

Alabama Christian Academy Philosophy on Interscholastic Athletics



The mission of ACA Athletics is to train our athletes to achieve victory – in competition, in life, and for eternity.

*"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 (NIV)*

At Alabama Christian Academy, we believe that participation in athletic competition can be an important part of a student's overall educational experience. While striving to make our teams as competitive as possible, our primary objective is to help our student-athletes grow spiritually, while they acquire important skills and character traits that will prepare them to be "productive Christian citizens" (Mission Statement). These character traits include respect for authority, discipline, responsibility, leadership, sacrifice, work ethic, courage, perseverance, accountability, sportsmanship, teamwork, and loyalty, among others. We focus on teaching our student-athletes how to win and not just on winning. Through positive reinforcement, example, and INTENTIONAL INSTRUCTION, coaches teach our athletes how to succeed, be gracious competitors, embrace challenge, win with humility, handle defeat with dignity, advocate for their sport, and be positive Christian role models.

Our teams, coaches, and supporters are considered an important part of the overall culture at ACA. They are expected to respect and show positive support for other athletic teams, other coaches, and all extra-curricular groups on campus, such as cheer squads, band, color guard, and others. All are expected to work in unity under the leadership and direction of the Athletic Director and Administration.

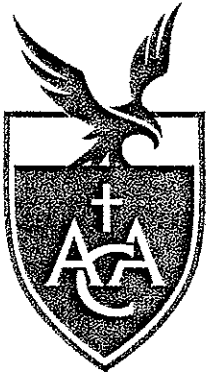
The ACA Athletic Department is dedicated to high academic standards, and providing equitable athletic opportunities for boys and girls. We are committed to excellence in athletics as evidenced by multiple team state championships, and multiple individual state championships.

Team Goals

(If we focus on goal number one, the rest will take care of themselves.)

- 1) Honor the Lord in all that we do.
 - 1a) Work hard to improve ourselves and our team.
 - 1b) Have fun! Athletic endeavors are a gift from the Lord.
 - 1c) Work towards winning a State Championship.

Finally, we believe that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to strive for excellence in all things, and our performance and effort in athletics should be no different. Therefore, we will be tenacious and driven in our preparation and competition. And in victory or defeat, we will exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship and integrity, that we may glorify God in all things.



A WORD TO OUR SPECTATORS, PARENTS, ATHLETES, AND COACHES

ACA students and parents should be aware of the standards set forth by the school, but often time people forget, or are unaware of what is expected from *EVERYONE* attending an ACA athletic event. Therefore, we have listed a few items, intentionally redundant, to keep in mind that are EXPECTED from all those supporting ACA, including PARENTS, SIBLINGS, RELATIVES, FELLOW STUDENTS, and FRIENDS:

- 1) Be loyal to teams representing ACA and ENCOURAGE THEM in every way possible.
- 2) Keep all comments POSITIVE towards our athletes, opponent's athletes, our coaches, opponent's coaches, our fans, opponent's fans, and all officials and umpires.
- 3) Our head coaches have not only the right but the responsibility of holding the officials and umpires accountable (in a Christ-like manner), and trying to ensure that all athletes participate in a fair and safe event. All spectators should keep comments towards the officials and umpires, if any, POSITIVE!
- 4) Booing, yelling critical comments, and the like, toward ANYONE AT THE EVENT, including officials and umpires, our coaches, their coaches, our players, their players, our fans, their fans, or anyone else, is unacceptable.
- 5) Respect opponents and acknowledge exhibitions of skill or courage on their part.
- 6) Coaching your son or daughter, or any other player, from the sidelines, by giving specific coaching instruction (not just encouragement) is unacceptable. ("Come on girls! Block out!" is acceptable, whereas "Come on Julie, drive in and shoot!" is not.)
- 7) Yelling instructions or criticism to our coaches is unacceptable.
- 8) DO NOT QUIT cheering and supporting, no matter what the score.
- 9) Be gracious towards each other and our opponent in victory and defeat.
- 10) REMEMBER THAT LONG AFTER THE SCORE IS FORGOTTEN, OUR BEHAVIOR AND REPUTATION ARE REMEMBERED.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! GO EAGLES!!!