



Awaken Christian Academy

Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

**...Do all to the glory of
God. 1 Corinthians 10:31**

Athletic Policies and Procedures Handbook

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND ATHLETES

The purpose of this handbook is to define and clarify the athletic policies and procedures of Awaken Christian Academy.

The success of the Athletic Program depends on the understanding and cooperation of the Administration and Faculty in carrying out the athletic policies of ACA.

Except for extra rules as defined in this handbook, ACA Athletes are governed by the rules and regulations presented in the handbook of the NIAA (Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association), NFHS, NADA, NIAAA, and NCSAA (Nevada Charter School Athletics Association).

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

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I. Administration of Athletics

A. Statement Of Philosophy

1. Awaken Christian Academy believes individual students will benefit through opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through their experience in self-discipline and their contribution to team effort made possible through competitive inter-school sports activities.
2. The purpose of athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletics program should encourage participation by as many boys and girls as deemed necessary for the success of the program.
3. It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a school student body and an important phase of good community and school relations.

B. Objectives of Participation:

1. To glorify **God**.
2. To develop character.
3. To develop integrity.
4. To develop accountability.
5. To develop confidence.
6. To develop team concepts and positive attitudes.
7. To develop leadership.
8. To develop basic skills unique to each sport.
9. To learn to accept constructive criticism.
10. To encourage the development of younger athletes' skills in the elementary and junior high school levels.
11. To represent ACA in a way that honors **God**.

II. General Information

A. Athletic Code

1. **Definition of a Student-Athlete**— A person proficient in academics, athletics,

and other forms of physical exercise. To complete eligibility from student to student-athlete, a student must:

- a. Sign the Athletic Handbook.
- b. Have their name listed on an ACA athletic team roster.
- c. Turn in the completed Athletic Registration Packet, including student physical exam, to the athletic department.

2. **Athletics**—Participation in Athletics helps build a strong body, mind, spirit, work ethic, and develop many desirable traits which will be a credit to a student throughout his/her life. Any student who competes as a member of an athletic squad must remember that he/she represents Jesus Christ and ACA. As a representative, students must exhibit behaviors that glorify God. No personal reward can be greater.

3. **Good Sportsmanship**— A school and community are frequently known by the actions of their members at athletic contests. Everyone wants a winning team, but good sportsmanship and godly character are more important. We expect our teams to always give their best, and it's only fair to expect the same of all those who follow our teams. **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23.**

- a. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates, and opponents in defeat.
- b. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
- c. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials before, during, and after contests.
- d. We do not represent the “i” team; we represent the “Jesus” Team.

4. **Dress Code**— Athletes are reminded that they should exemplify Christian standards in their choice of practice attire. The dress code is not intended to measure spirituality, but to serve as a tool to accomplish these specific goals:

- a. Create an atmosphere free from distractions.
- b. Build character that exhibits self-discipline, modesty, cleanliness, and submission.
- c. Inspire the making of responsible choices.
- d. The cooperation of the coach, student, and parent is necessary in maintaining the standards of athletic dress.
- e. **A STUDENT’S APPEARANCE IS A FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY.** Please assume this important responsibility so the coaches can focus on preparing athletes to compete.

f. **The following items are not acceptable:**

1. **Tank/spaghetti strap tops.**

2. **NO spandex worn as an outer garment outside of practice/game.**

3. **Shirts must be worn at all times.**

g. Failure to adhere to the above dress code may result in suspension from a team.

5. **ACA Code for Athletics**— The Athlete's responsibilities is to:

a. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school. Represent solid Christian Character and the Love of Jesus.

b. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team and proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.

c. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team, and self.

d. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.

6. **Participation** in extracurricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student's **privilege**, not a right. It can be withdrawn at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, schools or school districts, leagues or conferences, and regional, or statewide, organizations to which the student's school belongs.

7. **Stewardship** of facilities, including all ACA facilities/gym/fields, and any opponents' facilities, must be respected and maintained by each player. Athletes are expected to use all facilities responsibly and with care, leaving them picked up and in better condition than they found them. Refusal to follow this guideline may result in dismissal from a team.

B. Preseason Parent Meetings

— At least one parent or guardian **must attend** the following meeting for his/her student-athlete to be allowed to participate on the team.

The Athletic Director and coaches will hold this meeting before the season begins each year to review the mission, philosophy, policies, and guidelines of Awaken Christian Academy's Athletic Program and of each particular sport. This is the time to ask

questions related to playing time and coaching philosophy, to fill out the necessary forms, and to receive other pertinent information. Attendance at these meetings ensures the smooth operation of the program and maximizes the potential for a positive experience for all.

Parents must attend these meetings for each sport in which an athlete participates each year. Meetings will be held within two weeks prior to the season's start date.

C. Policy for Team/Squad Selection

1. **Team Selection Policy**— the coaches of the respective sports, in conjunction with the Athletic Director, will determine the minimum and the maximum number of players and/or teams, taking into consideration the criteria listed above. In cases when the "Squad Selection Policy" is used, the coach will keep the Athletic Director informed concerning the method and time of tryouts.

2. Squad Selection Policy—

- a. The selection of any athletic team will be determined by the coach of that team. Membership may be reviewed by the Athletic Director or other Administrators as appropriate.
- b. The Athlete's placement on any team is always subject to proper behavior as outlined in the specified team guidelines.
- c. Assistant Coaches shall follow the policies as established by the Head Coach of their program when selecting team members.
- d. Tryout **Procedure**— When a Squad cut becomes necessary, the process should include these important elements. Each Athlete should:
 1. Have completed a minimum of two (2) practices specified for a tryout period.
 2. Be permitted, whenever possible, to compete in a scrimmage
 3. Athletes cannot be added after the 1st half of a season.

D. Student Activities— There are times when students simultaneously participate in an organized sport and a performing group. Conflicts occasionally arise when practices and regularly scheduled events take place concurrently. Although every attempt will be made to keep such scheduling to a minimum, the following guidelines will be followed.

1. When an athletic *practice* or performance *rehearsal* and an **event** (such as Christmas Concert, Purity Banquet, Musical...) are scheduled simultaneously, the **event** takes precedence.
2. When two events are scheduled simultaneously, the student may select the event in

which he/she will participate. He/she should give notice of the decision, whenever possible, at **least seven days** in advance.

3. When two practices or rehearsals are scheduled simultaneously, the student may select the practice/rehearsal in which he/she will participate. It is required that a **48-hour notice be given to the practice/rehearsal that will not be attended.**

4. Under no circumstances will a student be penalized for his/her decision. Class grades are not to be lowered or unreasonable make-up work required. The student will not be benched, nor will the student's ability to earn a letter be impaired because of the decision.

5. When excusing a student from practice or an event, the Coach should make it very clear to the Athlete exactly what will be expected of the Athlete upon their return, such as meet participation, practice, etc.

E. Attendance

1. Participating Student-Athletes **must** be in attendance on the day of a game or practice for at least half a day (3 hours). Absences of half the school day or less must be excused absences recorded through the school office in order for an Athlete to participate that day.

2. If a Student-Athlete must be absent after the 3rd period, arrangements must be made in advance with the office or the Athletic Director.

3. Participating Student-Athletes who are absent the day before a Saturday contest, and that absence has not been excused, will not be allowed to participate in the Saturday contest.

F. Training Rules

1. Training rules are established with the thought that Athletes not only represent themselves and their team, but that they represent God, parents, school, and community. Training rules are also established for the physical well-being of the Athletes themselves in their ability to do the best they can.

2. Athletes are to refrain from the following in or out of their athletic seasons:

a. The use, possession or distribution of tobacco & vaping paraphernalia.

b. The use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages.

c. The use, possession or distribution of illegal drugs.

d. The use, possession or distribution of anabolic steroids.

3. Athletes are encouraged to voluntarily report any personal infraction of the "Training Rules" to the Athletic Director, Principal, or Superintendent as soon as possible. Self-disclosure must be made before an investigation of a possible infraction has begun by any of the individuals listed above.

4. An Athlete who is proven guilty by admission or compelling evidence, as determined by the Athletic Director and/or Principal, or who is observed in any of the

above violations by a staff member of the ACA will be subject to **removal** from their team and suspension/expulsion from school.

G. Uniforms/Equipment

1. Each athlete will sign a Uniform/Equipment Checkout form at the beginning of each season. Athletes are responsible for turning in the uniforms and equipment to their Coach within 7 days after the last contest of the season. The uniform must be properly laundered, or a cleaning fee will be assessed. If any uniform/equipment item is damaged, lost or stolen, it is the **responsibility** of the Athlete to pay for the missing/damaged item(s). Fees range from \$100-\$150.

2. The Athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next sports season if the missing equipment is not turned in and/or paid for. It is the responsibility of the Coaches to keep accurate records of their uniform/equipment through the use of a Uniform/Equipment Checkout form. Coaches will report those Athletes that fail to return uniforms/equipment to the Assistant Athletic Director or the Athletic Director, and late or lost fees will be assessed.

H. Misconduct— Gross Misconduct by an Athlete and/or the Athlete's Parent(s) will result in immediate suspension. The Athletic Director and Administration will use good judgment and will consider issues such as surrounding circumstances, former conduct infractions, training rules infractions, and past behavioral issues.

I. Hazing or Bullying— all forms of hazing or bullying are prohibited by Awaken Christian Academy both on and off campus.

Hazing is described as: forcing another person, regardless of that person's consent, to *"perform an act that creates a substantial risk of harm, substantially or seriously demeans or degrades any person; or interferes with any person's scholastic, physical, mental, emotional or spiritual well being."*

Bullying is defined as "any overt act or combination of acts directed against a student by another student or group of students and which occurs during the school day on school property, on a school bus, at a school-sponsored activity, is repeated over time and is intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the student."

Any Student-Athlete found guilty of committing any of the above acts will be removed from their team and suspended from school.

J. Parent/Coach Communication— Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for each individual student as well as the team as a whole. While there are certain things which can and should be discussed with your child's Coach, there are other things which must be left to the discretion of the Coach.

1. **Appropriate** concerns to discuss with Coaches:

- a. The treatment of your child mentally, physically, and spiritually.
- b. Ways to help your child improve.
- c. Concerns about your child's behavior or safety.
- d. Clarification about the expectations of your athlete

2. **Inappropriate** issues to discuss with Coaches:

- a. Playing time
- b. Strategy
- c. Play calling
- d. Matters concerning other Student-Athletes

3. **Meeting procedure**— if you have concerns to discuss with your Athlete's Coach:

- a. Your son/daughter should first talk with the Coach about his/her questions or concerns.
- b. Please do not attempt to confront a Coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for Parent, Athlete and Coach. Meetings of this nature are often not fruitful.
- c. Set up an appointment with the Coach at least 24 hours after.

4. **Meeting progression for concern resolution:**

- a. Meet with a Coach.
- b. Meet with Head Coach
- c. Meet with Athletic Director
- d. Meet with the Principal

K. Dual Sports Participation Policy (Same Season) — Students **may** participate in two ACA/NCSAA-sponsored sports in the same season. A student may elect to participate in a non-school league sport as long as it does not interfere with the practice and game time commitment to the school.

L. Miscellaneous

1. It is mandatory that all Athletes have medical insurance. The school is not responsible for the payment of medical services. Information on voluntary short-term accident insurance is available from the athletic office.

III. Athletic Packet

A. **Athletic Packet** - Parent/Player Agreement, NIAA Sports Physical paperwork, Permission to Treat, Off-Campus Activity Waiver, Signed Athletic Handbook, Sportsmanship Training, Acknowledgement of Concussion protocol.

IV. Academic Eligibility

A. All Student-Athletes must maintain a 2.5 GPA or greater.

B. Student-Athletes' grades will be checked weekly throughout the Season.

C. If a student has less than a 75% in any class at the time of a grade check, they will be placed on Academic Probation for one week. They have one week in which to raise their grade. During the week of probation, they may continue to participate in team practices and games.

D. If they do not raise their grade to at least 75% after the week of probation, they will be academically ineligible, which means they cannot play in any games, and we will continue with weekly grade checks until their grade is back to 75%. Continued poor performance in the classroom may result in removal from the team.

V. School Suspensions & In-house Suspensions

A. Any Athlete who is suspended during the week of their sport will miss all games during the week of their suspension. This does not preclude the Student-Athlete from attending practices. They must be present at ***all*** practices with the exception of their suspension date. Additionally, they will not be allowed to travel with the team to any away games during the week of their suspension. **This includes in-house suspensions.**

VI. Transportation

A. The Athletic Department will only provide transportation to and from the games for Athletes *as deemed necessary* by the Athletic Department. In most cases, bus/van transportation will not be provided for local Las Vegas games that begin after school hours.

B. Off-Campus Activity Waivers must be on file for all athletes.

C. Students are to be picked up from local games and practices no more than 15 minutes after the conclusion. A \$1 per minute fee will be due to the coach after that time, and must be paid before the athlete will be allowed to resume participation.

D. Students returning to school on the bus/van will notify parents of the estimated arrival time so that parents can pick students up upon arrival.

Revised 6/24/26



Awaken Christian Academy Document of Compliance

This page must be completed and returned to the Head Coach, or the Athletic Director, Sara Ohiaeri or the Athletic Administrator, Berrie McCormick.

I have read and agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in the Awaken Christian Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Student's Name _____

Grade _____ **Sport(s)** _____

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____