

Homeschool Athletic Program Policies

Age as it Pertains to Grade Level/Team Level

A. At ACS, although we are not members of the MHSAA, most of our opponents are. To keep things simple and fair, the following is the breakdown of the ACS grade levels based on age.

Note, we will confine this list to grades 5 through 12.

1. A 5th grader's age range is: 10 to 11
2. A 6th grader's age range is: 11 to 12
3. A 7th grader's age range is: 12 to 13
4. An 8th grader's age range is: 13 to 14
5. A 9th grader's age range is: 14 to 15
6. A 10th grader's age range is: 15 to 16
7. An 11th grader's age range is: 16 to 17
8. A 12th grader's age range is: 17 to 18

Note: Students outside the age range will not be allowed to compete

B. Although the following ranges are somewhat flexible under MHSAA guidelines, there are areas in which there is no flexibility.

1. Typically, MS teams are made up of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. However, in some cases, the 8th graders can be used at the Varsity or JV level if the HS team numbers are low enough to warrant it and MS team numbers are high.
2. JV teams are typically made up of 9th and 10th graders. No upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders) typically play on ACS JV teams. There might be an exception to this for an

international player who wants to play but lacks the experience and skills to make the Varsity.

3. Varsity teams are typically made up of 11th and 12th graders. However, players with exceptional talent at a young age might be asked to play Varsity as underclassmen. Underclassmen might also be employed if Varsity team numbers are low.

Note: Although many homeschool organizations allow students who are older than typical students at the various levels shown above to compete, ACS will adhere, roughly, to the MHSAA standards for grade levels and team demographics.

Required Paperwork

- A. Each athlete will be required to have a physical done by a medical professional on an MHSAA style physical form. Doctor's offices have them on file. ACS also has access to them. An athlete will not be allowed to practice or play until such time as that form is turned in to the Athletic Director.
- B. Each athlete must fill out the "External Student/Athlete Application" found in this packet. Athletes will need to be able to verify their age with an official Birth Certificate if asked to do so.
- C. Each parent/athlete will be asked to read and sign the "ACS Sports Parent/Athlete Contract." That form is also in this packet. This form outlines what ACS expects from student-athletes and parents. It is to be signed by both. Athletes may not compete without this form.
- D. Each parent will be asked to sign a "Uniform Issuance" form. This form will indicate which uniform the athlete was assigned and how much was paid as a deposit for the uniform. The form will have an area to record any issues with the uniform before it was issued.

1. Both ACS and the parent will have a copy as proof that the uniform was issued and to whom.
2. The AD will sign this form when the uniform is returned. The parent can then take the signed form to Finance to get reimbursed for their deposit. (For deposit amount see "Fees.")

Athlete Disciplinary Policy

- A. For athletic contests, ACS hires MHSAA officials. Athlete behavior in the contest will be governed by MHSAA rules. (For example, the price for two technicals levied in a basketball game against either a player or a coach, is ejection from that game and also the next.) Dress codes and uniform codes are also set by the MHSAA, and these will be enforced by the ACS Athletic Department.
- B. Off-campus violations, such as the consumption of alcohol, will mean instant removal from the team. ACS believes that Christian behavior should be evident at all times, including off the field/court. We expect our Knights to be examples to their peers and opponents.
- C. Academic excellence is also important to us here at ACS. We believe that student-athletes should be just that: Students first, then athletes.
 1. Our standard here at ACS is that students must have an average of a "C" (that's roughly 73%) or higher to play sports. We ask that homeschool parents let us know if their athlete is falling behind the homeschool equivalent of this and bring it to our attention.

2. Academic Probation is a week-by-week thing during the season. This is on the “Honor System,” but we trust parents will want to help us keep student achievement at a high level.

D. Parents and students should be aware that either a practice or game takes place almost every day after school. Punctual attendance at practices is mandatory. There are, of course, exceptions (doctor’s appointments, church activities, family vacations, etc.); however, it is the player’s responsibility to let the coach know what is happening.

1. Consequences for any missed practice (excused or not excused) is up to the team coach.
2. An unexcused absence is any absence that the coach doesn’t know about, or violates the spirit of those listed as acceptable absences above.
3. If the player gets two unexcused absences there will be a meeting with the athlete, parent, coach, and AD to determine the consequence.
4. Three unexcused absences will mean removal from the team.

The Athletic Department recommends involving the whole team in discussions about repeated excused absences (i.e. No ride available on certain days, etc.).

Formation of ACS Teams Utilizing Homeschool Athletes

A. Since ACS students pay tuition and their families are financially responsible for keeping the school doors open and maintaining the school’s facilities, ACS students will ALWAYS be able to play on any ACS team on which they want to participate. Per current ACS policy, there will be no cuts for these students.

B. ACS students and parents will be informed by email and verbally at school (for the students) when sign-up sheets are posted. The sign-up sheet will be posted in an obvious location and clearly indicated as sports sign-up forms. ACS students will be given a cutoff date for signing up for a particular season.

1. Once that date has passed, the Athletic Department will determine if there are positions available for homeschool athletes.
2. Homeschool athletes of the appropriate gender and age can request a packet and sign-up for those spots.
 - a. If there are more athletes available than positions, a two-day tryout will be held before the season officially begins.
 - b. Coaches will consider attitude, initiative, energy, and the needs of the team in addition to athletic ability.
 - c. At the end of the second day, the coaching staff will meet with the AD and present their recommendations.
 - Athletes who make the cut will be notified of such and asked to pay the appropriate fee.
 - Athletes who do not make the cut will be told why they didn't make it. They might be asked to join the team later in the year if there are athletes who suffer season-ending injuries, quit, or are removed from the team for disciplinary reasons.
4. Once a homeschool athlete makes an ACS team, there will be loyalty extended to that athlete for the years they are in school. Every effort will be made to retain that athlete on the ACS team for which they tried out; however, full time ACS students will always have

priority.

5. Once on the team, all athletes will be treated similarly; no preferences of position or playing time will be granted to full time ACS students. Playing time and positions played must be earned by the athlete. Athletes are encouraged to ask their coaches about ways that they can improve in order to gain more playing time or a different position.
6. Homeschool students may elect to take classes here at ACS. If a homeschool student takes 3, or more, classes at ACS, for athletic purposes, this will guarantee them a spot on an ACS team. There will be no need for a try-out.
 - a. The fee charged for athletics will still be the per-season fee.
 - b. The fee charged per class will be according to ACS Board of Education policy. (See attached)

Transportation

A. ACS does not bus athletes to away contests.

1. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure all players have a ride to the game. The coaches can organize carpools, transport students in their own vehicle, etc.

B. The homeschool parent may elect to take his/her athlete straight to a game, be part of the carpool, or drop their athlete off at ACS to ride with the parents of other students who are departing from the school. Whatever the decision, it MUST be communicated with the coach.

C. If a student wants to ride back from the game with anyone but their parent, or the parent that took them to the game, they must have

written permission from their parent(s). This must be given to the coach BEFORE the game.

- D. Coaches will notify the team the day before the game when the team is to be at the game location. Usually, this will be 45 minutes before game time.

Athletic/Academic Awards

- A. ACS Varsity letters are reserved for students of ACS.
- B. Homeschool team members will be given a pin and a certificate indicating that they played on the team.
- C. Homeschool team members will be given Great Lakes 6 All-Conference Honors if they are nominated.
- D. Homeschool team members will not be eligible to receive Great Lakes 6 Academic All-Conference.
- E. Any other honors that are given individually at tournament events (such as ACSI or a GL6 event) will be awarded to both ACS athletes and homeschool athletes as merited.

Fees

- A. All homeschool athletes will pay a \$100 dollar deposit on their uniforms. ACS uniforms are of high quality, and they need to be returned.
 - 1. This deposit will be returned when the uniform is returned to the coach in reasonable condition. The “Uniform Issuance” form will

- signed by the AD and presented to the Finance Office for the deposit to be returned.
2. No deposit will be withheld for a uniform that has suffered damage due to normal wear and tear.
- B. The fee for a Middle School sports season is \$250, plus deposit for the first season played during the school year. The fee for playing multiple seasons will total \$500 for the school year.
- C. The fee for a JV sports season is \$300, plus deposit for the first season played during the school year. The fee for playing multiple seasons will total \$600 for the school year.
- D. The fee for a Varsity sports season is \$325, plus deposit for the first season played during the school year. The fee for playing multiple seasons will total \$650 for the school year.
- E. Once an athlete is officially accepted to a team, payment should be made out to Algoma Christian School and brought, or mailed, to the front office. (ACS Finance: nicki.mollien@algomachristian.net or (616) 678-7480).

Injuries and Insurance

- A. ACS has purchased increased insurance from our provider to bring us on par with the insurance offered by the MHSAA.
1. This insurance, like that of the MHSAA, is supplemental. It will cover whatever amount remains after the parent's insurance has paid, for injuries that occur in ACS athletic contests (home and away).
 2. To find out more call the ACS Finance Office at (616) 678-7480.

B. ACS gives the health and well-being of all athletes the highest priority. Mrs. Kehoe has been serving in the capacity of Athletic Trainer, and she is the individual who will be determining the correct course of action in case of an injury at ACS home events.

1. At away events, by default, it is the responsibility of the head coach of the team or program (whoever is senior at the location).
2. If there is an athletic trainer available from the opponent school, that authority will be deferred to them. The ACS head coach will follow their directions in dealing with injury.

C. In the case of a possible concussion, the athlete will be put through the Great Lakes 6 (our league) Concussion Protocol.

1. If there is any doubt about the outcome of that test, the athlete will not be allowed to continue the contest. This is commonly called the, "When in doubt, sit 'em out," policy.
2. Coaches DO NOT administer the protocol unless there is no other unbiased individual present who can do it. The protocol is in the ACS med kit.
3. Athletes WILL NOT return to play in the event in which a possible concussion occurred.
4. Any athlete who fails the protocol MUST be seen and cleared by a licensed physician before they can return to play. In special circumstances, a parent waiver for the athlete to return might be accepted. Inquire if you feel a waiver might be right for your child.

D. All ACS Coaches must be CPR certified, and all must have law-enforcement background checks, per State of Michigan law.

Athletic Information

A. All information concerning practice times, game times, athletically related school events (Homecoming, Senior Night, etc.), Athletic Committee meeting dates and times, and Great Lakes 6 events, can be found on the ACS website by clicking the “Sports Calendar” button.

1. This calendar is the ONLY place to get up-to-the-minute information about what is going on in ACS Athletics.
2. Trust nothing else.....paper will lie to you!

B. You can contact Tim Quinlan (Head of School) at 616.678.7480 (ext. 141), or by emailing tim.quinlan@algotachristian.net

C. You can contact Morgan Kehoe, Athletic Director, at 616.678.7480 (ext. 112), or by emailing morgan.kehoe@algotachristian.net