



## ACS Athletics

### Parent/Athlete Contract

**Athlete Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

Athletics are considered an important part of educational training. While winning is an important goal, it is more important that players, coaches, and fans display a Christian attitude that will bring glory to God. There is also a different philosophy and approach to athletics based on the level at which your child is playing.

Hard work and playing as a team are important lessons we hope to instill by involvement in athletics. With this in mind, players need to understand that practices are important and mandatory, except in the case of an emergency. Playing time will be based, in part, on the player's attitude, attendance at team functions (including practice), physical conditioning, and athletic ability.

- At the JV and Varsity levels our objective is to win without compromising our Christian principles. Some players will not play in every game. All athletes should understand their role on the team and see themselves as an important part to the outcome of a game regardless of playtime. Coaches will attempt to play all players whenever they can, however, playing time will be a discussion that is had between players and coaches, not athletic directors and parents. Of course, we expect our coaches at ACS to communicate to players what is expected of them if they intend to increase the amount of time they spend on the court or field. However, playing time is not guaranteed in high school athletics.
- At the middle school level, it is our objective to develop game skills. Unless there are issues of attitude, attendance at team activities, or involve discipline, the coach will make every effort to play each player on contest night. The exception to this rule would be that of Invitational Tournaments, which we PAY to be involved in, or League Tournaments. At these events we will be playing to do our best in the win/loss column, regardless of competitive level.

Being the parent of an athlete requires commitment and understanding. It is your responsibility to get your child to and from practice. Athletes should be picked up promptly after a practice, or game, so our staff can get home to their families.

Since athletics are part of the educational training, it is expected that athletes will maintain their grades to a cumulative average of 2.0 (73%) with NO failing grades. In this scenario students who hold a GPA above 2.0, but are failing one or more classes are deemed 'ineligible.' Athletes' academic progress will be monitored weekly. Instructors are asked to have a letter and percentage grade assigned by Wednesday. The instructor is not required to go above and beyond their normal grading routine schedule to accommodate athletes that fail to fulfill their academic responsibility. The AD will check these marks, and by midday Friday, a list of ineligible students FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK will be generated and given to the respective coaches and athletes.

Students will have the first full week of the season, plus one GRACE WEEK to utilize for "catching up" if that is needed. Students who are ineligible for 3 straight weeks will be required to attend a meeting of their parent(s), the coach, and the AD to decide whether being on the team in question is the right decision for the student at that time. Eligibility resets every season the student participates in, however, chronically low performing athletes might be asked not to participate in athletics for their own academic well-being.

A STRICT 24 Hour Wait Period policy is in effect in regard to parent communication with coaches. Immediately following a practice or a contest where issues have occurred is NOT the time to discuss these issues. It is encouraged for parents and coaches to maintain open communications, but it MUST be done prayerfully and constructively in a calm, productive, and Christian way. It is recommended that you encourage your athlete (especially those in high school) to discuss their concerns with their coach. This is good for development as a

Christian adult. There WILL be conflict in anyone's life, learning to deal with it is part of growing up. Try not to stunt that process in your child. If issues remain after this conversation the parents need to schedule a meeting with the coach to discuss their concerns. If there is no satisfactory resolution, then parents may call the AD to schedule a meeting with him/her to review the situation. The AD, in conjunction with the Athletic Committee, reserves the right to enforce consequences if the 24 Hour Wait Period is NOT adhered to.

Volunteers are needed throughout the course of a season to help games run smoothly. Volunteers for these jobs will be handled on a per season basis. Volunteers can count these hours towards their family volunteer hours, or if they are a student, they can count them toward their ACS volunteer hours. Volunteers are also allowed into contests at ACS free of charge. This a hearty "Thank you" from us to you for your service. Look for an email to notify you when we are seeking volunteers for a certain season.

For away contests, field/gym addresses will be available on the Sports Calendar. Please use your smartphone, your GPS, or your PC to find directions to the game site. Game/Practice schedules will be posted to the Sports Calendar at the beginning of each season by the AD or his/her assistant. Athletic dates and times are subject to change at anytime please check the Sports Calendar regularly to stay abreast of these changes. Please direct all questions about practice times and locations to the coach. There will also be general sports information on the school website under the sports tab.

Every athlete will be expected to pay a one-time fee (see Athletic Handbook for current amount). This fee will cover the athlete for the whole year. Homeschool athletes have a differing fee schedule which can be found on the ACS website by clicking on "Homeschool Packet." It is the desire of the ACS Athletic Department that students who wish to participate in sports have the opportunity to do so. Should the sports fee be a hindrance for your child to play sports, please contact the AD and we will look into the availability of a Sports Scholarship on an individual basis.

All athletes are required to receive a yearly sports physical BEFORE practice begins. Physicals must be obtained on, or after, April 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous school year. Your child's physical must NOT expire during the season they are participating in. Physicals MUST be renewed annually.

By Signing this contract, you agree to its contents and will uphold the rules and the obligations herein. It is extremely important that we work together, school, parent, and athlete in Christian harmony to build successful and sustainable sports programs at ACS.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Athletic Director, Derek Delgado at (616) 678-7480 or by email [dererk.delgado@algonachristian.net](mailto:dererk.delgado@algonachristian.net).

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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Athlete Signature

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Date