



ABILENE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2018-2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to Abilene Christian School Athletics and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). TAPPS is the governing body for over 200 private schools in Texas. ACS is a TAPPS member school.

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools commits to building leadership, fellowship, fair play, and sportsmanship of students enrolled in the organization's member schools in the areas of academics, athletics, and fine arts by providing wholesome competition for young men and women.

TAPPS programs are based on the premise that athletes are students first and that athletic participation is a privilege rather than a right. Students learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity. Research shows those who participate in extra-curricular activities tend to make higher grades and have fewer discipline problems than those who do not participate.

Throughout this handbook you'll notice references to your "student-athlete," rather than your "athlete," because we believe that your children are students first, and athletic participation is a privilege.

Athletic Department Philosophy:

The ACS athletic program is committed to glorifying God by pursuing excellence in all team sports by the shaping of our student-athlete's character through the teaching and application of humility, integrity, discipline, hard work, commitment, obedience, and a healthy competitive spirit. The athletic program strives to be highly competitive as competition provides a training ground for life in a challenging, competitive world. Although winning is important, the program is committed to teach the proper motivation for excelling: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

ACS's commitment to a high standard of achievement in all areas includes the athletic department. We strive to assist athletes in maximizing their potential in order to bring honor to the Lord. As Christians, we are to do our very best unto the Lord in everything we do. Wins are to be celebrated with humility, giving God the glory, and losses are to be processed with graciousness and integrity.

Objectives of the Athletic Program:

1. We will glorify God and honor Christ at all times.
2. We will provide a Christian environment for players to develop their athletic talents.
3. We will ensure that every student-athlete prioritizes academics.
4. We will represent ACS in a way that will glorify God and our school.
5. We will develop Christian character and become better servant-leaders.
6. We will be selfless; the team always comes first.
7. We will be committed to our team and athletic program.
8. We will support all of our teams and players, both coaches and student-athletes.
9. We will work hard to improve in and out of season.

Expectations:

Student-athlete - The student-athlete is expected to be committed to the sport or extracurricular activity in which he/she is participating, to display a positive attitude, and to attend every scheduled practice on time.

Coach/Sponsor - The coach/sponsor is expected to teach the skills necessary to improve performance and to provide a positive Christian influence.

Parent - The parent is expected to be supportive of the extracurricular program in which his/her child is participating while supporting the coaches/sponsors of those programs.

TAPPS and Extracurricular Participation Guidelines:

1. The student-athlete must meet all TAPPS requirements.
2. The student-athlete must meet all Abilene Christian School standards.

Requirements of ACS Athletic Program Participants:

1. Student-athletes must have all current TAPPS paperwork on file.
2. Student-athletes must be drug, tobacco, and alcohol free.
3. Student-athletes must abide by team/extracurricular participation rules as set forth by coaches/sponsors.
4. Student-athletes must model good behavior and character both in and out of the classroom.
5. Student-athletes must live up to the high standards of fair play and competition.
6. Student-athletes must promote the well being of teammates with respect and positive encouragement both on and off the field of competition.
7. Student-athletes must show respect to officials, opposing players/contestants, and coaches/sponsors.

- 8. Student-athletes must be enrolled in the athletic period in both the fall and spring semesters in order to be able to practice/participate in football, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, or baseball.**

Injuries:

All coaches have been certified in First Aid, CPR, and Concussion Management. Should an injury occur, the coaching staff or appropriate personnel will provide initial treatment immediately. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible in the event of an injury. Medical assistance will be obtained immediately depending on the severity of the injury. The safety of each student-athlete is of the utmost importance.

Issued Equipment:

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to care for any school issued clothing and/or equipment. If issued clothing or equipment is lost, stolen, or damaged the student-athlete must pay for the issued clothing and/or equipment at replacement cost before any other equipment will be issued.

Two-A-Day Policy:

All student-athletes participating in fall sports are required to participate in two-a-day workouts. In the event that a student-athlete must miss any of these workouts, the student-athlete will be required to make-up all missed workouts. His/her coach will set the make-up requirement.

Practice Policy:

1. Each student-athlete is expected to attend all practices. Should a student-athlete have to miss a practice, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to contact the coach/sponsor immediately. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action on the part of the coach.
2. Student-athletes are expected to be at practice on time. If a student-athlete is late for practice on a consistent basis, he/she may face suspended playing time or other consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor.

Game/Contest Policy:

Each student-athlete is expected to be present at all competitions. Should a student-athlete miss a competition without prior notification of the head coach/sponsor, the student-athlete may be subject to limited participation time or suspension from the next game. The coach/sponsor may also impose other consequences. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to contact the coach/sponsor as soon as possible if he/she becomes aware of a conflict with the competition schedule. Advancing contests take priority over regular season contests. District contests take priority over non-district contests and/or other extracurricular activities and events. The coaching staff is responsible for determining which contest a student-athlete will participate in when conflicts arise.

Rules Governing Practice and Competition:

1. Student-athletes will not be permitted to wear jewelry, including body piercings, while practicing or participating in an athletic contest.
2. Tattoos must be covered during practice and participation in an athletic contest.
3. Student-athletes are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. Failure to do so may lead to severe consequences as imposed by the coach, athletic director, or other school administrator.

Team Travel:

All athletes are to travel to each contest with the team. However, under certain circumstances, the administration, athletic director, and parent/guardian of that student may approve alternative means of travel to a game. It is recommended that student-athletes travel home after an athletic contest with the team. However, if a parent/guardian deems it appropriate for his/her child to travel home after a contest separate from the team, then the parent/guardian of that athlete must give written consent to the coach. Students can only ride to and/or from contests with their own parent/guardian.

Dress Code:

Student athlete's appearance will be in accordance with ACS policy as stated in the Student Handbook. Any additional team dress code rules will be communicated to the team by the coach and approved by the athletic director. The coach of that sport will handle dress code violations. Failure to comply in a timely manner will lead to further consequences as determined by the athletic director and administration.

Meals and Lodging:

ACS does not provide money for meals or lodging. Student-athletes are required to have their money turned in to the office before they will be permitted to go on a trip requiring lodging.

In-School Suspension:

1. Any student that is assigned ISS will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity including practice or games on those days he/she is in ISS.
2. Student-athletes who miss games or practices due to an ISS assignment may be subject to additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor. This can include, but is not limited to, make-up running and exercises, suspended playing time, or suspended games.
3. Repeated assignments to ISS may result in dismissal from the sport.

Conflict Resolution:

If a student-athlete or parent has a grievance, concern, or issue, it is his/her responsibility to follow the proper chain of command to address their concern. First, the issue should be addressed with the coach/sponsor. If a resolution cannot be reached, contact the athletic director. This process will be followed up the chain of command to the principal and finally to the president.

Quitting Policy:

Quitting a sport or extracurricular event is considered a serious matter as it affects teammates and coaches/sponsors. Student-athletes must realize that when they quit a sport or extracurricular event, they are affecting other student participants in a negative way. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she will not be allowed to practice or play another sport until the season of the first sport that he/she quit is finished. The athletic director has the authority to waive this policy on a case-by-case basis when it is deemed that extenuating circumstances might exist.

Dismissal Policy:

To be dismissed from a sport or extracurricular event is considered a very serious matter. Any student-athlete that is dismissed will be granted an exit interview with his/her parents present. The student-athlete will forfeit 25% of the next sport or extracurricular event's schedule. The student-athlete will not be allowed to begin practice for another sport or extracurricular event until the first sport or event's season is over. Participation in the next sport or extracurricular event will be at the discretion of the coach/sponsor of that sport or event with the approval of the athletic director.

Entering a Sport Mid-Season:

Student-athletes are expected to begin each athletic or extracurricular season when that season begins. Student-athletes will only be permitted to join a team after a season begins with the permission of the coach/sponsor and the athletic director. The coach may impose additional requirements as a consequence for not beginning the sport or extracurricular event when the season began.

Lettering:

A student-athlete may only receive one major award (letter jacket) during his/her high school career. Lettering requirements are subject to the discretion of each individual sport coach. No student-athlete will be awarded a letter jacket without completing one full year of local participation at Abilene Christian School. The athletic director may make exceptions if extenuating conditions occur. This decision will be made on an individual basis.

Other Policies:

Any policies not addressed in this Athletic Handbook will revert to the policies as addressed in the Student Handbook.

Summary:

No student is obligated to take part in athletics nor is participation required for graduation. It is to be stressed that participation in the athletic program is a privilege. The athletic director has the authority to suspend or revoke this privilege whenever a rule, regulation and/or standard of the athletic program is violated, whether it is after a first offense or the last offense. The rules, regulations and standards set forth in this handbook are designed to give each student a road map to success in life. It is the goal of every coach and administrator at Abilene Christian School to help our student-athletes become contributors and leaders in tomorrow's society. It must be stressed that a student who chooses to enter this program must be committed to the program at all times, both in and out of school, in season and out of season.

It is important to remember:

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT

ACS 2018-2019 Athletic Handbook Student-Athlete/Parent Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the rules and expectations set forth in the Athletic Handbook for Abilene Christian School. I will follow the guidelines to the best of my ability, and when in violation, I will accept the consequences set forth in this document.

Student's Printed Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____