

PHILOSOPHY OF VALLEY ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (VAAS) ATHLETICS EXPECTATION CONTRACT

- PARTICIPATION
- ACADEMICS
- COMMUNITY SERVICE
- SPORTSMANSHIP
- WINNING

Our competitive athletic programs are provided to help student-athletes grow athletically, academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. VAAS will encourage and support broad participation from as many boys and girls as possible, whose teams will compete on an equitable basis with other schools without sacrificing sportsmanship, scholarship, and the general welfare of the school and student.

In partnership with student and parent, the duty of the instructional and coaching staff is to help foster success in an honest and sportsmanlike manner through good and bad experiences by teaching our student-athletes positive attitudes and safe and appropriate standards of behavior. A sample of these includes sportsmanship, citizenship, scholarship, responsibility, reliability, dependability, integrity, self-discipline, self-esteem, teamwork, and commitment to serving and improving the school and civic community.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AT VAAS	
GIRLS TEAMS	BOYS TEAMS
FALL SPORTS	
GOLF – VARSITY	CROSS COUNTRY – VARSITY & JV
CROSS COUNTRY – VARSITY & JV	
VOLLEYBALL – VARSITY & JV	
WINTER SPORTS	
BASKETBALL – VARSITY & JV	BASKETBALL – VARSITY & JV
SOCCER – VARSITY & JV	SOCCER – VARSITY & JV
SPRING SPORTS	
SOFTBALL – VARSITY	GOLF – VARSITY
BASEBALL – VARSITY	LA CROSSE – VARSITY
LA CROSSE – VARSITY	VOLLEYBALL - VARSITY

VAAS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY:

- Coaches should teach fundamental athletic skills, promote proper sportsmanship, and provide opportunities for the student/athlete to exercise in a safe manner.
- All student-athletes will contribute to the community by engaging in activities to help make our community a better place to live and work.
- Parents play a vital role in the development of the student/athlete. We also believe that it is important for all parents to attend a mandatory policy meeting. This will help to insure that they understand the philosophy, rules and regulations of the VAAS athletic program.
- Playing under a code of good sportsmanship fosters enjoyment and participation in athletics, maximizes athletic ability, and helps individuals strive for personal and team success.
- Coaches should play a major role in monitoring and guiding our student/athletes through all their academic endeavors.
- Any use of tobacco, alcohol, and other illegal drugs/substances, or any use of profanity on the field, in the school, or in the community is intolerable.
- Coaches will display attributes and personal qualities that the profession demands.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: ELIGIBILITY

High academic performance is a requirement - athletes must make their school work their TOP priority! Athletes are encouraged to earn only As, Bs and Cs. Ds and Fails are highly discouraged.

Student/Athletes MUST maintain a **2.5 GPA (30 points)** – no more than 2 Fails) on the 10 and 20 week report cards to be an eligible VAAS student/athlete. 15 week grades are only PROGRESS reports and cannot change eligibility status. Calculate points as follows: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0

Attendance to all classes, periods 1 – 8, is absolutely necessary for athletes to maintain good grades and to be available to miss class for away contests. Teachers may become frustrated with athletes who have too many absences and may try to prevent an athlete from missing class for a contest. Remember that missing one day of class on a block schedule is the equivalent of missing 2 regular school days.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT-ATHLETES:

1. All VAAS athletes represent not only themselves, but also their families and our school and community. Athletes are expected to display appropriate and acceptable standards of sportsmanship and behavior—on and off the field, in and out of school.

2. All school discipline rules and regulations apply to student athletes at all competitions, practices, and during travel to and from such events.
3. Athletes are responsible for completing any and all school work missed due to early releases, athletic events, or other athletic requirement or activity.
4. Athletes may not borrow any athletic equipment or wear any school athletic equipment outside of regular participation without permission of their coach. Lost or damaged equipment assigned to an athlete must be replaced by that athlete. If not, the athlete will not participate in any sport until reimbursement or restitution is made.
5. Athletes may not wear jewelry or earrings during practices or competitions.
6. Athletes may not depart an away event without the authorization of the athletic director, or principal.
7. On practice days, all athletes must leave the campus without delay. Coaches must remain at the school or event until every athlete has departed during days/nights of games.
8. All sports teams “dress-up” on competition days. All athletes must follow the dress-up policy established by the coach during the school day before and following the game.
9. Athletes must participate in an athletic department, school or community service project (fundraiser) during their season of participation.
10. Athletes who are academically ineligible or who do not participate in try-outs for teams that make cuts, will not be eligible to participate in that sport for that school year. Exceptions to this rule include: new students who were not enrolled during try-outs, medical reasons and athletes who have not completed their sports season that precedes the try-out period.
11. All athletes must attend a season ending awards ceremony. Only those athletes who attend this ceremony will receive letters, pins, bars, plaques, etc. The only exception is if an athlete is excused by their coach prior to the ceremony.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES:

1. Any athlete ejected from a game/contest is ineligible at least for the next competition. A review by the coach, athletic director, and principal will determine the next playing date for the athlete.
2. An athlete who is suspended from school (In-school or out) will not play in the next competition. An athlete suspended for a second time during their sports season will be removed from the team.
3. An athlete receiving disciplinary action with a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion immediately will be suspended from participating in any school-sponsored athletic activities until after an appropriate hearing. Following the hearing, further disciplinary action may be administered to the athlete by the principal and/or athletic director.

4. An athlete who has been charged with any felony offense may be suspended from participating in school sponsored athletic activities pending disposition of the charges. An athlete who has been convicted of or receives a deferred disposition on any felony or class 1, 2 or unclassified misdemeanor, may be declared ineligible to participate in any school-sponsored athletic activities for one or more semesters or other length of time set by the Principal and the Athletic Director. A student's self-reporting of a charge, conviction or deferred disposition to the school administration before their prior knowledge of the offense will be favorably considered in determining the severity of the sanction imposed. *This regulation is applicable to all criminal offenses, regardless of whether such offenses are committed on or off school property, 365 days a year.*
5. An athlete who does not abide by established rules of his or her team by the coaching staff may be suspended or dismissed from the team.
6. An athlete may not engage in an altercation of any kind (verbal or physical, including "trash-talking) with another team member, opponent, contest official, or spectator during any practice or competition.
7. Disrespect to any adult by a student-athlete is intolerable. This includes all school personnel (teachers, administrators, custodians, lunch room personnel, and substitutes). All athletes must understand that they are leaders of the school and must conduct themselves accordingly.
8. Abuse of any portion of the Behavior and Responsibility Pledge herein and all student-eligibility requirements may result in one or more of the following:
 - a) Removal of the athlete from the team for one or more games
 - b) Removal of the athlete from the team for the remainder of the sports season.
 - c) Forfeiture of award(s) for that particular sport.
 - d) Restriction or prohibition from any further interscholastic competition.
 - e) Other appropriate disciplinary action deemed necessary and appropriate by the athletic director or school principal.

Parents and athletes must recognize that coaches are granted broad discretion and autonomy over general team matters, including roster selection, participation, playing time, selection of starting athletes, recognition of athletes, and recommendations for award recipients.

TEAM AND ATHLETE TRANSPORTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

- When team transportation is provided by the school, all athletes must ride in school district vehicles or a charter bus contracted by the school to and from all games. Exception: The school principal or designee may grant permission for a student to drive or ride with a parent to an event after a written request by a parent has been received by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the contest.

- At no time may an athlete ride home from an event with any person other than a parent (permission required). Athletes are not permitted to drive to out-of-town or other away events without signed written permission from the principal (see above).
- Athletes may drive a vehicle owned or leased by them or their family to practice locations. Athlete may drive only themselves and siblings to practice but are not permitted to transport other athletes to the practice location only if the athlete and their parent/guardian must sign and turn in to the athletic director the appropriate LAUSD Transportation consent form for this privilege (see athletic director for the consent form).
- Athletes and support personnel must have all their belongings and be ready to board the team bus at the designated times.
- When school transportation is provided, all school and transportation rules and regulations apply, including any additional expectations or discretion's of the coach, sponsor, or vehicle operator.

Other exceptions: ACADEMY of ARTS & SCIENCES

1. For practices before school, or at night when the athlete has left the school grounds and is returning to a practice or game, during non-school days, or when driving to and from school, there are no transportation restrictions for student athletes other than those described in the student code of conduct or school parking agreement.
2. For emergency purposes only, athletes may ride from an event with a parent or guardian if given permission by the head coach. This permission can only be given once all athletes, managers, etc. have boarded the bus after the event and the coach takes a roll call of the team. The parent or guardian can take their child only after they have signed their signature on the approved VAAS form. This permission only extends to the parent or guardian of the athlete and not other students. This permission will be granted only for emergency situations, including athlete or family injury or illness, other family emergencies, or unusual academic circumstances. Emergency situations do not include late starting or ending times of events, homework, or convenience. For teams that play varsity and junior varsity events away at the same site, athletes on the team playing the first game are expected to stay for the second game and ride home on the team bus.

Copies of **AWARDS for STUDENT-ATHLETES** and **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for STUDENTATHLETES** are available in the office of the VAAS Athletic Director, VAAS Athletic webpage (<http://www.thevalleyacademy.net>), CIF – Los Angeles City Section Website (<http://www.cif-la.org/>) .

Please call the athletic office at (818)832-8563 if you need more information.

VAAS ATHLETIC CONTRACT AND PLEDGE:

By signing this Pledge, the VAAS student-athlete and parent or guardian affirms they have read and understand all the rules, regulations, and expectations listed in the Philosophy of VAAS Athletics and the Rules and Regulations contact document. Further, it is agreed that all athletes must abide by these rules. It also is understood that all parents must attend a mandatory policy meeting to help insure a mutual understanding of the philosophy, conduct, and eligibility expectations of VAAS Athletics.

WARNING! By signing below, the student-athlete and parent are advised that participation in interscholastic practice and competition is dangerous! Furthermore, it is understood that no amount of protective equipment will eliminate potential injury. Even under the safest and most secure conditions, some athletic activity can result in serious—even fatal—injury. The student-athlete must not return to a game or practice until all symptoms are eliminated and the athlete has received medical clearance. Ignoring this warning may lead to another and more serious or fatal injury. Remember: anyone deciding to compete in the VAAS Athletic Program does so with a clear understanding of this risk of injury. Additional questions about such risk should be directed to the coach or athletic director prior to participation in practice or competition.

Parents and supporters of VAAS athletics must realize that any interference with a game or participants of the game (athletes, coaches and officials) can result in disciplinary action taken by CIF and VAAS. Such actions may be taken against our athletes, our teams, and parent-spectators. Acceptable and appropriate sportsmanship is a fundamental component of our athletic program and we will help insure that our athletes and parents always exhibit such exemplary conduct. Parents are advised to direct questions and concerns about their student-athlete to the following individuals in their listed order: (1) Team coach; (2) VAAS Athletic Director; (3) School Principal.

Do NOT approach coaches during or after any practice or team competition. To meet with a coach, please schedule an appointment first by contacting the coach; if unsuccessful, contact the school (818) 832-7750 or athletic director (818) 832-8563.

Our signatures below indicate that we have read and agree to comply with the contents of the VAAS conduct, philosophy, and eligibility expectations herein. We agree that the athlete will attend all practices and games in which his or her VAAS athletic team participates.

PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT/ATHLETE: _____
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT/ATHLETE: _____

PRINTED NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

DATE: _____