

Auburn Baptist Christian Academy

Student Athlete And Parent Handbook

Home of the Knights



PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT ATHLETICS

ABCA recognizes the importance of athletics as an integral component of a student's complete educational development. As such, we believe that all students should have an opportunity to participate in some form of interscholastic athletics and that such participation should encourage positive scholastic and social growth and achievement. All participants and teams will represent the school and community in a positive manner and will reflect the dedication and hard work that will be required to compete and be successful. Success will not be measured by records that are achieved by teams or individuals, but rather by the knowledge that each participant gave his/her best effort and prepared for each contest to the best of his/her ability. ABCA realizes that an effective interscholastic athletic program is the product of responsible cooperation between its four major components: the student athlete, the coaching staff, the parents, and the administration.

ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

SPORTSMANSHIP

Participation in the athletic program requires adherence to the highest standards of good sportsmanship. Aspects of good sportsmanship include ensuring fairness in competition and exhibiting respect for the people and institutions associated with athletic contests. In order to promote fairness in competition, the following 16 principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor" should be followed. Athletes of this school will be required to comply with the rules of each sport and to ensure that fairness in competition is not limited by their actions in any way.

1. The essential elements of character building and ethics at ABCA are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."
2. It's the duty of the school administrator, parents and school sports leadership – including coaches, athletic director, and game officials – to promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling these "six pillars of character."
3. To promote sportsmanship and foster the development of good character, school sports programs must be conducted in a manner that enhances the academic, emotional, social, physical and spiritual development of student athletes and teaches them positive life skills that will help them become personally successful and socially responsible.
4. Participation in school sports programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student athletes must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as positive role models who exemplify Godly character.
5. The school administrator, parents and school sports leadership shall establish standards for participation by adopting and enforcing codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators.

6. All participants in sports must consistently demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity and observe and enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
7. The importance of character, Godliness and sportsmanship should be emphasized in all communications directed to student athletes and their parents.
8. The school administrator, parents and school sports leadership must ensure that the first priority of their student athletes is a serious commitment to getting an education and developing the academic skills and character to succeed.
9. The school administrator and everyone involved at any level of governance in ABCA must maintain ultimate responsibility for the quality and integrity of ABCA programs. Such individuals must assure that education and character development responsibilities are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals and that the academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of student athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win.
10. All employees of ABCA must be directly involved and committed to the academic success of student athletes and the character building goals of the school.
11. Everyone involved in competition including parents, spectators, associated student body leaders, and all auxiliary groups have a duty to honor the traditions of the sport and to treat other participants with respect. Coaches have a special responsibility to model respectful behavior and the duty to demand that their student athletes refrain from disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent trash-talking, taunting and inappropriate celebrations.
12. The school administrator of ABCA must ensure that coaches, whether paid or voluntary, are competent to coach. Training or experience may determine minimal competence. These competencies include basic knowledge of 1) The character building aspects of sports, including techniques and methods of teaching and reinforcing the core values comprising sportsmanship and Godliness. 2) The physical capabilities and limitations of the age group coached, as well as first aid. 3) Coaching principles and the rules and strategies of the sport.
13. Because of the powerful potential of sports as a vehicle for positive personal growth and testimony, a broad spectrum (as available) of school sports experiences should be made available to students.
14. To safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport, school sports programs must actively prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and performance enhancing substances, as well as demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those related to gambling and the use of drugs.
15. Schools that offer athletic programs must safeguard the integrity of their programs. Commercial relationships should be continually monitored to ensure against inappropriate exploitation of the school's name or reputation. There should be no undue influence of commercial interest. In addition, sports programs must be prudent, avoiding undue dependence on particular companies or sponsors.
16. The profession of coaching is a profession of the mental and physical dimensions of their sport. Coaches, through words and example, must also strive

to build the character of their athletes by teaching them to be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring and Godly citizens.

Any person who is unable to comply with these standards must understand that his/her opportunity for participation may be limited or removed.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

There is a value system established in the home, and nurtured in the school that young people are developing. Their involvement in classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, Godliness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

As a parent/guardian of a student athlete at our school, your goals should include:



- Promote a healthy lifestyle that does not include the use of performance enhancing drugs or supplements;
- Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game;
- Encourage our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work;
- Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student athletes; discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans and officials;
- Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- Respect the task that our coaches face as teachers; and support them as they strive to educate our youth;
- Respect our opponents as student athletes, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best; and
- Develop a sense of dignity and civility under all circumstances.

You can have a major influence on your student's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

Violation of the above code of conduct could result in one or more of the following consequences: a warning, removal from the venue, suspension, or further discipline to be determined by the administration.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT ATHLETES

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. I understand that, in order to participate in ABCA athletics, I must act in accord with the following:

TRUSTWORTHINESS

1. *Trustworthiness* – be worthy of trust in all I do.
 - *Integrity* – live up to high ideals of Godliness and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what’s right even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.
 - *Honesty* – live and compete honorably; don’t lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - *Reliability* – fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.
 - *Loyalty* – be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT

2. *Respect* – treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student athletes.
3. *Class* – live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
4. *Disrespectful Conduct* – don’t engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or *racial* nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
5. *Respect Officials* – treat contest officials with respect; don’t complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

RESPONSIBILITY

6. *Importance of Education* – be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

7. *Role-Modeling* – Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that you are expected to represent your school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.

Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.

8. *Self-Control* – exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.

9. *Healthy Lifestyle* – safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

10. *Integrity of the Game* – protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.

FAIRNESS

11. *Be Fair* – live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

12. *Concern for Others* – demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to self or others.

13. *Teammates* – help promote the well being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP

14. *Play by the Rules* – maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.

15. *Spirit of Rules* – honor the spirit and the letter of rules; avoid temptations to gain a competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attending all classes is a high priority for all student athletes: making it very important for all student-athletes to establish good attendance patterns and communicate with their teachers about assignments to be done.

1. Students must attend 50% (minimum) of the school day, excluding lunch, in order to participate in practice or competition that day.
2. Student athletes in violation of this rule, as it relates to competitions, will be suspended for a minimum of one contest or game. (Subject to review with head coach and athletic director.)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes who wish to participate in an athletic activity at ABCA must meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain a “C” average (2.0 GPA) in every class during the sport season.
2. Meet standards of satisfactory citizenship.
3. Have a satisfactory attendance record.

Exceptions may be made to the above requirements when health, physical, mental disadvantages, or other extenuating and unusual circumstances exist.

If a student athlete is ineligible at the beginning, or becomes ineligible during a season of sport because he/she is below a 2.0 GPA, he/she remains ineligible until a “C” average is achieved in each class.

Initial Eligibility

All students who wish to participate must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA based on grades of record for the grading period immediately prior to their participation.

ATHLETIC ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Every student who wants to participate in a sport must complete and have signed by a parent/guardian the following forms:

1. Emergency Information
2. Parent Consent, Field Trip Permission, Physical, Injury, Risk, adherence to Codes of Conduct and Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook

EQUIPMENT

ABCA provides a great deal of money to maintain and purchase proper equipment. Equipment is to be handled properly for financial reasons and also to teach students responsibility.

1. All equipment will be inventoried, numbered, and checked out by coaches.
2. Students are responsible for the security of their equipment and uniforms. In some cases, particularly with game uniforms, the replacement fee may be higher than the original purchase price because special processing and printing may be required to duplicate the uniform.
3. Students are expected to turn in the same piece(s) of equipment checked out to them.
4. Equipment should be returned in the same condition as it was received. Equipment and uniforms should be cleaned and washed before being returned. Students are expected to make arrangements to have torn or ripped clothing repaired prior to turning it in to the coach.
5. All equipment must be returned within one week of the last contest.
6. Students must return or pay for all equipment before they can practice or participate in another sport. In unusual circumstances when a significant amount of money is owed, arrangements for repayment can be made with the coach and the administrator in charge of athletics.
7. Students who leave a team prior to the end of the season must turn in their equipment and uniform immediately.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR

Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, throwing of equipment or any similar displays of immaturity, and disrespect to any person or institution will not be tolerated. Athletes accept responsibility for their actions both on and off the field. An athlete's language and behavior should not embarrass himself/herself, the team, the school, God, or the community. Defiant behavior and back-talk toward any coach, school official, or game official will also not be tolerated. Any disagreements should be handled in private discussions.

Violation of any of the above behavior guidelines could result in one or more of the following consequences: benching, suspension, or dismissal.

DRESS CODE

Appropriate dress is expected during games and practice. With modesty in mind, all shorts must be knee length and all shirts must have sleeves (no tank tops). Also, girls are required to wear their hair up during practice and games.

ROAD TRIPS

ABCA provides transportation to some away contests. Students are expected to go and return on the school-provided transportation.

1. Departure times are often determined by the coach, athletic director, and principal.
2. At the coach's discretion, students may be signed off the return bus by their parent/guardian
3. All athletes will dress in an appropriate manner for bus trips. Coaches will establish requirements for proper attire.
4. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner. Profanity and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
5. Personal radios may not be played on the bus. Digital type radios may be allowed at the coach's discretion.
6. Students are expected to follow all rules set forth by the driver and to be courteous and respectful at all times.

UNREST PLANS

If a physical conflict should occur on the playing field/court during a contest, the following action will take place. All athletes in the sideline/bench area will remain there, and all athletes on the field/court are to move immediately to the sideline/bench area. All parents/guardians, fans, etc., are to remain in the stands or in the sideline/bench area if there are no stands. No unsportsmanlike words or actions are to come from any players, fans, or coaches. Violation of the above policy by a student can result in disciplinary action from both the school administration and the Athletic Department. It is the responsibility of every coach to inform, demonstrate, and practice the above action plan.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

Student athletes, performers or competitors involved in a fight, while in uniform and/or at a performance/competition will be removed from the team.

Each situation will be evaluated on an individual basis by the administration. Input will be provided by the appropriate coach or advisor.

CONFERENCES

In our continuing effort to establish and maintain clear lines of communication between the Athletic Department Staff and the parents/guardians of our student-athletes, the

coaching staff will be available for conferences. *Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.* Those can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of that nature, and at those times, do not promote resolution. The following guidelines will help make any conference a productive and positive experience.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES

- Each head coach will be available, upon request, for a future conference.
- Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.
- The coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work on or improve in order to maintain or increase his/her playing time.
- The coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about his/her own child.
- If the guidelines are not adhered to, the discussion will be terminated.
- If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then follow the instructions under Parent Complaints or Concerns.
- **Parents who verbally abuse a coach may be liable for harassment/slander/defamation of character.**

** It is the intent of ABCA to provide an avenue for meaningful dialogue and communication between coaches and parents. Working together we can and will accomplish great things.

PARENT COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

If you have a concern or complaint, it helps to bring it to the attention of the correct people.

- a. Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint with the coach involved.
- b. If the concern is not resolved with the coach, it should be submitted to the athletic director in writing.
- c. If the concern is not resolved with the athletic director it should be submitted to the principal in writing.

Parent Consent, Field Trip Permission, Physical, Injury, Risk, Adherence to Codes of Conduct and Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook Form

Name _____

Student # _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____ Phone # _____

Home Address _____ City _____

Zip _____

Daytime Phones:

Father _____ Mother _____

Consent Statements - Please read carefully and sign below.

- * I hereby give my consent for the above-named student to participate in athletics.
- * I hereby give my consent for the above-named student to have his/her picture and/or statistics published. This may include print/electronic media.
- * I hereby authorize the ABCA or a representative to transport and supervise the above named student on any athletic trip.
- * I hereby give my consent, in case this student is injured or becomes ill, for the school and/or its representative to secure medical aid, ambulance transportation, and for the medical agency to render treatment.
- * I hereby give my consent to the team physician, emergency doctor, nurse, athletic trainer, and/or coach to apply first aid treatment until the family doctor can be contacted.
- * We realize that there is a risk of our son/daughter being injured while participating in sports and the risk of injury may be severe, including the risk of fracture, brain injuries, paralysis, or even death. We are assuming all risks inherent in this athletic activity.
- * I, as a student athlete, have read and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for interscholastic student athletes.
- * I, as a parent/guardian, have read and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for parents/guardians and will promote adherence to the policies stated in the Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook.

WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS OUTLINED IN BOTH THE STUDENT ATHLETE AND PARENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES (IF APPLICABLE) ATTACHED BY THE COACH.

_____	_____
Parent's/Guardian's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Athlete's Signature	Date