



# Arthur Christian School Athletic Guidelines

## MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of Arthur Christian School and the Athletic Program is to draw the utmost of a student's God-given abilities and to inspire outstanding sportsmanship and Godly character, and is an extension of the ACS overall mission statement which is ***empowering students to be people of faith with connection to God and one another through discipleship, character, and education.***

## APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES AND PENALTIES

NOTE: Athletic activities in the Arthur Christian School athletic program are voluntary activities. Since student athletes and their parents, or guardians therefore seek participation, it is important to note that these guidelines apply not only to the student athletes, but to their parents, or guardians, as well.

## SPORTSMANSHIP / CHARACTER

ACS expects the athletes and parents to exemplify the highest standard of integrity during any athletic contest. Because they are representatives of Arthur Christian School, we feel it is necessary to set down guidelines whereby an athlete and parent will be a good testimony. An athlete of ACS is to uphold the school's standards and refrain from cheating, swearing, smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, using or talking favorably about narcotics, using indecent language, and other areas of conduct which might be a detriment to his or her Christian testimony. A parent should never boo a player or an official and should instead appreciate a good play, no matter who makes it. He or she knows the school gets the blame or the praise for his or her conduct, and he or she recognizes the need to a God-honoring attitude. Athletes and parents should not talk disparagingly about other players, fans or coaches of any team or sport.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Student participation in athletics within ACS is contingent upon the following:

- ┆ The student must attain the academic standards set forth in this Athletic Guidelines.
- ┆ The student/parent/guardian must pay all applicable fees as outlined in ACS athletic registration.
- ┆ The student must have on file in the school office a certificate of physical fitness by a licensed physician not more than one year preceding tryouts/start of any JH, JV or Varsity game or activity.
- ┆ The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage by a written statement from the parent/guardian that the student is covered under a family insurance plan, or parent/guardian must sign that the school is not liable for any injuries incurred during sporting events. The Headmaster or Athletic Director shall maintain the necessary records to ensure student compliance with this policy.
- ┆ The student and parent/guardian must sign the ACS Code of Conduct.
- ┆ The student and parent/guardian are required to participate in all athletic fundraisers.
- ┆ The student and parent/guardian are expected to help staff all home games in all sports by running admissions and concessions as scheduled by the ACS Athletic Director and the ACS Athletic Boosters.

## PRACTICE / GAME ATTIRE

Each sport is different in nature and may require different practice attire and different attire before and after games. Each athlete is responsible for knowing the requirements for each sport, as set by the administration and coaches, in which he or she participates.

## LEADERSHIP

As an athlete for ACS, each student is in a place of leadership by default. Because each athlete is given the privilege and additional responsibility when participating in their respective sport, we adhere to the Biblical principle that states, "to whom much is given, much is required."

## COMMITMENT

Each athlete is required to be at each practice and game unless an emergency or illness causes an absence. If an athlete misses three practices and/or games for any other reason during an athletic season, the athlete's eligibility will be evaluated by the coaches and administration. If any athlete does not finish the season, for reasons such as, but not limited to, quitting, being released from the team, starting a job, etc., the athlete will not be included in any post-season pictures, activities or awards. This includes the annual sports awards banquet scheduled each May.



## **BEHAVIOR / DISCIPLINE**

The administration, athletic director, and coaches have the right to review each behavioral / discipline situation and within that right can discipline the athlete as deemed appropriate. This may include such things as practice or game suspensions or dismissal from the team. In the case of an athlete receiving an in-school suspension, the athlete will serve a full-game suspension during the next scheduled game. In the case of a second in-school suspension, the athlete will serve a weeklong suspension from any scheduled games and the athlete's eligibility will be reviewed by the administration / athletic director. Athletes and parents / guardians are expected to conduct themselves according to the ACS Athletic Guidelines.

## **PARENTS**

Parent(s) / guardian(s) must read and sign this agreement and via the registration form BEFORE their son or daughter will be allowed to participate in athletics for ACS.

Parent(s) / guardian(s) need to make sure their son or daughter is on time for practices and games and picked up promptly after.

Parent(s) / guardian(s) are encouraged to attend all athletic events and support the teams in a positive manner.

Due to season limitation restrictions imposed by the Illinois High School Association, parents may not organize open gyms, scrimmages or the like.

## **PARENT / COACH CONFERENCES**

If you would like to have a parent / coach conference, please call to request a time with the appropriate person. Parent(s) / guardian(s) with concerns should proceed to resolve them in the following order. If the concern is not resolved, precede in the chain of command:

1. Athletes should speak privately with their Coach.
2. Athletes should next speak privately with the Athletic Director.
3. Athletes and their parents should next speak privately with the Coach and Athletic Director.

If any issue or concern remains unresolved following step #3, then,

4. Athletes and their parents should in writing, request a meeting with the ACS Headmaster, Athletic Director, and coach.

Addressing concerns with a coach before, during or after a practice or a game is not appropriate and should not occur. Please do not put a coach on the spot by asking permission to speak to him / her to address concerns at this time. However, we encourage positive dialogue between coaches and parents at any time outside of while a game or practice is in session. Also, parents must understand that it is not their place to approach any coach or player from another team before, during, or after a game to talk, discuss or confront an issue concerning the behavior of the other team, coach, or fans. Any concerns about another team, coach or fans should be directed to the ACS Athletic Director.

## **DEPARTURE / ARRIVAL TIMES FOR AWAY GAMES**

To the best of our ability, for away games, we will inform parents / guardians of estimated times of departure from the school and arrival back to the school. Athletes are free to ride to games with their parents if a coach is notified. Because of such unforeseen things as weather, vehicle trouble, and the nature of athletics, these times may change. Your athlete will be free to update you with correct arrival time after the game using a cellular phone.

## **RIDING TO AND FROM GAMES**

An athlete may ride to or home from an away game with their parents with written/verbal confirmation to the coach. If an athlete wishes to ride home from an away game with any individual that is not their parent or guardian, the coach *must* receive written/verbal permission from the athlete's parents in advance of the occasion.

## **MISSING SCHOOL**

If an athlete has an unexcused absence on the day of a game or practice, he or she may not participate in the game or practice that day. Also, he or she may not come to the game as a spectator that day. If an athlete leaves school with an illness, he or she may not participate in the game or practice that day, unless they have attended school for half of the day. If an athlete arrives at school after 12:00 p.m., he or she may not participate in the game or practice that day. Also, he or she may not come to the game as a spectator that day. If a student must miss school for such things as a funeral, doctor's or dentist's appointments, or other approved school events, he or she must make previous arrangements with the coach and the school office. If the administration / athletic director sees a pattern of tardiness or missing school on the day after a game developing, the administration / athletic director reserves the right to discipline the athlete as follows:

- On the third tardy and / or absence on the day after a game, the athlete will serve a full-game suspension during the next scheduled game.
- On each successive tardy or absence, the athlete will serve a full-game suspension during the next scheduled game.



## ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- All athletes must be enrolled in ACS no later than 10 days after the first day of school.
- All athletes must be enrolled in and passing twenty-five credit hours (5 courses) of high school work per week.
- All athletes must maintain a GPA of 2.0.
- After enrollment in ninth grade, the athlete will not be eligible for more than eight semesters.
- After enrollment in ninth grade, the athlete will not be eligible for more than four school years of competition in any sport.
- The athlete shall, unless entering high school for the first time, have credit for twenty-five credit hours (five courses) of high school work for the previous semester.
- All athletes shall not have graduated from any four-year high school or equivalent.
- The athlete will be eligible through age nineteen, unless he or she will turn twenty during that sport season, in which case the student will be considered ineligible for that season.

Grades will be checked throughout the semester, with eligibility checks quarterly. Any student considered ineligible will adhere to the following policies:

- They will report to practices with the team even if they are ineligible to play in games.
- The athlete is required to attend all home games. They will be expected to perform any duties assigned to them by their coach and sit in direct proximity to the team. The athlete is not required to attend away games. However, they may ride with the team to this event. One exception is tournaments, in which case the coaches will decide based on funding and transportation.
- If the athlete does attend an away game, they will be required to perform the same duties as a home game.
- If a pattern of ineligibility occurs for a particular student, the administration reserves the right to remove that player from their team for their overall academic good.
- We understand the parents have the right to make final decisions concerning their child's participation in any sport. However, because of the impact that losing a team member has on a team, we ask that you as parents become familiar with the eligibility requirements as outlined in this document. We ask that you accept these rules as the standard to follow. For consistency's sake, we ask that parents not withdraw a child from a team for academic purposes if the child has met the standards as outlined in this document. If a parent does exercise their right to remove their child from a team for academic or other reasons, the child will not be allowed to return to the team for that season.

## MAKE-UP WORK

At times, an athletic team will need to leave school early, or miss a day of classes to go to a game or tournament. Before leaving, the students will be responsible to turn in any homework that will be due while they are away. The students will also be responsible before leaving to get any assignments that will be assigned while they are gone and will turn those assignments in upon returning to class after the game or tournament. In other words, the student will return as if he/she had not missed any classes.

## CONTEST LIMITATIONS

- ACS athletics seeks to limit each boys' and girls' soccer season to no more than 25 games exclusive of post-season play.
- ACS athletics seeks to limit each boys' and girls' basketball season to no more than 31 games exclusive of post-season play.
- ACS athletics seeks to limit each girls' volleyball season to no more than 35 matches exclusive of post-season play.
- ACS athletics seeks to limit each baseball and softball season to no more than 35 games exclusive of post-season play.

## CONFERENCE

Arthur Christian School is a member of the East Central Illinois Conference in all Varsity sports ECIC offers as conference sports.

## POST SEASON PLAY

ACS athletics competes in the Midwest Christian School Championships which offers regional post-season tournaments. Also, for those exceptional years when our teams are competing at a high level, the coaches along with the ACS Headmaster and athletic director may choose for a team to participate in the NACA national tournaments in Dayton, TN or the NCSAA national tournaments.



## **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The ACS Athletic Program and its staff do not assume any liability for any injuries incurred while an athlete is participating in athletics, or while in route to or from any athletic contest or practice. Students participating in the athletic program and using the equipment and facilities of Arthur Christian School do so at their own risk. Sports are physical in nature, and those who elect to participate must recognize that injuries may occur which could be crippling for life. Arthur Christian School and its staff shall not be liable for any damages arising from personal injury sustained by the participant. The participant and his / her parent(s) / guardian(s) assume full responsibility for any damages or injuries which may occur during practice, games, travel to and from athletic contests and practices, and so hereby fully and forever exonerate and discharge Arthur Christian School and the ACS Athletic Program, its staff, its Board of Education, employer and agents from any and all claims, demands, fights of action, causes of action present or future whether the same be known, anticipated, or unanticipated results from or arising out of participation in athletics and in the use of school facilities or while a member of an athletic team.

## **PARENTS SHOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:**

I agree to the following items listed:

1. I agree to support the school and its athletic programs in every way possible, to encourage my child to respect and obey school and athletic policies and officials. If my child should become involved in any difficulty during athletics, I will not complain to other parents but will with a correct Christian spirit register my complaint as outlined in the PARENT / COACH CONFERENCE section above.
2. I agree to have read thoroughly the Arthur Christian School Athletic Guidelines and to be especially aware of any new or revised policies.
3. I understand the standards of Arthur Christian School do not tolerate profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Holy Trinity and the Word of God, or disrespect to the personnel of the school, opposing school, game officials, etc.

## **ANNUAL ATHLETIC BANQUET**

An annual athletic banquet is held every May to honor boys and girls who have participated in Junior Varsity and Varsity sports. We encourage parents and students to be involved in this great event.

## **A FINAL NOTE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

We count it as a privilege and a blessing to coach your student. We see this as a great opportunity as well as a great responsibility. It is our desire, for the time that you have entrusted us with your child, to help mold them into a mature, responsible member of the Kingdom of God. At times we will push your student beyond what he or she believes they can handle. But our goal is for each athlete to draw the utmost of their ability from within themselves and to come together with their teammates to be the absolute best team they can be.