*As needed, in consultation with schools and sport commissioners, AACPS Athletics reserves the right to make adjustments to this bulletin.*

**Coach Responsibilities**

1. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in the AACPS Athletic Handbook.
2. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in this AACPS Bulletin.

**Contact Information**

1. Questions should initially be directed to local school athletic directors.
2. Then, questions should be directed to:
   1. County sport commissioner - Dave Kauffman, Severna Park, dkauffman[@aacps.org](mailto:rlwoods@aacps.org), 410-991-6664
   2. AACPS Special Olympics Liaison - Marianne Shultz, [mshultz@aacps.org](mailto:mshultz@aacps.org), 443-386-5876
   3. Office of Athletics at 410-222-5463

**AACPS policies**

* Coaches can make cuts in all unified sports using an approved tryout plan/rubric. They should consult with their Athletic Director for support.
* For safety and equity purposes, teams can bring a maximum of 40 student-athletes total to any bowling practice or match. “Field Trip Days” are the exception.
* Definitions
  + Athlete - A student athlete with a disability.
  + Unified Partner - A student-athletes without a disability.
* Bumpers. At bowling alleys where bumpers are working properly, use of them is at coach discretion to meet the needs of their student-athletes. If bumpers are not working properly or are difficult to move and down, AACPS will work with impacted schools to ask the bowling alley staff to designate some functional lanes as “bumper lanes” for shared use. AACPS Athletics recognizes that this creates an inequity in the playing area/surface. However, we feel it is the best approach for this particular sport where we do not have a governing document or championship event at the state level and therefore have the option to meet the needs of student-athletes where they we are with a purposeful focus on participation, growth, and enjoyment (not on winning or losing).
* Scores. AACPS will only keep scores/results for the county championship (like unified tennis and unified bocce). Other scorekeeping is the responsibility of the coaching staff.

**Practices and Contests**

* All practices must conclude at or before 5 pm, regardless of when teams arrive (unless otherwise approved by the bowling alley).
* To maximize time at the alleys and be as efficient as possible, coaches are to send shoe sizes to their bowling center in advance of each practice/match so that they can be ready upon arrival.
* There will be an opportunity for up to two “Field Trip Days” scheduled by AACPS
* There will be 4 matches scheduled for each school (over 5 weeks) to be held at Greenway, Annapolis, Crofton, or Severna Park
  + Most, if not all schools, will have a bye week.
  + Matches at Annapolis and Crofton will be on Thursdays
* For matches and practices, no more than 40 student-athletes may attend and participate for any one school.
* The schedule will be maintained by and provided to all schools the Sport Commissioner and Special olympics Liaison.
* Coaches who need a sub code should contact their AD who will forward a request to Clayton Culp, Coordinator of Athletics. The coach will then receive a Google Form for this process.

**County Championship and Awards**

* Held over two days on Wednesday, February 14 (‘small’ schools’) and Friday, February 16 (‘large’ schools) at Greenway. More details will be provided closer to the event.
* County Championship Plaque(s) / Head Coach Plaque(s)

**Important Dates**

**November 2023**

* November 7 - 4:00 pm - Winter Coaches Kickoff, Severna Park High School
* November 10 - 1st MP report cards (tentative)
* November 15 - 1st day of of tryouts AND Academic assistance sessions start date (based on 1st MP report cards)
* November 21 - First scrimmage day
* November 20-24 - No school for students (Nov 20 & 21 - PT conferences)
* November 23 - No practice on Thanksgiving Day (football exception)

**December 2023**

* December 2 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* December 5 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers) AND MPSSAA start date for contests
* December 7 - Academic assistance sessions end date AND **Grade Check**
* December 8 - Cheerleading Season Management Form due to Athletics (submitted by cheer head coach)
* December 9 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* December 25-29 - Winter Break

**January 2024**

* January 1 - Winter Break (cont.)
* January 8-13 - MPSSAA Officials Appreciation week (AACPS commemorative coins)
* January 15 - MLK Day 9 (Voluntary practice only - no penalty for missing)
* January 17 & 18 - 2-hour early release (work time for teachers)
* January 19 - No school for students (workday for teachers)
* January 31 - 2nd MP report cards (tentative)

**February 2024**

* February 6 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers)
* February 10 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* February 19 - Schools closed for Presidents Day

**March 2024**

* March 1 - Spring sports start
* March 19 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers)
* March 2 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* March 9 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)