

*Augusta Christian  
Schools  
Athletic  
Handbook*

*Augusta Christian Schools Non-Discrimination Policy*

Augusta Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, tuition assistance programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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*Augusta Christian Schools*

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*"Building Kingdom Leaders"*



*2008-2009*

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the *Augusta Christian Schools Athletic Handbook* is to provide an understanding and appreciation of the athletic programs, and to enhance communication among the coaches, athletes, and parents. This handbook contains most of the practices, policies and regulations that govern extracurricular athletics at Augusta Christian. The policies in this handbook are reviewed and revised annually by the Headmaster, the Athletic Director, and the high school and middle school principals.

In order for a student to participate in any sport at Augusta Christian, both the student and the parents or guardians must sign the Athletic Statement of Commitment. Signing this form indicates an agreement that all the policies, procedures and regulations in this Athletic Handbook are understood and will be followed. Participation in sports can be an integral part of a student's educational experience, and Augusta Christian Schools attempt to provide extracurricular sports opportunities for all students who wish to participate. Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate in one sport during each of the three seasons (unless allowed by special circumstance).

The following sports are offered:

## **FALL**

Football  
Volleyball  
Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Girls' Tennis  
Swimming

## **WINTER**

Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Cheerleading

## **SPRING**

Baseball  
Boys' Tennis  
Golf  
Boys' Track  
Girls' Track  
Softball  
Soccer

Augusta Christian offers up to three levels of teams in most

sports: middle school teams, junior varsity teams, and varsity teams. Middle school teams normally consist of students in grades 7-8 (Football will be 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders may be allowed to try-out for middle school teams).

Junior Varsity teams normally consist of students mainly in grades 8-10. Students in grades 7-8 may try out for the junior varsity when middle school teams are not offered for a sport or there is a numbers problem.

Varsity teams consist of students in grades 9-12. Seventh and eighth grade students may play on a varsity team with the recommendation of a coach and permission from both the Athletic Director and the Headmaster.

## PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Augusta Christian is committed to the values of a well-rounded program which develops kingdom leaders and is, therefore, devoted to the exploration and development of human potential. An individual should involve physical growth and development along with intellectual and spiritual development. It is for this reason that Augusta Christian offers a program of interscholastic sports designed to:

- Glorify God with the physical talents and abilities with which He has blessed us.
- Provide a unifying activity open to the entire school and community through participation as team members or as spectators. Assist in the development of relationships with other schools and communities.
- Provide a vehicle for personal growth and development among students.
- Contribute to the development of school spirit.

At Augusta Christian Schools, athletic excellence shall include the following personal benefits:

- Provide personal enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment.

- Develop the concept of teamwork and an understanding of subordinating personal desires in the interest of a productive cooperative effort.
- Test capabilities and help determine limits of physical ability and endurance.
- Develop self-esteem and the ability to deal with adversity.
- Develop control of emotions in tense situations.
- Develop the ability to handle success and cope with failure.
- Provide an understanding of the importance of thorough knowledge of fundamentals in any endeavor and the value of thorough preparation for effective performance.
- Develop an understanding of the lessons that can be learned from mistakes while striving for excellence.

### Middle School

At the middle school level our desire is to provide quality instruction in beginning the early development of the athletes' talents. This instruction is fulfilled through teaching fundamental skills, developing character traits such as persistence, dependability, dedication, self-control, teamwork, and emphasizing the active participation of each athlete.

### High School

We desire to further develop character, athletic skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship as we strive to field high quality competitive teams in all sports.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic Department of Augusta Christian recognizes that student-athletes often hold a unique place in society and that they are under considerable pressure to not only perform in athletics, but in the classroom as well. **Student-athletes are often looked upon as public role models. They must develop and maintain outstanding levels of achievements and athletic endeavors and adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior and sportsman-**

**ship.** The way a student-athlete conducts himself/herself is a direct reflection, not only of themselves, but of **Augusta Christian and Jesus Christ.**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **The athlete should:**

- Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials, and accept their decisions without question.
- Respect the facilities of the host school and the trust extended in being a host.
- Play hard and to the limit of potential and ability regardless of discouragement. Each should realize that the true athlete does not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, or grandstand (showboat).
- Encourage their teammates and speak highly of them when talking to others.
- Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.

### **The coach should:**

- Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and be a credit to the Christian teaching profession.
- Demonstrate the highest ideals, desirable attitudes in personal behavior, good habits of courtesy and demand the same standards of the players.
- Recognize that the process is as important as the end product and, in fact, has a major bearing on the outcome of the product God wants to produce.
- Remember that the most important values are derived from playing the game fairly, and teach players that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
- Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without loss of emotional control. Demonstrate to players how to work with officials to improve performance

without humiliating them or being disrespectful.

- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

### **The spectators should:**

- Realize that they represent the school just as distinctly as the players on a team. Therefore, he/she has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through personal example the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- Understand that good sportsmanship involves applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
- Treat visiting teams and officials as our guests, seeing this as an opportunity to be a witness for Christ to unbelievers and so extending to them every courtesy.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Respect the judgment of officials, realizing that their decisions are based on fast moving game conditions as they observe them from their vantage point.

## **SAFETY**

The Athletic Department strives to provide students a safe and enjoyable environment in which to participate. Consequently, all coaches and administrative personnel have a responsibility to reduce and/or eliminate all potential safety hazards. It is vital to understand that participation in athletics involves inherent risks. Coaches and administrative personnel are obligated to act in a prudent manner in order to prevent foreseeable accidents and injuries. They should respond to unexpected circumstances according to guidelines set forth in this handbook.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION**

Augusta Christian Schools is a member of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA). As a member in good standing we recognize and adhere to their guidelines and we submit to its authorities in all athletics at the high

school and middle school levels. Copies of the SCISA rules and regulations are kept on file by the Augusta Christian Athletic Director and also by the high school principal. Augusta Christian is classified as a private independent school and competes with other schools of our size in state competition.

## INSURANCE AND ATHLETIC PHYSICALS

Adequate insurance coverage for an athlete is the **responsibility of the parent or guardian.** The Athletic Physical Form has an insurance disclaimer that must be signed by the parent or guardian before a student participates in athletic try-outs, practices, or games. No student may begin any phase of the athletic program (try-outs, practices, or other activities) without obtaining permission from a physician and completion of the Emergency Information Form. The physical must be completed after May 1<sup>st</sup> for each upcoming school year. A new athletic physical must be completed each year. Augusta Christian will offer physicals with a minimal fee in May as indicated on the school calendar. The Athletic Physical Form will be filed in the Athletic Department office, and copies of the physical form may be obtained by the parent or student at their request. Copies of the Insurance Disclaimer and Emergency Medical Form will be issued to the coaches to carry with them to all away games. Athletic Physical Forms are available in the Athletic office.

## PRE-SEASON COACHES/PARENTS MEETING

A required pre-season meeting between coaches, parents, and prospective athletes will be conducted at the beginning of each athletic season. The dates and times for these meetings will be listed in the *Lions Roar* and posted in the school as well as notification by the coaches at least one week in advance. Parents are required to attend the pre-season meeting in order to allow their son or daughter to continue as a mem-

ber of the team. If for some reason, neither parent can attend the scheduled meeting, they must schedule a private session (not on the phone) with the coach as soon as possible.

## AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN AND SCISA ELIGIBILITY

Students at Augusta Christian are subject to the eligibility requirements of the SCISA. To be eligible to compete, an athlete must attend the member school, have not reached the age of 19 on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, or have not used up their eligibility at their previous school (completion of 8 semesters).

## ATHLETIC FEES (2008-2009 School Year)

Every student-athlete will be expected to pay an athletic fee. With Augusta Christian being a private school, these fees are necessary to help defray the rising cost of officials and the upkeep of uniforms and equipment. The pay scale is as follows:

JV/Varsity Football	\$200.00
All Other Varsity Sports	\$125.00
JV & JH All Other Sports	\$100.00
Cap per athlete per year	\$325.00

## ATHLETIC PRACTICE DATES

Practices and try-outs for the Fall Athletic Season will start around the first week of August. Exact dates, times, and sites shall be determined by the end of the previous school year. Parents and students should note these dates on their summer schedule and be available for practice and/or try-outs in August.

The Winter Season begins the first week of November and is interrupted by Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Practices may be scheduled on Saturdays and over holiday breaks, but will be optional for those who will be out of the immediate area.

The Spring Season will begin the first week of March and is interrupted by Spring Break. Again, optional practices may be scheduled, as all are required to attend if in the immediate area.

## CANCELLATION OF PRACTICES/GAMES

Cancellations of games and or practices due to inclement weather will normally be made after 1:00 pm. Announcements concerning the status of athletic events will be recorded on the athletic Website (viewmyschedule.com) and continually updated. Athletic numbers are listed in the back of the handbook.) Rescheduled dates, if known, will also be on the recording. Athletes should always come to school prepared to play or practice that afternoon. It is better to be prepared than not. Do not assume a cancellation based on the weather in the morning. Decisions about cancellations after 3:00 pm will be made at the game/practice site.

## TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Practices

Augusta Christian will provide transportation from school grounds to practice fields, **in most cases**, for all athletes who are unable to drive or are not allowed to carpool with siblings or coaches. It is the parents' responsibility to arrange for transportation after practices or games from our home fields. Athletes will need to be picked up immediately after a practice session or game. This may require parents to wait for 10-15 minutes from time-to-time. Coaches are required to supervise athletes until they have left the school or athletic field premises. We ask that you understand that coaches should not be asked to wait for an extended period of time on a regular basis. They devote many hours to our students and do have a life themselves.

### 2. Away Games

The school will arrange for transportation to and from games that are played away from Augusta Christian. If the coach has given prior approval, parents will need to provide a written note if they plan to take their child home after a game.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Issues should resolved at the lowest level possible:

Middle School Head Coach

Junior Varsity Head Coach

Varsity Head Coach (for particular sport)

ACS Athletic Director

ACS Principals

ACS Headmaster

ACS School Board

## GENERAL POLICIES

### 1. Team Selection

The makeup of each individual team is at the discretion of the head coach.

### 2. Dealing with players who are cut from a team

a. JV/Middle School—For middle school students, we encourage a no cut policy. However, when numbers exceed the allotted amount for a particular team, cuts will be made. For sports that have a large number of students participating, coaches will hold an evaluation period. Students who are advanced in their performance and fundamental aspects, but are not quite ready for the Junior Varsity level will comprise the Middle School team to ensure proper teaching and playing time.

b. Junior Varsity and Varsity—Coaches determine which players will make up a particular team. There will be a maximum number of players for each team at each level of play. "Cuts" will occur when more players than the maximum number try

out for a team. It is the responsibility of each coach to meet individually with players who are cut. The coach will explain the reason why they were cut, answer any questions the athlete might have, and offer suggestions to help the athlete improve in the sport.

### **3. Parent Information**

After a team has been determined the coach will call a parent meeting to go over logistical matters and expectations and requirements of the athletes and parents in regard to the season at hand. Parents will be given an opportunity to ask questions of the coach, and may be asked to sign a form of agreement covering such things as sportsmanship and commitment to the program.

### **4. Playing Time**

Determining how much playing time each player earns is at the discretion of the Head Coach. Playing time is a privilege and should be earned. The coach should be notified in advance, when a student will miss practice. Below are some general goals for which we strive.

a. Middle School- Instruction and active participation is our primary concern and it is our goal that every athlete participates in every contest as long as they are regularly attending practice and abiding by team rules. Coaches are expected to play all eligible players in each game. However, this does not state that every player will receive an identical amount of playing time.

b. Junior Varsity- Concepts of competition and role-playing within a team setting may result in some athletes' not playing in some contests. Coaches are encouraged to play all eligible players in each game during the regular season.

c. Varsity—Coaches should play as many players as feasible. Playing time on this level is based on coaching decisions made during practices and games.

### **5. Tryouts**

Tryouts will be held during the first official week of practice in each sport. Any student who meets the SCISA, and ACS eligibility requirements may try out. Announcements and letters indicating the starting dates for each sport will be given.

### **6. Practices**

All athletes are expected to be present and on time at **all** practices called by the coach during the season of a particular sport. They are expected to attend practices and stay for the duration until dismissed by the coach, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. This does not warrant an athlete to leave practice on a regular basis to attend an outside activity, unless the head coach agrees to the situation. (Examples: Summer Baseball, AAU Basketball, etc.) **It is the sole discretion of the Head Coach to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.**

Other school activities such as band, chorus, drama, etc. will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. It is the students' responsibility to inform the coach and activity director what their major and minor activity will be and the correct concessions will be made. This should be done before tryouts are to take place for any activity. Unexcused absences will be dealt with on an individual basis and some form of discipline will be taken. **Augusta Christian athletics are to be first priority during the season.** The opportunity to participate in Augusta Christian athletics is a privilege and not a right and should be treated this way.

### **7. Athletic Dress Code**

Students are representing Augusta Christian when they are traveling to and from athletic contests and coming back to school for home contests. They are required to dress in accordance with the following athletic dress code for **Away Games** (when it is not appropriate to wear athletic uniforms to the game) and **Home Games** (indoor contests).

**Boys-** Dress shirts, tucked in, with ties (optional), dress trousers or nice khakis, belts, socks, and casual shoes (no tennis shoes). Sport coats, sweaters or team apparel must be worn as prescribed by the coach.

**Girls-**Dresses or skirts preferred, but school dress code will be accepted.

The students must be attired in proper athletic dress code before they board the bus going to the game and returning from the game. For home games, the dress code applies when the

athletes enter the building.

**\* The Dress Code applies to athletic banquets/ assemblies.**

### **8. Athletic Uniforms**

Athletic uniforms may not be worn to school without approval of the Athletic Director and/or the appropriate principal. Uniforms must be returned in satisfactory condition no later than one week after the final athletic contest for the season. If possible, coaches should collect all uniforms and equipment at the conclusion of the final game. Parents of athletes will be responsible for uniforms not returned after the one week following the close of the athletic season. Any charges for uniforms lost or not returned will be added to the student's account. Report cards will be held until all uniforms are paid for or returned. It causes an undue burden and complications when uniforms are lost or not returned.

### **9. Class Attendance**

In order to participate in an athletic contest, students must be present at school 4 periods unless they have gained permission through the main office. Circumstances arise where students have doctor's appointments, families emergencies, college visits, etc., yet we stress that students cannot be expected to participate physically when they are not well enough to attend classes throughout the day. This policy also applies to practices.

### **10. Quitting athletic teams**

Our athletes take a sense of responsibility when they agree to participate on our athletic teams. Therefore, we hold our athletes accountable for their commitment to their teammates, coaches, and our school. If a student-athlete quits a team, that student will not be allowed to try out for any other sports until the beginning of that sport's season the following year. (They may request a release from the Athletic Director. They may not begin another sport until a release has been granted.)

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

The Augusta Christian Athletics Booster Club serves to support all sports. The members are parents who have students at ACS. The Booster Club provides financial and organizational support to Augusta Christian athletics. Financial funds are raised through operation of concessions at sporting events and through various annual fund-raisers. The club elects its own officers and operates alongside the Augusta Christian Athletic Director. **All parents of ACS athletes are required to participate by joining this support organization.**

## **ATHLETIC SCHEDULES AND SCHOOL DIRECTIONS**

The athletic department issues athletic schedules for each athletic season. These are distributed to members of all teams during the first week of each season. Additional schedules may be obtained from the athletic department or the front office.

Directions to schools that Augusta Christian plays on a regular basis are printed in a book form that is updated each year. The directions book is available through the athletic department upon request as well as a copy kept on file in the middle school and high school offices.

## **ATHLETIC PHONE NUMBERS**

Bruce Lane, Athletic Director ..... 863-2905 ext. 142  
Craig Johnson, Assistant Athletic Director ..... 863-2905 ext. 172

# STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of an Augusta Christian athletic team, do agree to abide by the following rules and standards of conduct. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment.

A. I agree to attend and be on time for all practices, meetings, and games. This includes Awards Banquets, team parties, team pictures and all other team functions. Though I may have outside activities, I will not allow them to interfere with my ACS commitment.

B. I agree to personally gain **PRIOR** permission from my coach if extenuating circumstances arise where I must be late or miss a team function (i.e. – academic help, family emergency, etc.) This does not excuse vacation or out of school activities.

C. I agree to give 100% effort during practices and in games.

D. I agree to inform my coach of an illness or injury that I feel may affect my playing ability. I recognize that lack of practice due to an injury may limit my playing time and that I am still responsible to attend practices and games when injured unless excused by my coach.

E. I agree to inform my coach of transportation problems as soon as they arise.

F. I agree to keep an attitude of encouragement towards my teammates in every situation.

G. I agree to perform any function that the coach, in his/her best judgment, not my own, determines is best for the team's overall success.

H. I agree to refrain from smoking, drinking, and profanity anytime and anywhere. According to scriptural mandate to flee from even the appearance of evil, I agree to avoid situations (parties, informal gatherings, etc.) where alcohol and drugs may be present.

I. I realize that being late due to a detention **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will avoid actions/attitudes that may lead to detention.

J. I agree to maintain my academic eligibility and to inform my coach of any academic problems that may occur such as: term paper due, or upcoming tests, which may necessitate help in managing my time properly or include tutoring.

K. I agree to take care of any uniforms or equipment that may be issued to me and will return it when I am asked. If any damage occurs during my possession beyond normal wear and tear, I agree to pay for repair or replacement costs. I agree to not use any school issued equipment for any outside activities unless approved by my head coach and/or the Athletic Director.

L. I agree to remember who I represent as I wear the name **CHRISTIAN** on my uniform.

M. I understand if I am not in school attendance four periods on game day, I will not be allowed to participate, unless prior arrangements have been made.

N. I agree that if I break my commitment to my teammates, coaches, and ACS by quitting the team, I will not be allowed to try out for any other teams until the beginning of that sport's season the following year.

By signing below, I, the student-athlete, and we, the parents/guardians, agree to the above stated responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date