

Applewood Christian School Athletic Program

MISSION STATEMENT: At Applewood Christian School, we as Staff, Parents, Athletes, and Fans seek to compete with a level of character, intensity, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship that is consistent with our Christian faith and with respect to our Heavenly Father.

Our athletic program consists of the school administration, athletic director, coaches, athletes, and parents. It is very important that all people in the program are kept in direct communication with all related events, schedules, and procedures. The key to our program is proactive participation amongst all, especially parents, coaches and athletes.

In our athletic department the emphasis is on developing character, integrity, discipline as well as developing skills. We want to have championship teams but not by sacrificing academics. Athletics is one aspect of a well rounded education.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the ACS sports program include the following:

1. To glorify God through the use of His gifts to us.
2. To provide a Christian environment for players to develop their athletic talents.
3. To instill in the players an attitude about sportsmanship and respect to players, coaches, fans and officials that is consistent with Biblical values.
4. To develop each student's individual and team skills and strategies, as well as an understanding of different roles in team make-up.
5. To provide a Christ-like witness to players and spectators both at home and away games.

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Scope: The athletic committee is responsible to ACS school board and is tasked with organizing, equipping, and executing the sport programs at ACS. Specifically the committee will establish and administer sports policies, create practice and game schedules, purchase athletic equipment, and ensure the sports program is fair, equitable, and runs smoothly.

Organization: The school board appoints all athletic program positions (athletic director and all coach positions). The athletic committee is made up of the athletic director and the head coaches of each sport team.

Committee process: The athletic director is the chairman of the athletic committee and as such directs the activities of the committee. Policies and procedures are voted upon by the committee and are enacted by a simple majority vote.

ELIGIBILITY

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY/PARTICIPATION

Athlete eligibility: The priority of athlete participation is as follows:

1. Full-time ACS students
2. Select ACS students
3. Home-schoolers
4. Public-schoolers

Full-time and Select ACS students have no restrictions for eligibility.

Homeschoolers and Public-schoolers are allowed at the discretion of the athletic committee and only after an interview with the athletic director and respective coach. Participation by non-ACS students is only for the purpose of fielding enough players to compose a reasonably competitive team. At no time will non-ACS students be recruited for the purpose of improving the overall capability of the sports team. Acceptance on one team doesn't mean automatic acceptance on any other ACS sports program—each sport is mutually exclusive. In addition to a valid need by sports team, Homeschoolers and Public-schoolers must meet the same requirements for entry into Applewood Christian School. Specifically, a strong personal relationship with Christ is required. Once accepted as a member of any ACS team that athlete is a representative of ACS and as such has all the rights and privileges of any ACS athlete.

Only students in 6th grade and higher are eligible to play on Junior Varsity or Varsity sports teams. In the case where there is only a varsity team, participation is at the discretion of the coach.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Parents must maintain an active role in governing their children with respect to academic performance. Athletic participation *will not* be allowed to adversely impact academic performance.

To be eligible to participate in any ACS sport, a student must maintain at or above a C- average in each subject, based on the current grading period. Teachers *and* parents should remain aware of academic performance and bring poor performance to the attention of the student and the respective coach. In the case of soccer and volleyball that start at the beginning of the school year, current academic grades won't be available to base eligibility on. In this case the previous semester's grades will be used to establish status as an ACS athlete. Students are responsible for bringing grades to coaches for review at the end of each grading period.

If a student's grades fall below a C- in any subject, that student is placed on athletic probation. During probation a student is allowed to practice but not allowed to play. The duration of the probation is for as long as the academic grade(s) remain below a C-. If the probation continues

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for an extended period of time, the athletic committee, academic committee and parents will determine whether continued participation is warranted.

VARSITY LETTER PROGRAM

The Varsity Letter program is designed to highlight the student-athletes that have put forth extraordinary effort in their respective sport.

To be eligible for a Varsity Letter, each student-athlete must:

1. Be in the 9th grade or higher.
2. Must exemplify Christ-like behavior both at practice and competitions.
3. Must adhere to all the governing rules of the ACS sports program.
4. Must have played at least 50% of varsity competitions.

Each respective coach will monitor each varsity athlete throughout the season to determine those athletes that meet the requirements to earn a Letter.

The Varsity Letter will be awarded at the Sports Fellowship Ceremony.

Sports Code of Conduct

INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, as Christian Athletes, we represent Christ in all we do—at all times! All involved in our extracurricular activities should look at these programs as a privilege, thereby doing their best to appreciate the opportunity to further minister to our community by their actions as members of ACS teams.

Competing in an athletic program is a privilege and should not be taken lightly. Parents and spectators too have a responsibility during any ACS competition. Collectively our performance both on and off the field/court reflect upon the program and the school as a whole, and our witness.

We will do our best to provide maximum participation opportunities for all of our ACS athletes. No students are “cut” from the program but there are real limitations in the ACS program. Being on a team does not guarantee equal playing time for all participants.

GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES

As a Christian school, we expect the following of each athlete:

- Each athlete is expected to be committed to team goals. This implies that personal performance is *not* the focus, but is directed toward achieving team goals and team unity.

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- The coach is the head of the team, and as such needs each athlete's undivided attention during practices and games. Each athlete is expected to be loyal to the coach. The quality of athletic experience and success depends on loyalty and a good working relationship between team members and coaches. If a problem between coach and athlete arises, both have the responsibility to work out a solution through good communication.
- The athlete is expected to maintain top physical condition by eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good health and fitness habits. As Christian athletes, it is essential to abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs. These items will not be tolerated and any violation will result in expulsion from the team.
- The athlete is expected to exhibit Christian values and conduct at all times. This is especially important during athletic contests. Respect for opponents and officials must be evident at all times. Such attitudes reflect on individual athletes and on ACS.
- The athlete is required to attend every practice and game. Any absence must be coordinated with the coach prior to the event
- At all times the athlete is expected to do his/her very best, giving 100%.
- The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of all school-issued equipment.
- No foul or abusive language will be tolerated (at any time).
- Athletes will not question the judgments of coaches or game officials (on or off the field/court).

VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE

Adherence to the Athletic Code is important for the good of each athlete and the success of the team. It is important to note that the code of conduct is not confined to school time or school functions, but reflect an expectation and commitment to an everyday lifestyle in and outside school. Team members who violate the rules of the Athletic Code will be subject to discipline by the respective Coach or Athletic Director.

The following guidelines apply:

- The first violation results in suspension from remainder of the present game (if applicable) and the following contest as well.
- The second violation results in a 3 game suspension from competition.
- A third violation results in suspension from competition for the remainder of the year (including other sporting events). Additionally the Athletic Committee will determine whether continued participation in ACS sports will occur.
- Appeals related to disciplinary action can be brought to the Athletic Committee. If additional resolution is desired, the parent can bring it to the School Board for final resolution.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

Parents are an important part of the athletic program at Applewood Christian School. The support and encouragement given to coaches and athletes is vital for a sound Christian athletic program. Parents, as well as coaches and athletes, represent the school and Christ to the community.

Expectations of parents:

As examples to our children, parents are expected to display Christ-like behavior at all times, which includes all sporting events.

Parents will show respect for our opponents and officials at all times.

The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team, fellow parents and to the coaches.

Attitudes of parents directly impact the attitudes of athletes. Prayers for athletes, coaches, and teams are important and appreciated.

If a problem concerning the team arises, direct communication with the coach is the first step in resolution. If additional discussion is necessary, the Athletic Director is available to help resolve the situation.

GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

Coaches are Christian role models for the young men and women who benefit from their instruction. The school community recognizes that coaching is both rewarding and challenging. Coaching is also a great opportunity for developing close relationships with athletes and families, for achieving excellence in athletics, and for glorifying God.

- The head coach will be a professing Christian. All coaches are expected to be leaders in exhibiting Christian values and responsibility. As a highly visible representative of the school and the community, the coach must accept a special role in demonstrating positive and responsible leadership.
- The coach is expected to treat all athletes, opponents, coaches, and game officials with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- The coach is expected to resolve all team conflicts with good communication, equitable treatment of all persons involved, and a willingness to achieve positive results.

Signed by:

Board President _____

Date: _____

Board Secretary _____

Date: _____