



Abington Athletics FAQs



- Q** Q: How do “Senior Nights” work?
- A Planned by coaches and communicated to team – typically towards the end of the regular season
- A A number of factors go into the planning of senior night and specific questions should be directed to the coach. Coaches and the team are provided with guidelines to respect the game, our opponents and promote equity amongst the teams.
- A Senior night recognitions are expected to be brief with larger recognitions more appropriate for a team banquet.
- Q** What can I expect to see on the [@AbingtonAD](#) Twitter/X?
- A Coaches share highlights of varsity games to post
- A Sub-varsity is developmental and as a result we do not regularly share results
- A Some parents / teams have started their own twitter accounts for teams that are **NOT** controlled or reviewed by the coach or AD.
- Q** How do coaches decide what level a student plays at?
- A Coaches make individual decisions factoring in many variables including, but not limited to, best situation for individual development, best placement for the team, effort & attitude, skill, maturity.
- Q** Is attendance at practice mandatory?
- A One key difference between HS and youth sports is that the student athlete is expected to be at EVERY practice. Coaches understand that appointments or sickness happens, but it is the coach’s discretion as to playing time and any missed practice may impact that. Communication with the coach is key.
- A Note that athletes are required to adhere to the MIAA bona fide team member rule and if they miss a high school team practice or activity for another sport, they will be in violation of the bona fide team member rule and will receive the consequences as outlined by the MIAA.
- ▶ In certain instances, a waiver for this rule is possible – but must be communicated in advance.
- Q** Can I excuse my son or daughter’s absence / tardy to school?
- A No, excusing an Absence/Tardy requires approval from main office – typically a doctor’s note, drivers test, court note etc. – a parent note does not excuse the student.
- A A student must be in school by 7:45 on regular school days (8:45 on Wave Week Wednesday) **and** stay the entire day, unless excused, to participate in athletics that day. (MS students must be in by 8:10)
- Q** What does my son/daughter need to return from a concussion?
- A Massachusetts Department of Public Health [return to play form](#) signed by health care professional and to complete the return to play protocol per Athletic Training Staff

- Q** Why doesn't the coach email the parents practice schedules / changes?
- A A large part of our athletic program is to encourage growth and responsibility of the students. As a result, coaches generally communicate with the team directly – if there are questions about schedules or basic concerns the student should speak to the coach
- A Parents can always ask questions – but the question should always be asked of the student first, and whenever possible the student should ask the coach.
- A You can get the most up to date schedules on Arbiter Live (<https://arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=51>) and also sign up for alerts when changes are made
- Q** Who are the Boosters and how can I join?
- A The Boosters are a non-profit group that raises money to support the high school Athletic Program. The boosters have a board that decides what to spend money on with guidance from the school. Often times the Athletic Director (with input from coaches) will request funding for certain items or programs. The meetings are open to the public and typically held once a month during the school year. You can follow them online through their Facebook page.
- Q** Where do I find pictures / videos of my student athlete?
- A Bill Marquardt **VOLUNTEERS** his time to get to as many games as possible, edit and upload images to his website and share publicly (<https://www.c6billphoto.com/Sports>) for no cost.
- A Abington CAM provides as much coverage as they can but often rely on volunteers to film – if a game is not being filmed that you would like to be filmed reach out to Kevin@abingtoncam.tv
- Q** Why do only certain sports allow 8th graders to play? And at different levels?
- A The MIAA requires school districts whose 8th grade students are under a different principal to get a waiver to participate in high school athletics. The MIAA will only grant a waiver if there is a need to sustain a team at a certain level and no high school students may be displaced for a middle level student. Additionally, the grade 8 students are only able to play at the lowest level offered (at Abington some sports only offer V so they can play varsity, but if a sport offers a freshman team, the grade 8 students are only able to play at the freshman level).
- A Due to the waiver process and requirements, the sports we can offer 8th graders will vary year to year. Applying for and receiving a waiver for a sport is dependent on the level of interest of students at the high school level.
- Q** Why are different sports in different divisions for the State Tournament?
- A The MIAA determines divisional alignment every two years based on school enrollment adjusted based on their Competitive Equity Tool – they use enrollment from two years ago (this year is based on school year October 1, 2021 enrollment). Additionally, the division is dependent on the number of MIAA member schools that offer that individual sport and the size of those schools.



Q Who is in the South Shore League and how does the league determine alignment?

A The South Shore League has two divisions*.

- ▶ Sullivan Division (large school): East Bridgewater, Norwell, Middleboro, Randolph, Rockland and Sandwich
- ▶ Tobin Division (small school): Abington, Carver, Cohasset, Hull, Mashpee
 - ▶ Football Divisions are separate – Abington competes in the Sullivan Division with EB, Middleboro, Norwell, Sandwich & Rockland

A The league realigns every two years based on the previous year's October 1 enrollment (this year is based on October 1, 2022).

A If there are at least 8 teams in the league that offer the sport we are split by division, if there are less than 8 schools that offer the sport we will compete as one league without divisions.

Q What if my child goes on a family vacation during the season?

A We understand that families have limited time and vacations together are important. The time spent with the team is a valuable aspect of the high school athletic experience. Families should understand that any extended absence from the team during the season may result in a loss of playing time and they may have a different role on the team upon their return.

A Students attending a school sponsored trip such as international travel or music trips may not be suspended for participating. However, it is important to note that students playing time may change at the coaches discretion (including not playing at all) upon their return for a variety of reasons (conditioning, safety, change in line ups, other players earning more time, new game plans, etc). It is important to note that the February International trip is generally the week preceding the winter tournament.

A In all cases a student will miss time from a team we encourage the student and parents to communicate with the coach as soon as possible.

Q What is the deal with team gear?

A Any purchase of team apparel outside the uniform is voluntary. Often times coaches coordinate with captains the use of their fundraising money to buy team apparel. This is not required of the coaches to do, or students to purchase. We have shared best practices with our coaches about how to do this. Some teams may also offer a "team store" for people to purchase items to promote the program.

Q What are the Super Fan t-shirts we see?

A Super Fan shirts are generally run through one of our business classes / the school store and not the athletic department. As part of an assignment in the business class the students will run a sale of super fan t-shirts to learn the entire process as part of the class. In these cases, if there is a profit it is donated to the team fundraising account.

A Teams can also do their own fundraisers but will be overseen, coordinated and directed by the coach. We try to limit the number of fundraisers each team does to keep the focus on the team and the sport rather than becoming too focused on fundraising.

- Q** Who is our Athletic Trainer and what services do they provide / when do athletes have access?
- A Our Athletic Trainer is Ms. Reid – she is both a licensed Athletic Trainer and EMT. She provides athletic training services to the students at AHS that include but are not limited to injury prevention, emergency care, injury evaluation and rehabilitation.
- A Athletes have access to Ms. Reid in her office and on the field before, during, and after practices and competitions. Aside from the treatments, rehabs, and tapings done at the school, Ms. Reid has a working relationship with Signature Healthcare Orthopedics to expedite appointments for athletes needing advanced care.
- Q** What is the SAAC?
- A The SAAC is the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, a group of students who represent the student athletes of AHS. The group serves to advise the Athletic Director on various issues throughout the year and represents the interests of all student athletes. Additionally, the group will work to promote the athletic department and engage in various service projects throughout the school year. Student athletes from all grades and sports can apply to be members each year. The group then elects a president, vice president and secretary – there are 3 additional at large executive board members appointed to complete a 6 member SAAC executive board that meets regularly with the Athletic Director.
- Q** How do teams travel to games? Do they have an option to leave games on their own?
- A The school provides transportation to and from all away games (note if an off-site venue is considered a “home” facility for the team transportation is not provided – for example Strawberry Valley for the golf team, or an ice rink for hockey).
- A Students may leave a game with a parent/guardian with the coach’s approval; however, we strongly encourage students to travel with the team.
- Q** Does a student athlete have to maintain a certain GPA to be eligible for competition?
- A Students must pass 5 classes each marking period to remain eligible to participate in athletics. To participate in the fall season, they must pass 5 classes during term 4 AND earn 25 credits (the equivalent of passing 5 full year classes). Students who do not meet the academic eligibility may opt to participate in an academic probation program that would allow them to practice with teams, but they would be ineligible to participate in games. Eligibility is determined on the issue date of each report card.
- Q** What should I expect for end of season team banquets?
- A Each coach is responsible for having an end of year celebration of the season. These are planned and run by the coaches of each sport. The banquets will be different for each team providing each team the opportunity to have a celebration that is appropriate for their team. The athletic department will hold an annual senior athletics banquet in June as part of senior week.

