

Young Americans Christian School 2024-2025 Student Athletic Manual



**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men.”
Colossians 3:23**

MISSION STATEMENT

Young Americans Christian School is a college preparatory school working hand in hand with the family to cultivate students who will be academically successful and will grow to be a light in the world for Christ.

Young Americans Christian School

Student Athletic Manual

Young Americans Christian School continues to cultivate athletic programs for students, and the school is committed to developing additional opportunities for students when the school deems it can sustain a quality athletic program. The school remains committed to the continual enhancement of the Athletic program and the development of Christ-centered student athletes.

Young Americans Christian School provides a venue for student-athletes to receive an excellent education in a Christian environment and to be involved in a growing and competitive athletic program. The school expects coaches, players, and volunteers to be Christ-like examples in attitude, behavior, language, and appearance in the classroom, in public, and in athletic competition. Participation in Young Americans Christian School's athletic program is a student privilege, and students that fail to properly represent the school in a Christ-like manner may be removed from a team.

Young Americans Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school including athletic participation.

Each player and parent should carefully read the Student Athletic Manual. Once each player and parent have read it, each should digitally sign their name in the Dragonfly system indicating your understanding of the policies and procedures guiding our athletic programs and your agreement to adhere to the policies and procedures.

This manual is designed to provide general guidance and direction for players, parents, and coaches. The school administration, at its discretion, has the final authority concerning policies and practices that are in the best interest of the school, its philosophy, mission, and vision.

Athletic Association

Young Americans Christian School actively participates in The Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools. Student-athletes must comply with GAPPS eligibility, rules, and regulations.

The Mission Statement of GAPPS: “Our mission is to unite Christ-Centered Schools, Independent Schools, and Learning Centers in an environment where students can compete at their level yet still be encouraged to grow in their faith. GAPPS member schools will work together to create a competitive athletic and academic setting in which members will strive to set a Godly example of excellence.”

Requirements for Participation

First and foremost, participating in Young Americans Christian School’s athletic program is a privilege. In order for a student to participate in YACS athletics the following must be met:

1. As student academic success and achievement is paramount, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher to be eligible to try out for any team. Classes such as teacher’s aide, office assistant, etc. do not count toward a student’s GPA. A student who receives two or more F’s on a report card will be ineligible regardless of their GPA. A student that loses eligibility will be unable to participate in athletics for the entire next semester. The spring report card will determine eligibility for fall sports.

2. A student may not participate in any tryouts, camps, practices, or games until all documents have been submitted via Dragonfly, an online system. The following forms must be turned in:

Athletic Permission and Athletic Handbook Agreement

PPE Physical Examination and Clearance Form

PPE Health History Form

GHSA Concussion Awareness Form

GHSA Heat and Humidity Policy for All Sports

GHSA Student/Parent Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form

3. A student may try out for a team while academically ineligible but cannot participate until deemed academically eligible.
4. All students must have completed the enrollment/re-enrollment process for the school year in which tryouts are being conducted in order to participate in tryouts.
5. Student-athletes must comply with GAPPS eligibility, rules, and regulations.

Participation Fees

Student athletic participation fees will be due and invoiced once a student is selected for a team. In the event the student quits the team, the participation fee and any other applicable team fees will still be due. JV and varsity students who quit after being selected for a team will be charged \$100 and middle school students will be charged \$75. Participation and any other applicable fees will be invoiced through FACTS system.

Insurance

The school does not provide medical insurance coverage and medical insurance coverage is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. In the event of injury, the student-athletes' insurance is considered to be the primary coverage. The school does provide accident insurance as secondary coverage only. A student or coach participating in a school athletic event is doing so at their own risk and the school is not responsible or liable for any injury or cost of any medical bills associated with the student or coach's participation.

Absences

Students must be in school for a minimum of one-half day in order to participate in practices or games that day unless prior arrangements have been made with administration. This must be an excused tardy. The athletic director and administration will evaluate hardship cases.

Early Release

Because of travel, it is sometimes necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make arrangements with teachers to make up any missed work.

Late Arrival after Away Games

If the bus should arrive back to the school after 11:00 pm from an away game, the student-athletes who rode the bus back to the school are excused from first period the following day. This is an excused tardy for first period only. If the student-athlete arrives after first period then each class missed, including the first period class becomes unexcused. The student-athlete is still responsible for all class work either due or missed.

Attire

Players and coaches are expected to dress appropriately while traveling to and from athletic events. In the event that the uniform is not being worn during travel, student attire must meet the school's dress code. Each coach will determine appropriate dress for his or her team. Any deviation must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director or Administrator. Coaches are expected to dress appropriately at all times as they represent the school.

Uniforms

All uniforms and practice equipment issued to a player are the property of YACS and must be turned in within one week of the conclusion of the season. The athlete must pay for lost or damaged uniforms. Please read and follow all washing and drying instructions in the uniforms. Players should only wear their uniforms in preparation of and participation in YACS games. School uniforms are not to be worn to school or any other leisure situations without prior approval. Students are prohibited from wearing YACS uniforms in any social media display without pre-approval and authorization from the school administration.

Disciplinary Points, Detention & In-School-Suspension

It is the expectation of the school that student-athletes be exemplary role models in the classroom as well as on the field of competition. Any student-athlete who receives disciplinary points, detention, suspension, or is involved in any activity that is deemed to be an "unexcused absence" from practice or a game will be subject to the coach's disciplinary actions.

League Fines

If any player's conduct or behavior results in YACS being fined, that player and his/her family will be responsible to pay the fine.

Coaches and Community Coaches

Young Americans Christian School is committed to providing qualified and dedicated coaches who will strive to:

1. Lead by example in their Christian walk, their dedication to the school's Athletic Department, and their pursuit of excellence, both on and off the field.
2. Challenge each player to grow spiritually.
3. Teach the players the skills necessary to be highly competitive in their sport.
4. Teach the players not only how to win, but how to have and display integrity whether they win or lose.
5. Become a better coach as they grow with the Athletic Department.

Proper Lines of Communication

In order to operate and maintain an organized and professional athletic department student-athletes and parents must follow the appropriate chain of command. Student-athletes and parents are expected to use the proper lines of communication concerning all matters related to the athletic department. If a student-athlete or parent has a concern or issue they must first address it with the appropriate coach at an appropriate time. If the concern or issue is not resolved the student-athlete or parent should make an appointment with the Athletic Director.

24 Hour Rule

If a parent would like to discuss any aspect of a practice or game, the parent must wait 24 hours after the situation. It is not appropriate to approach the coach immediately after a game. The coach has additional responsibilities immediately after a game and it also allows for a time of reflection for both the coach and the parent with a practice or game concern.

Tryouts

Tryouts are necessary in order to put the most competitive teams on the field. Coaches have the discretion to cut based on the skill level of the potential player. All students must have completed the enrollment/re-enrollment process and have current physical and other athletic documents submitted for the school year in which tryouts are being conducted in order to participate in tryouts.

Parent Pre-Season Meeting

All coaches must hold a pre-season parent meeting attended by the Athletic Director or School Administrator. Parents should be notified a week to 10 days in advance in writing about the meeting. The meeting must include the following:

1. Game and practice schedule for year.
2. Review player guidelines from manual.
3. Team regulations from head coach.
4. Contact information of coaching staff.

Attendance to Practice and Games

Student-athletes must learn the importance of dedication and commitment to their team and to their sport. Players should inform their coach themselves whenever it is necessary for the player to be late or miss a practice. The head coach must approve an absence from a game or practice. Each coach must differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. The coach will give each player and parent a copy of attendance guidelines and be consistent with each player.

Multi-Sport Athletes

Due to a student(s) possibly being cut due to the number of students trying out for a team, a student-athlete committed to one sport may not quit during a season to begin another sport. A student-athlete committed to a sport may practice for another sport if it does not conflict with the current sport they are playing. Any student-athlete who is a member of a team sport and wishes to compete in an individual sport, while the team sport is in season, must honor their commitment to the team sport first. It is essential and vital that clear and advanced

communications are made to the coach of the team sport whenever an athlete has the opportunity to participate in an individual sport.

Varsity Sports Letter Criteria

The varsity letter is one of the highest honors the athletic department has to offer. It stands for achievement. Requirements for an athlete to be eligible to receive a letter are as follows:

1. Athletes must be, at minimum, a freshman participating on a Varsity team.
2. Athletes must start or play in the majority of his/her games and make a significant contribution to his/her team's success.
3. Athletes must remain on the team until the season has ended (excluding injury).
4. Athletes must be devoted to attending practices and games.
5. Athletes must have represented the school in a Christ-like manner.
6. A coach may choose to letter a player who is a senior that may not have played very much, but displayed dedication, integrity, and commitment to the team.
7. Coaches should discuss who gets letters with the athletic director before final decisions are made.
8. Any team that qualifies and competes in a "STATE" level competition can qualify all team members provided they each meet criteria #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 from above.

Playing Time

The administration and coaches realize the importance of playing time for the student-athlete and all coaches see each individual as an important member of their team. However, it is the goal of Young Americans Christian School to provide a quality athletic program that pursues excellence. Hence, there is no mandate for playing time and playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

Quit Policy

When a student-athlete is selected for a team often times another student-athlete may have been cut. Therefore, a student needs to make a strong commitment before trying out for a team. If a student-athlete is selected for a team then decides to quit the team it may jeopardize that

student's eligibility to try out and/or participate in another sport. In the event the student quits the team the participation fee and any other applicable team fees will still be due. JV and varsity students who quit after being selected for a team will be charged \$100 and middle school students will be charged \$75. Participation and any other applicable fees will be invoiced through FACTS system. A student will not be allowed to quit a sport and join another team in the same season.

Travel

To avoid traveling and disruption concerns, all student-athletes will travel together as a team on a school provided vehicle to all athletic events when transportation is provided. Student-athletes may ride home from an athletic event with their parent/guardian provided they have properly informed the head coach or his designee. At no time may one student-athlete drive another student-athlete to a school athletic practice or school athletic event.

Weight Room

The weight room was built to provide our student-athletes a venue for weight training and conditioning. It is considered a viable extension of the school and should be well maintained and properly kept. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete and coaches to ensure the weight room is properly maintained and kept in an orderly manner. Student-athletes must be under adult supervision at all times while in the weight room.

Sportsmanship

Exemplary sportsmanship is the standard at Young Americans Christian School. This commitment is the focus of the school's benchmark emphasizing, "Pursuing Athletic Excellence, Developing Christian Character." Therefore,

Athletes will:

- Respect parents, coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents.
- Personify commitment and loyalty.
- Represent their school with honor and pride.

Parents will:

- Support the team in public and with Christ-like sportsmanship.
- Respect all parents, coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents.
- Encourage loyalty to team and school.
- Provide positive reinforcement to all athletes.
- Volunteer and assist the coach and team with duties on game day as needed.

Coaches will:

- Inspire athletes by being personal examples both on and off the playing field.
- Teach athletes to play hard and accept winning and losing with grace.
- Treat all people with dignity and respect.
- Lead and incorporate devotional times throughout the season.

Supervision

Student-athletes must be supervised at all times. Supervision includes but is not limited to practices, games, travel, and prior to and after practices and games. Students will be sent to AfterSchool when not picked up in a timely manner. Parents that consistently fail to pick up their student-athletes from practices or games at the appropriate time may cause their student-athlete to be removed from the team. Coaches are not permitted to personally transport a student-athlete without administration approval.

This Manual is for informational purposes only. This Manual serves as policies, procedures, and information for coaches of Young Americans Christian School. The Administration reserves the right to change, amend, or modify any policy or procedure at its sole discretion to enhance athletic best practice.

