

SECTION 1

Algoma Christian School (ACS) is an independent Christian school with sports programs designed to contribute to our students physical and spiritual growth. ACS students are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to play an organized sport here at their school. ACS also has policies in place that allow homeschool families to send their children here to participate in athletics. (See Homeschool Packet)

WARNING OF INHERENT RISK

Participation in athletic competition carries with it the inherent risk of injury, which may range in severity from minor to major injuries, and could include death. Although, serious injuries are uncommon in structured, supervised athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risk. Participants have the responsibility in helping to reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety protocols and training rules in place for each sporting activity. Athletes need to report physical issues to the coach, they must also follow proper guidelines for safe play in athletic competition, too include, inspecting the integrity of their personal equipment. Algoma Christian School takes all reasonable precautions for providing student athletes with a proper and safe environment for athletic competition.

SECTION 2

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary purpose of sports at ACS is to provide the framework for Christian friendship, spiritual edification, teamwork, and to exhibit a pure testimony for Jesus Christ.

PROGRAMS

Currently ACS fields the following teams:

Varsity Boys' Soccer (8th - 12th)

JV Boys' Soccer (8th - 10th)(Numbers Permitting)

MS Boys' Soccer (6th - 8th)(Numbers Permitting)

Varsity Girls' Volleyball (8th - 12th)

JV Girls' Volleyball (8th - 10th)(Numbers Permitting)

MS Girls' Volleyball (6th - 8th)(Numbers Permitting)

Varsity Boys' Basketball (8th - 12th)

JV Boys' Basketball (8th - 10th)(Numbers Permitting)

MS Boys' Basketball (6th - 8th)(Numbers Permitting)

Varsity Girls' Basketball (8th - 12th)

JV Girls' Basketball (8th - 10th)(Numbers Permitting)

MS Girls' Basketball (6th - 8th)(Numbers Permitting)

Varsity Boys' Baseball (8th - 12th)(Numbers Permitting)

Varsity Girls' Soccer (8th - 12th)

JV Girls' Soccer (8th - 10th)(Numbers Permitting)

MS Girls' Soccer (6th - 8th)(Numbers Permitting)

Athletes may be "brought up" to a higher level if the Head (Varsity) Coach thinks it is warranted. It has to be cleared through the AD and the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) before it is approved.

SECTION 3

JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Athletic Director:

The AD will oversee the complete athletic program at ACS. He/She will handle scheduling, hiring officials, hiring/terminating coaching staff, evaluating coaching staff, disciplining/rewarding athletes, and insuring that ACS rules and regulations are followed.

In addition the AD will procure equipment and uniforms for sports programs based on available finances and coach input. The AD will also coordinate with building level maintenance personnel to ensure that playing areas are ready for competition.

The AD is expected to be at home sporting events, unless there are other arrangements that have been made (i.e. Asst. AD, Games Manager, etc.).

The AD is expected to keep the Superintendent/Principal informed of what is happening in athletics as needed.

If busing is provided for a season, the AD will schedule the transportation for away games.

If athletic fundraisers are authorized, the AD will be responsible for coordinating them.

Coaches:

Coaches will oversee the training and competition for their particular team. Varsity Coaches will act as the Head Coach and oversee training and competition for all teams in their program, including their own.

Coaches may have as many assistants as they see fit. However, financial compensation for these assistants is the coach's responsibility. The coach is also responsible for the assistant's conduct. Coaches are advised to be certain an assistant is qualified before bringing them on board. The assistant's behavior could impact the coach's tenure in his/her job.

Coaches (that includes assistants) will be asked to undergo a formal background check (to include fingerprinting). This check insures that the coach has no previous convictions that preclude them from working with children. This background check is a national check for Head Coaches and a local check for assistants. ACS will be financially responsible for the cost of these background checks.

Coaches must also be CPR certified. ACS will be financially responsible for the cost of this training.

Coaches are expected to stay current in their knowledge of the rules. The Head Coach is expected to go through the rule book before each season and familiarize themselves with it. The Head Coach is to make sure that all assistants are familiar with the rules. The ACS AD will be responsible for obtaining copies of the MHSAA rulebooks.

Coaches will be responsible for arranging transportation to and from away games if busing is not available. Coaches are responsible for checking that drivers have a valid proof of insurance form and a driver's license. A visual check is sufficient; however, the driver may be asked to provide a copy of both documents in the event of an incident.

*****NOTE: The AD, Asst. AD, Games Manager, and Coach must be in compliance with the doctrinal statements of ACS. The ACS Board of Directors is the elected authority at ACS and the Superintendent is their employee, and as such, they are the final arbiters of any issue involving members of the athletic department. Athletic personnel are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the school and, therefore, an extension of the overall ministry at ACS.*****

Athletes:

Athletes must have a current physical on file in the Athletic Department office. This physical must be on an MHSAA-style form. This physical **MUST** be turned in **BEFORE** the athlete is allowed to practice or play in a contest. **A “current physical” according to Michigan state law is one that has been performed on, or after, April 15th of the PREVIOUS school year.**

Athletes must also read and sign a Parent-Athlete Contract **EACH** year they participate. Athletes are expected to follow the guidelines laid out in this contract.

Athletes must read and be briefed on the protocols for determining concussion injuries and about the repercussions of such an injury.

ANY HS athlete that quits a sport, once they have begun participation. Will be required (with their parents) to meet with the Athletic Director and the Principal/Superintendent before they are allowed to play another HS sport at ACS.

- The coach of the sport they wish to join may attend at the invitation of the Athletic Director.

- The purpose of this meeting will be to determine the situations surrounding the athlete’s decision to quit and whether or not the

athlete will be allowed to participate in the sport they currently wish to join.

-Athletes are advised not to quit a sport once they have made a commitment. Quitting (with some obvious exceptions, i.e. Family or medical EMERGENCIES) is a poor choice and flies in the face of the way the Bible encourages us to live lives of integrity.

-MS athletes are also encourage to “let their Yes be yes and their No be no,” however, MS athletics are a learning experience to prepare students for HS athletics. MS quitting situations will be handled in a situational manner and do not prevent a student from trying a different sport (or same sport) in a later season.

Athletes are expected to follow the training rules laid out by their coach for the sport in which they are participating. Coaches have some leeway in how they enforce these rules, so it is incumbent upon the athlete to make sure they understand the training rules.

Athletes are under the direct authority of their coaches before, during, and after any contest, or practice. This would include a team bus if busing is provided for that season. The coach’s authority devolves onto the driver of any vehicle that is officially transporting athletes to and from an event.

Athletes will recognize the authority of any faculty member as an ACS official. This includes at an away contest.

Athletes are expected to treat officials, opposing coaches, spectators, and their opponents with respect and Christian charity. Disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the team could be the consequence for disrespecting an individual in the list above.

SECTION 4

PARENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS:

Algoma Christian School is committed to the highest level of athletic competition within the limits of our school's resources. ACS is dedicated to honoring God through the behavior of not just coaches and athletes, but also of spectators. ACS believes that a spectator is a professional encourager, not a professional critic - fan behavior should be distinctly Christian in its flavor!

In the spirit of this philosophy, the ACS Board and the Administration of ACS would like spectators to:

1. Focus on encouraging OUR team;
2. Refrain from any degree of critical, sarcastic, or negative spirit;
3. Demonstrate appreciation for the skillful play of our team and our opponents. **Remember the other teams' players, coaches, and fans are not our enemies, JUST OUR OPPONENTS in a game!**
4. Refrain from making personal comments about any coach, player, or official.
5. Set a positive example of Christian behavior by displaying the Fruits of the Spirit as laid out in Galatians 5:22-23.
6. Submit to the authority of game officials, coaches, and school administration whether home, or away.
7. Use the principle of, "The right place, the right time, and the right spirit," when speaking with a people at an athletic contest. Our goal is to give glory to God in victory or defeat! Immediately following a game is not the right time, or place to meet with anyone over a concern. (Please refer to the Parent-Athlete Contract - 24 Hour Wait Period. The Athletic Committee reserves the right to enforce consequences on athletes, students, or parents/fans that habitually don't follow the guidelines listed above.)

ACS is a school devoted to the principles of discipleship. Please demonstrate this to your student athlete(s) as you discuss coaches, officials, and the other team. Give Christian charity at all times. The ACS Athletic Department depends on the support and involvement of parents as we strive to develop Christian character qualities in our student athletes. To build these desired traits into our student athletes, parents must agree with the school's athletic philosophy. Parents are asked to view themselves as working WITH ACS and the its Athletic Department, praying for administrators, coaches, and athletes.

Parents should always be aware that supporting a quitting mentality is counterproductive in sports, but also in life. Parents are encouraged to have their student athlete finish what she/he started. Athletic seasons aren't that long and the athlete doesn't have to participate in that sport again. Quitting should only be the last choice in any situation. Talk things out if there is problem. Model coping strategies to your athlete. Parents should be supportive of the decisions of the Athletic Director, Athletic Committee, and Coaches, and always strive to use the principles laid down in Matthew 18 in dealing with any conflict, or misunderstanding. ***It is important to note that BOTH winning and losing an athletic event can provide valuable biblical and life lessons for our students.*** These are lessons that might not be learned anywhere else in the ACS experience.

SECTION 5

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES/PARTICIPATION

As part of the parental partnership with ACS, the Athletic Department requests involvement and participation from parents. There will be a \$25 Participation Deposit that needs to be paid on a one time basis. Parents will receive their Participation Deposit back at the end of the year (in May) if they have volunteered to help the team with the requisite number of volunteer dates. Driving to games, helping with concessions, helping to clean-up after home games, taking admissions money at games, and helping to run the clock are all examples of things a parent might do.

The volunteer website is currently run by Jen Marsman. She will be happy to explain how you can fulfill your obligations.

TRANSPORTATION

Currently, ACS does not bus to away games, It is the responsibility of the coach of a team to make arrangements with parents to carpool to away games. As a parent, this will allow you to do some of your volunteer commitments; however, you might be asked to show proof of your licensing and insurance information. Also, you **MUST NOT** take more players then you have legal seating for. This is strictly forbidden.

Players will return to ACS with the driver they rode to the game with, unless they have written permission from a parent to ride home with someone else, or they ride home with their parent. Drivers are asked to stay at school until an athlete's ride arrives.

Never leave a student athlete unsupervised!

PARTICIPATION FEES

The Athletic and Finance Committees have elected to go with a “Pay Once, Play All,” policy again this year for full time students of ACS. Homeschool students play under a different fee scale (See Homeschool Packet). The fees are as follows:

Varsity Sports	\$250.00
JV Sports	\$200.00
MS Sports	\$175.00

Please plan to remit funds to the ACS main office before the first season your athlete plays. Thank you.

SPORTS ADMISSION FEES

Pay to Play fees are not enough to run athletics here at ACS. Admission charges are important for us and for our friends in the Great Lakes 6. The following is a breakdown of admission charges:

<u>MS Event</u>	<u>HS/Combo Event</u>
\$1/Student	\$2/Student
\$1/Senior Citizen	\$2/Senior Citizen
\$2/Adult	\$4/Adult
\$5/Family	\$10/Family

Season and All Year passes are available by request. Please inquire with either the Athletic Director or Asst. Athletic Director for current pricing.

SECTION 6

DISCIPLINE

Failure to follow any of the ACS Family Handbook policies, or ACS Athletic policies as laid out in the handbook, parent/athlete contract, Homeschool Packet, and coach's expectations will result in disciplinary actions of varying severity. (If there is a discrepancy between written source material on a punishment, the ACS Family Handbook takes precedence.) Any discipline is implemented to produce the desired change in the athlete's behavior, if the selected discipline fails to produce results, a more severe penalty may be imposed. These severe penalties might include, but are not be limited to, suspension for games, or removal from the team. The coach is in charge of practice/game level discipline.

Although not a signatory of the MHSAA, ACS will enforce MHSAA consequences for inappropriate behavior during games.

If any athlete is involved with the use of controlled substances, either on, or off, school property, they will be suspended immediately pending a more thorough investigation. Electronic media can be viable sources for charges of this nature. Watch what you, or your friends, put on-line.

SECTION 7

DRESS CODE

ACS athletes will adhere to school dress codes at all times. This will include traveling to and from away games, as well as, before home games. On game day, each athlete is required to wear the team uniform for that day the uniform options might include warm-ups, t-shirts, or dress clothes as determined by the coach.

Those athletes that are on academic ineligibility, or disciplinary suspensions, WILL NOT be allowed to wear their GAME uniform. They are allowed to support their team by wearing the Spirit uniform of the day as decided by the coach. If it is a home game the athlete may be seated on the end of his/her bench with their team. Students on academic suspension are strongly encourage to forego away games to work on school work. At any rate, they will not travel with the team, neither will they be allowed to sit on the bench.

SECTION 8

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

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 using the following method. instructors are asked to have a letter and percentage grade assigned by Wednesday. However, the instructor is not REQUIRED to make any effort, other than their normal grading routine to accommodate the student. The instructor may CHOOSE to help, and most will, but their job is not to bail out an irresponsible athlete. The Athletic Department will check these marks, and by midday Friday, a list of ineligible students FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK, will be generated.

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 for every season the student participates in; however, chronically low

performing students may be asked not to participate in athletics for their own academic well being.

SECTION 9

VARSITY LETTERS/AWARDS

ACS awards a letter "AC" to all participating full time students in ALL varsity sports.

To letter in a sport, the athlete must not be a chronic discipline problem. Any more than one disciplinary action taken against an athlete in any season will result in disqualification for a letter in that sport. Unexcused absences from practice will result in the loss of the varsity letter. No player who joins a team mid-season, or quits, will be awarded a letter.

Team awards are left to the team coach. Athletic Director awards are left to the AD. League awards/Area/ACSI awards will be presented by the AD.

SECTION 10

COACH SELECTION/RENEWAL

COACH INITIAL HIRE:

1. Coaching position is "posted."
2. Applicants contact AD. Preferably by letter, or email.
3. AD review applications, conducts interviews, confers with Athletic Committee if necessary.
4. Applicant is asked to give his/her Christian testimony in writing and asked if ACS' Articles of Faith will be upheld.
5. AD offers job to best applicant.

6. Applicant goes through mandatory school employee screening process. (ACS pays fee.)
7. Applicant goes through mandatory CPR training. (ACS pays fee.)
8. If applicant does all of the above, they are officially hired.

COACH RENEWAL:

1. Coach is watched during season by AD or Asst. AD.
2. Coach is given a formal evaluation by AD or Asst. AD.
3. The AD and the coach will go over the evaluation and the coach will be given an opportunity to respond to praise and criticism as warranted.
4. The AD and the coach will sign the evaluation. Both signatures are necessary, the coach's signature does NOT mean he/she AGREES with what the AD has said. It simply means that the AD has gone over this with the coach. If the coach refuses to sign, they will be terminated.
5. The AD will determine if the coach is recommended for renewal.
6. If so, the AD will ask the coach to sign a "Letter of Intent" indicating they are planning on returning the next season.
7. If the coach is found unsatisfactory, the AD can decide the coach is not going to be renewed.
8. Start "Coach Initial Hire, Step #1"

SECTION 11

SPORTS RELATED INJURIES

Any sports injury will be required to be documented on an ACS "Accident Form" as soon as possible. This is done for insurance purposes.

ACS will use the State of Michigan concussion protocol for concussion assessment. This protocol must be performed if an athlete is suspected of

having a concussion. The protocols must be performed by a person who has no stake in the contest. If the athlete does not pass, or the results are unsure, the coach will follow the guideline: "When in Doubt, Sit 'Em Out." That athlete will not be allowed to return to that contest and will not be allowed in subsequent contests until he/she is cleared by a doctor to play.

There may be situations in which a signed parent waiver might be appropriate. If you think your situation warrants that, inquire with the Athletic Director.

ACS follows a strict NO PLAY policy. If an athlete is saying they cannot go into a game because of an injury, the coach MUST NOT play them. This doesn't mean that the coach can't inquire about injuries, or ask the player when they think they can return, it simply means that an athlete cannot be forced to play.

SECTION 12

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

The Athletic Committee (AC) is a permanent ACS Board Committee. As such it reports to the board via minutes, or by actual presence of AC members if requested. It is always made up of the Athletic Director and at least one ACS Board member. The rest of the AC membership is made up of volunteers who have an interest in ACS sports.

The AD will chair the AC and will appoint various members to various tasks as needed, and as they are willing. The AD will keep the AC briefed on the status of athletics at ACS.

The AC is asked to advise the AD and offer advice and counsel. The AD in turn will understand that the AC is an arm of the board and will listen to

their advice and seriously take it under advisement before he/she makes decisions.

The AC might be asked to organize and run sports related fundraisers, activities, work on Great Lakes 6 documents, etc.

The AC does not, however, have the authority to hire and fire coaches or other athletic staff. Only the AD evaluates, hires, or fires, coaches.