

MVCA Athletic Participation Agreement & Eligibility Requirements (2020-2021)

Thank you for your participation in the MVCA Athletic Program. This form must be completed and signed by both student and parent before the first practice.

1. **Statement of Philosophy.**

The primary purpose of school is educational formation of the whole student: mind, body, and soul. MVCA affirms the potential value and role that a good athletics program plays in accomplishing our mission as a Christian school. However, like any extracurricular or enrichment activity, participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are eligible according to the rules and policies of Midland Valley Christian Academy and the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools.

2. **Summary of the Code of Conduct.**

All fans, spectators, coaches, and student-athletes are encouraged to enthusiastically support our teams. We recognize that the athletic arena is an extension of the classroom and our behaviors as a community there reflect the character, values, and quality of MVCA. Valuable lessons other than winning and losing are reinforced: character traits such as respect, sportsmanship, loyalty, perseverance, graciousness, effort, grit, determination, and resilience. All participants, coaches, parents, and spectators shall always conduct themselves in a civil, respectful, reasonable, and sportsmanlike manner.

A participant, coach or fan will be in violation of the Code of Conduct upon any one or more of the following actions:

- a. By making any degrading remark about any fan, official, coach, or athlete during or after a game, either on or off the field/floor of play. School officials, coaches, and players shall not criticize other schools, coaches, players, or officials publicly, in the media, or on social media.
- b. By arguing with an official or going through motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
- c. By using any foul, abusive, inappropriate, or profane language at any time.
- d. By entering the playing area or field to protest, question, or object to a call or play.
- e. By hitting, shoving, grabbing, or striking any official, coach, athlete, or fan at any time (or attempting to do so).
- f. By being ejected/removed from any contest.
- g. By detaining an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation; by following/chasing after the official after a game to express displeasure or opinion with a call or the result of a play or game.
- h. By the use or display of alcohol, tobacco, or any unauthorized drug.

Violations of the Code of Conduct could result in a school, player or fan being fined, suspended, or placed on probation.

3. Warning of Inherent Risk/Dangers of Athletic Participation.

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow guidelines for safe play and inspect his/her own equipment and report any problems. We understand that participation in athletics and by attending public events (such as sporting events) includes possible exposure to an illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19.

4. Gender and Sports.

Unless otherwise specifically noted by MVCA in accordance with SCACS or related member association guidelines for a particular sport, all sports at MVCA shall be single-gender and students may play only the team that matches their biological gender. In accordance with school values and beliefs, no MVCA team shall participate in any athletic tournament, event, or conference in which “gender fluidity” or trans-gender policies allow boys to play on girls’ only teams or vice versa unless that sport has been deemed to be co-educational by SCACS or a related association or otherwise by mutual agreement between the schools and that the sport is open to all participants of both genders.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

For a student to participate in the athletic program of Midland Valley Christian Academy (MVCA), the following requirements must be met:

1. Must be a full-time 5th-8th student currently enrolled at MVCA or an homeschool student eligible for athletics participation at the following Aiken County Public Schools: LBC Middle School, Leavell-McCampbell Middle School, North Augusta Middle School, Paul Knox Middle School, Schofield Middle School, Minnie B Kennedy Middle School; or ACPS elementary schools associated with these middle schools.
2. Students must reside with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to be eligible for athletic participation.
3. Students must be in attendance for at least a half day on the day of practice or game to participate in the game or practice. The student must be in class before 11:30 am if arriving to school late. If leaving early, the student must not leave class before 11:30 am. Middle school students with excused absences will be allowed to participate in athletic activities for the day.
4. Student must have received a medical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or family nurse practitioner within the past 365 days. A current athletic physical form must be submitted to the school before the student can participate in any athletic activities.
5. To be eligible to participate in athletic gameplay, a student must
 - a. maintain a 70 average in each class
 - b. not have any disciplinary or behavioral reports on file. Detention or suspension automatically makes the student ineligible for the week(s) in question

Academic Eligibility Determination

1. Grade checks will be done every 2 weeks on Friday for the following 2 weeks beginning on the subsequent Monday.
2. Ineligibility may be appealed to the Athletic Director (or Committee) and the Head of School to allow a student to still participate in the event of extenuating circumstances.
3. Ineligible students
 - a. may not miss class time for an athletic early dismissal
 - b. may practice, but cannot participate in games
 - c. must attend tutoring, if offered and available
 - d. may attend games, sit on the bench, but cannot dress out in uniform
4. At the end of the week, ineligible students may return to game play if their academic grades meet the eligibility threshold. All return to play will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head of School.

PARENTAL FINANCIAL AND VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITY

Parental support and involvement are crucial to the startup and ongoing success of athletics at MVCA. Among the character values that sports reinforces is teamwork and service. As parents, we want to model these values to our students. For these reasons, the parents of each student athlete are required to contribute a minimum of 6 volunteer hours per family to help with managing athletic events and activities, such as working concessions, setting up/taking down spectator chairs, cleaning up facilities (sweeping, trash) after games, providing team meals, carpooling for transportation, or organizing and helping with fundraisers.

Beginning in 2021, each student participating in sports at MVCA will have an athletics fee in addition to a uniform and supply fee for each sport. These fees must be paid at the time of sports registration prior to the beginning of the season. Since this is our first year of athletics, for the 2020-21 school year, only the uniform fee will be required.

PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN PERMISSION

___ (initial) We have read and understand the philosophy, code of conduct, and eligibility rules stated above.

___ (initial) We understand that there are inherent risks in all athletics and that injuries do occur.

___ (initial) We agree to indemnify and not hold Midland Valley Christian Academy, South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or any of their agents, members, employees, or affiliate organizations responsible in the event of injury or accident.

___ (initial) I further authorize all emergency medical treatment for the student named above.

___ (initial) We agree to the requirements detailed above for Parental Financial and Volunteer Responsibility.

_____ (student’s full name) has permission to participate in athletics. We have read the Athletic Participation Agreement and Eligibility Requirements in its' entirety. We fully understand what is expected of us as parents/guardians and student athletes at Midland Valley Christian Academy.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____