- d. Forgets Plays
- e. Is Unsure of Game, Score, or Opponent
- f. Moves Clumsily or Displays Poor Coordination
- g. Answers Questions Slowly
- h. Slurred Speech
- i. Shows Behavior or Personality Changes
- j. Can't Recall Events Prior to Hit or After Hit
- k. Seizures or Convulsions
- l. Any Changes in Typical Behavior or Personality
- m. Loses Consciousness

3. WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THE ATHLETE KEEPS PLAYING WITH A CONCUSSION

- a. Athletes with signs and symptoms of concussion shall be removed from play immediately. Continuation of play, with signs and symptoms of a concussion, leaves the young athlete vulnerable to greater injury. There is increased risk of significant damage from a concussion, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete safety.

4. IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS SUFFERED A CONCUSSION

- a. Any athlete that is suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think your child may have a concussion. Remember, it is better to miss one game than to miss the whole season. When in doubt, the athlete sits out
- b. For current and up-to-date information on concussions, you can go to <http://www.cdc.gov/concussioninyouthsports/>

ANTWERP LOCAL DRUG TESTING POLICY:

The Antwerp Board of Education Drug Testing Policy was formed because of a concern that alcohol and illicit drugs may be used by Antwerp student athletes. The Antwerp Board of Education desires to implement a policy which will attempt to provide this District with a safe and healthy athletic program. The policy reflects the Board and community's strong commitment to establish an alcohol and drug free school program. Due to the pervasive nature of drug use in our District, Antwerp Local has selected student athletes, students who participate in competitive extra-curricular activities and students who, along with consent from their parents, volunteer to be tested, for inclusion in the testing pool. This policy applies to all athletes, volunteers and extracurricular activities from grades 9-12.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY SHALL BE:

1. To provide a healthy and safe environment to all students participating in athletic and extracurricular programs.
2. To discourage all students from using alcohol and drugs. Student will assume all responsibility for regulating their personal lives that will result in becoming healthy members of a team and quality representatives of the school and community
3. To provide student with the opportunity to become leaders within the student body representing a drug free school
4. To provide solutions for the student who does use alcohol and/or drugs
5. To provide the school with positive guidelines and disciplinary actions for violations of the drug free policy
6. To encourage those students who participate in athletics and extracurricular programs to remain alcohol and drug free.

PROCEDURES FOR DRUG TESTING POLICY:

1. Agreement: The agreement form must be completed and turned-in before participation. Any student moving into the District shall be tested prior to the time s/he joins the team. All athletes will be tested prior to the beginning of the season and then a random testing procedure will be utilized during the season.
2. Random Testing: In-season random testing shall be done throughout the duration of the season. Each team may have up to 20% of its eligible students tested per random selection. A student may be tested more than once per season. In the event of a positive result, the specimen will be sent to a laboratory for confirmation of the results and a certified Medical Review Officer will determine the results.
 - a. Random Selection Process: The AD, under the Principal's supervision, will use a system to ensure that students are selected in a random fashion. This system may include computer generated random numbers or names, or by pulling numbers from a pool of numbers equal to the number of eligible student athletes
 - b. Scheduling of Random Testing: Random testing will be unannounced. The day and date will be selected by the AD and confirmed by the building administrator. Random testing may be done weekly.
3. Drugs for which Athletes May Be Tested: LSD, Alcohol, Marijuana, Amphetamines, Methodone, Anabolic Steroids, Methoqualone, Barbituarates, Nicotine (Tobacco), Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Cocaine, Propoxyphene (Darvon), or any substance included in U.S.C. 8029(6), which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided in the prescription or by the manufacturer.
4. Collection Process (Urine Screens): The student will be notified to report to the collection site. A specimen from the student will be collected as follows and all students must follow this process:
 - a. All students must have a picture ID or be identified by the AD or Principal. No exceptions will be allowed
 - b. Drug testing area must be secured during the testing session
 - c. Only lab technicians and students will be witness to the test
 - d. Privacy must be kept for all students

*The A.D. is responsible for ensuring that all forms are completed and signed by both parents/guardians and the student.

*This collection procedure is subject to change because of procedural requirements by the testing agency. The Board reserves the right to change the collection procedure to coincide with the testing guidelines set forth by the testing agency.

*When using rapid screens, all non-negative screens must be sent out with a chain of custody to a certified laboratory for confirmation. A Certified Medical Review Officer will verify the positive test.

*Any student that tests positive will have to be tested weekly for a 5-week term with drug counseling, to be paid for by the parent/guardian. Testing will be done by Great Lakes Biomedical only so long as this is the company the school selects.

5. Results of a Positive Test: Any positive urine drug test results will be made known to the athletic director, who will inform building administrator, parents/guardian and student athlete.
6. If a Positive Test Occurs: The consequences will be defined in the Athletic Discipline Code

ABSENCE POLICIES:

Students must be in attendance by the beginning of 2nd period of a school day and remain in school for the remainder of that school day in order to be eligible to participate in a practice, competition, or performance. All time missed prior to the beginning of second period must be an excused absence. Students not in attendance after 2nd period are ineligible to participate in a practice, competition or performance that school day. Exceptions: Dentist/Doctor/College Visit/Court/Funeral or excused absence in advance by the principal/athletic director.

Students ineligible to participate in a practice, competition, or performance may attend such events, but are not permitted to take part in the actual skills, drills, rehearsals, conditioning, etc.

All extracurricular participants have a responsibility to their fellow teammates or group members, and coaches/supervisors to be at all practices, games and performances. This is consistent with the goals of responsibility, selflessness and teamwork that are critical in extracurricular programs. Athletes must remember that participation is a privilege, and the head coach or supervisor will make the decision as to who plays according to what is best for the team.

Students who miss practices or games for no justifiable reason can Expect Participation Privileges to be Denied.

PARTICIPATION:

Participants are guaranteed due process rights as listed in the Discipline Code. Coaches/Supervisors will devise consequences to be met that are within reason and within the parameters of their activity.

The extracurricular activity staff realize that there may be justifiable conflicts that arise between activities and family responsibilities, class, work, and other duties. A schedule will be distributed before or at the start of the regular season. EVERY ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID CONFLICT. If a conflict is not avoidable, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Participant notifies the coach/supervisor as soon as s/he is aware of the conflict.
2. Every attempt should be made to resolve the conflict through special arrangements by the participant, coach/supervisor, A.D., principal, teacher, parents, or other persons involved.
3. Participant must still expect to face consequences according to team/group rules.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE:

Student athletes will be governed by the comprehensive Athletic Department rules contained in the Code of Conduct, plus specific guidelines developed by the head coaches of the particular sports. These specific guidelines will be presented to the athlete, in writing, on/by the first official day of practice. The guidelines will be signed by the parents and participants and returned to the head coach/supervisor.

Violation of one or more of the guidelines may result in dismissal from the athletic squad/team. Prior to dismissal from the squad/team, the head coach must inform the principal, athletic director, athlete and the athlete's parents of the intended action.

HAZING POLICY:

All staff should be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, and events which might include hazing. To that end, the program should verify that this policy is communicated to all staff and participants and that all hazing incidents are immediately reported to the Head Coach. It is then the Coaches responsibility to report the issue to the Athletic Director.

Hazing is defined as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the Board shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

UNIFORM CARE:

Those student who participate in activities where uniforms are distributed, will be financially responsible for the care and upkeep of that uniform. Uniforms are property of the athletic department and are only to be worn by the participants during the activity. Uniforms are NOT to be worn around town or in school (may be worn on the day of the contest with A.D. approval and attire doesn't violate the dress code).

Students who fail to turn any portion of their assigned uniform or equipment, at the conclusion of the season, will be denied participation in all other sports until their obligation is met. Uniforms are to be kept safely at home and kept under lock and key if brought to school.

UNDER NO CONDITION SHOULD ANY ATHLETE ALLOW ANOTHER PERSON TO WEAR HIS/HER UNIFORM. Athletes should be proud to wear their uniform and not willing to let others wear what they have not earned.

TRANSPORTATION:

All participating school personnel (coaches/supervisors, participants, statisticians, managers, etc.) MUST be transported, by school authorized transportation, both to and from events/activities/games/performances. A parent may make special arrangements to transport their athlete home in the case of an appointment or special circumstances, after their athletic event.

**NOTE: No student, regardless of age, will be permitted to drive participants to and from events, even if s/he has parental permission.

All requests for team buses or use of school van must be made through the athletic director, who will arrange transportation through the superintendent's office.

OPEN GYM:

The head coach will work with the athletic director and other head coaches to follow the OHSAA rules concerning the use of open gyms. There is not to be any instruction during an open gym. If there is instruction during this time, the coach must adhere to the number of athletes allowed in the building.

A coach will not ask an athlete to participate in an open gym when that athlete is currently in a season. An agreement could be made between coaches.

**Open Gyms are NOT MANDATORY

POLICY ON QUITTING A SPORT:

Any athlete who quits a sport will not be eligible to begin training for the next season's sport until the original season is over.

- **CLAUSE A:** We will allow a short grace period for an athlete to determine his/her desire. Definition: Once official practice begins, an athlete choosing not to continue with the sport anytime up to picture day will not be considered "quitting a team". Dropping from a team after picture day, will be considered "quitting the team."
- **CLAUSE B:** An agreement can be reached between the head coaches of two different sports, within the same season, to allow an athlete to switch sports after pictures have been taken.
- **Example:** An athlete may be permitted to quit football and join golf during the same season as long as both coaches agree. (Athletic Director has final say in the matter)

Reinstating an athlete that quits: If an athlete has a change of heart and decides to rejoin the team, the following steps must take place:

1. Meet with the head coach
 - a. The head coach will lay out a plan for the athlete to follow, in order to be considered for reinstatement.
2. Meet with the athletic director
3. Meet with the building principal
4. Meet with the team

PLAYER EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT:

Any players ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the **remainder of that day**. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. When ejection or disqualification of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball or basketball, the two contest suspension doesn't apply.

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

VACATIONS:

Each coach will explain his/her rule concerning vacations during his/her respective season (season begins on the official OHSAA start date). Athletes can go on vacation any time during the summer months without punishment from the coach.

CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SPORTS/ACTIVITIES:

ATHLETICS:

1. The Antwerp coaching staff and athletic administration strongly encourage participation of Antwerp students in as many interscholastic sports as possible. We believe the students will benefit most from varied athletic experiences, and that the spirit of competition is preferable to specialization in one sport. Students will not be asked nor be required to practice at a sport other than those currently in season. The student will not be encouraged to work at one sport while participating in another. However, when no school sports are in season (summer), coaches will establish OHSAA approved training/instructional programs and encourage, not demand participation.
2. Coaches will always take great care to avoid pressuring an athlete from two different sports in the same season. While a coach is certainly free to ask an athlete to consider switching sports, s/he will not pressure the athlete by continually discussing it with him/her or by asking parents/friends to influence the athlete. This obviously doesn't apply to students who aren't participating in any sport during the season in question.

3. Coaches who are approached by an athlete, who is considering switching sports, should immediately contact the other head coach to discuss the situation.
4. Dual Participation in Sports: Athletes are strongly encouraged from competing in more than one sport during any athletic season. Athletes wishing to participate in more than one sport must declare the team sports their first priority. Team sport is defined as a sport that requires a set number of participants on the floor or field in order for a group to participate. They may not miss any activity in their priority sport in order to attend any activity in the secondary sport. Coaches must discuss and arrange all conditions with the athlete/parent/A.D.
5. Conflicts between athletic and non-athletic activities are always inevitable. Coach and supervisor must the possible conflicts before they occur for smoothness in each activity. Again, if the situation boils down to either/or for the participant, s/he must select his/her primary sport.

PARTICIPANTS LEAVING THE PLAYING AREA:

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the “playing area” in which a contest is being conducted and enter the “spectator area” of the facility to engage in any type of conflict – verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the “playing area” and enters the “spectator area” of the facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athlete’s privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what “safeguards” have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. are not to be used by athletes to vent/express their negative comments that would be detrimental to the team.

INSURANCE:

Student-Athlete/Participant Insurance: All students of Antwerp Local School must file proof of insurance with the athletic office at the beginning of the school year. Parents must either enroll their athlete in the school’s insurance or sign a waiver with proof of their own insurance.

When participating in athletics, students must file one or the other with the athletic department. Coaches will assist the A.D. in obtaining the proper forms from the participants. Should an injury occur to an athlete that is enrolled in the school’s insurance program, school officials will assist the student in filling out and submitting the forms

INJURIES

Antwerp Athletic Department has an agreement with Parkview (Fort Wayne, IN). A licensed Parkview Athletic Trainer will visit our student athletes during the school day. She/He will assess the injury and give recommendations to either treat or rehab the injury or will make a recommendation to visit a doctor at Parkview.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC AWARD POLICY:

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- a. Middle School students who are members of an interscholastic athletic team and who successfully completes the season will be presented with an Athletic Department certificate of participation. If a student completes a combination of five sports, s/he will earn a Middle School letter. If a student completes all six seasons, s/he will receive an engraved plaque.

2. HIGH SCHOOL (Individual Awards)

- a. 1st Sport as a Freshmen
 - i. Numerals, reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate
- b. 2nd Sport as a Freshmen
 - i. Reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate
- c. 3rd Sport as a Freshmen
 - i. Reserve patch/varsity letter & certificate
- d. 1st Sport Reserve Award
 - i. Reserve patch & certificate
- e. 2nd Sport Reserve Award
 - i. Reserve patch & certificate
- f. 3rd Sport Reserve Award
 - i. Reserve patch & certificate
- g. 1st Sport Varsity Award
 - i. Varsity letter, chevron & certificate
- h. 2nd Sport Varsity Award
 - i. Chevron & certificate
- i. 3rd Sport Varsity Award
 - i. Chevron & certificate
- j. 4th Year Varsity Award
 - i. Engraved plaque, chevron & certificate
- k. Statistician Award
 - i. Pin & certificate
- l. Manager's Award
 - i. Pin & certificate
- m. Captains
 - i. Metal captain's pin
- n. Archer Arrow Award
 - i. If a student accumulates five or more varsity letters in his/her athletic career, s/he will receive the "Archer Arrow" patch
- o. Scholar Athlete Award
 - i. A junior or senior with a 3.25 cumulative grade point average and has lettered in at least two sports, s/he will receive the "Scholar Athlete" patch

3. HIGH SCHOOL (Team Sports Awards)

a. Honorary Award:

- i. The athletic department will provide a special recognition certificate plaque for a community member who has greatly contributed time and service to your specific program. The presentation of this award will be discussed with the athletic director

b. Year-End Awards:

- i. The athletic department provides several special awards in the spring. They are the OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, the U.S. Army Reserve Scholar-Athlete Award, and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. The Athletic Council will provide nominations and a ballot to determine the award winners. This will be done in April of each school year and the ballots will be tallied by the athletic director.

c. Gymnasium Team Awards:

- i. The athletic department will provide (the year) on your add-a-year banner if a team wins conference, sectional, district & regional championship. The athletic department will also provide a banner for a top four finish in a team sport. Along with the banner, the athletic department will purchase a team picture to be placed in the main gym.

d. All State Wall:

- i. An individual 8x10 picture will be placed on the All-State Wall if an individual makes first, second, honorable mention or special honorable mention teams. An individual could also make the All-State Wall by competing as an individual at the State Championships

e. Recognition Ceremony:

- i. The athletic department will sponsor an awards ceremony, which will be held at the conclusion of each season. It will include all sports of that particular season. Holding separate ceremonies is a possibility due to a team still in tournament. Please attend the ceremony and dress appropriately.

SQUAD/GROUP/TEAM SELECTION:

It is the philosophy of Antwerp Local Schools that participation in extracurricular activities is open to as many students as possible. However, due to limitations in space, equipment, participants allowed, participant's needs, and number of coaches/supervisors, it may be necessary to limit the number of participants in a particular activity/sport. When such selections are necessary, the following principles will apply:

1. Criteria for selections will be established by the head coach/supervisor. However, whether or not a student participated in an off-season program will have no bearing on the selection
2. Criteria used will be explained to all candidates prior to the try-outs, practices, etc.
3. The total number to be selected, positions available (if applicable), and selection date will be posted before the try-outs/selection process begins
4. Explanation of Selection Procedure
 - a. Coach/Supervisor will meet individually with the participants
 - b. Candidates will be told of their selection/rejection and why
 - c. No List will be Posted

*Students and parents should note that squad/team selection is subjective in judgment. As long as the coach/supervisor follows and upholds the above principles, the athletic director will not intervene in the selection process.

***PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT**

Antwerp's Athletic Discipline Policy

The Antwerp Board of Education, administration, faculty/staff and athletic department strongly believes that extracurricular activities help develop and strengthen character in our students. The focus will be to assist them in developing and strengthening the skills necessary to become productive citizens in their post-secondary endeavors. Extracurricular participants have a tremendous responsibility to themselves, fellow participants and school community to be both mentally and physically prepared for competition. Most importantly of them all, serve as a positive representative of the Antwerp Middle/High School.

Ohio law or the policies of the Antwerp Board of Education do not guarantee participation in extracurricular activities. **It is a privilege given to students, which may be revoked.**

It is the expectation of the Board of Education and Administration all student-athletes adhere to the Student Code of Conduct during and outside school hours. All athletes should familiarize themselves with the Student and Athletic Codes of Conduct. All head coaches/supervisors will publish those specific rules and regulations, which are unique to their respective sport/activity that is not covered by the Code of Conduct. This published set of rules is to be filed with the Athletic Director and Principal. A copy of all rules must be given to each participant by the beginning of the program or season. Each player must take the rules/regulations home to be read and signed by both parent and player/participant.

RULES of the CODE of CONDUCT

The following rules are specific examples of conduct that would violate the Code of Conduct. Conduct that is not covered by specific examples, but that violate the principles of the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary measures.

1. Knowingly possessing, use, transmitting, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, anabolic steroids, marijuana, or counterfeit caffeine pills nor possess, use, or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician shall not constitute a violation of this rule.) Athletes shall not partake in any degree or be in possession of alcoholic beverages. Athletes shall not use or be in possession of tobacco products at any time.
2. Committing felonies, misdemeanors, acts of delinquency, acts of vandalism, and/or theft.
3. Violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension, or classroom disruptions.
4. Specific **team rules** may be set forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the athletes by the coach at the first meeting or practice of that sport. These written regulations will be on file and approved by the Athletic Director.

**Rules listed above may not encompass all behaviors deemed "actions unbecoming of a student-athlete". It is at the discretion of the Antwerp Administration to discipline student-athletes for behavior they deem inappropriate. If a student-athlete demonstrates any actions deemed inappropriate by administration, the athlete will have consequences for his/her actions.

Discipline for Violations of the Code of Conduct

First Offense:

1. Student athletes who commit any violations of the student code of conduct, for example, drinking/smoking/chewing: Denial of participation for a minimum of 20% of that team/group's regular/post season schedule.

Second Offense:

1. Denial of participation for a minimum of 50% of that team/group's regular/post season schedule.

Third Offense:

1. Dismissal from team. Will be denied participation privileges for all sports for a calendar year.

Spectator's Sportsmanship

1. I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
4. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
5. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
7. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
8. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

ANTWERP ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB, INC.

The Antwerp Athletic Booster Club is organized and controlled by interested adults of the Antwerp community who wish to enhance the positive image of the High School and the Middle School interscholastic athletic programs. Yearly elected officers direct the organization. Membership is open to all adults and a yearly membership drive is conducted in August and September.

The Booster Club's income is raised through membership drives, program advertisement and sales, football concession stand operation, and fund-raising projects.

The Antwerp Athletic Booster Club allocates its funds for Athletic Department projects each spring. The Athletic Director submits these projects. The project list is a result of consultation between the varsity head coaches and the Athletic Director. The Booster Club considers these items on their merit and the availability of funds.

All coaches are expected to be at the Antwerp Athletic Booster Club meetings and may choose to join the membership. The meetings are at the High School, the first Wednesday of each month.

All fundraisers must be cleared through the Athletic Director prior to the event. All funds are to be deposited with the Athletic Booster Club. No check should be written to a coach. Have the check payable to the Athletic Boosters.

Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Student-Athletic Handbook

We, _____ and _____
(parent/guardian) (student)

Have received and thoroughly read the Antwerp Student-Athletic Handbook for the 2021-2022 school year. We completely understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures, and policies approved by Antwerp's BOE. We also understand that this handbook supersedes all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects.

We understand that we must work together to enforce the approved policies to make sure we maintain a productive environment. If there are items or issues that we encounter, that aren't addressed in the handbook, the administration will address the issue in the best manner they can.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Student Signature)

(Date)

*This form must be completed and turned in to the student's coach prior to participating in an official practice. If this completed form isn't turned in prior to the official start date of the opening practice, the student may not participate until the completed form is turned in. .