

Alleluia Angels

Athletics



Parent and Coach Expectations

We have been created spirit, soul, mind, and body. In light of this we will seek this year to use the fertile ground of athletic competition to teach not only the sport, but also self control. We will work to instill unity through team play, obedience through the player-coach relationship and disciplined commitment through required practice. Above all we will strive to develop players whose character and play glorify God. **In the spirit of order and unity please consider the following as the way we will conduct ourselves as coaches and parents.**

Thank You,

Dennis McBride Jr.

Athletic Department Goals

The Alleluia Community School Athletic Department program has three stated goals to aid us in our primary objective: **the character development of our students.**

1. Provide a program where students can develop physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and socially.
2. Provide a quality athletic experience for the participants through practice or games.
3. Assist all students in developing skills and knowledge for a lifetime of fitness and sports enjoyment while giving qualified athletes assistance in continuing their athletic endeavors beyond the high school level.

In order to accomplish these goals, the coaches and athletic staff need the support of the parents.

Guidelines for Parent & Spectator Sportsmanship

We ask that the parents *remember* the following:

Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone at Alleluia. The coaches and players are expected to and are held accountable for representing Alleluia with dignity. We expect the same high standards of behavior from the parents.

Certain behaviors are considered INAPPROPRIATE AND UNACCEPTABLE by The Alleluia Community School.

- 1. Berating, humiliating or taunting of our coaches or players.**
- 2. Berating, humiliating or taunting of our opponent's coaches, players or spectators.**
- 3. Berating and harassment of game officials.**
- 4. Profane remarks directed at any coach, player, spectator, or official.**

The School and Athletic Department have the right to remove or refuse admission to persons who exhibit such behaviors.

Levels of Competition at Alleluia

Here is a summary of our philosophy for each team:

Middle School B - This level is an opportunity to be introduced to a sport and to begin to learn basic skills necessary for success in the activity. We will not cut at this level *as long as it is possible to schedule games and retain coaches to accommodate the number of athletes we have coming out for the team.* At this earliest developmental stage we want all players to have an opportunity to compete in games *as long as they participate in practices.* We will ask each coach at the B-team level to come up with a plan for playing each student. We may create intra-squad games and mini-games at half times of varsity contests to give all players an enjoyable playing experience. This is a developmental level although we do compete against other schools in competitive contests where a score is kept. No end of the season tournaments are usually scheduled for this level.

Middle School A - This level plays in a competitive local league. Although our goal for all players is some participation in each game, there may be occasions where players do not see action. The coach should still be focusing on fundamentals but there is more of an emphasis on learning particular offensive and defensive schemes than there is at the B level. There is a season ending CSRA Independent Schools League Tournament based upon records from regular season games.

Junior Varsity (High School) - This is a competitive level. When we put teams on the court we want to give them the opportunity to compete to win the contest. *There will be situations where players do not see action during a contest.* This level has an age consideration. In our current league, The ICSGA, students will not be eligible for competition if they have reached their 16th birthday before September 1st. The exception to this is non league play. We play a number of local games outside of the ICSGA that athletes who turn 16 before Sept. 1st can compete in.

There is a season ending ICSGA Region Tournament but no State Tournament.

Varsity (High School) - At this level we are playing against other teams with the expectation that we will be putting our most competitive team on the court. There will be many opportunities during the season for all students to contribute in game situations, but there is no expectation of a certain amount of playing time. The best players will play. Coaches are up front about this at the season's beginning and ask all students trying out for a Varsity team to make sure they can operate under this set of expectations.

Not all players get the same playing time. The nature of athletics and competition means we try to put the best team on the court or field. *It is the coach's job* to decide on who the most qualified players are, so the team gets its best chance at success. Part of any player's maturation process includes putting one's personal desires aside for the betterment of the team.

Parent-Coach Communication

Parents, teachers, and coaches are some of the most important role models in a child's life, and clear communication between these individuals is essential. The guidelines listed below are intended to clarify school expectations for this relationship.

Communication parents expect from coaches:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child and the team.
2. Location and times of all practices and games.
3. Team requirement: i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of- season training.
4. Procedures to follow should your child be injured during participation.
5. Disciplinary action that may result in your child being denied the right to Participate. (*Found in the Family Information Handbook and The Student Athlete Contract*)

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Notification of any illness or injuries or missed practice.
2. Notification of any medical limitations or medications that could affect student's health.
i.e. asthma and asthma medications.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Treatment of your child, emotionally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

As you have seen from the above list, certain things can and should be discussed with your coach. ***Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach. Issues not appropriate to discuss with the coach:***

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

Please feel free to discuss these areas with the athletic director if you believe there needs to be an adjustment made. We **do not** believe that the coaches are always right but we must give them the proper amount of authority in order for them to do their job. When we have problems such as coaches not showing up for practices the athletic director needs to know this and appropriate steps will be taken. We ask that you treat coaches with the same respect accorded any other professional. Coaches put in many hours for no financial compensation. They do it because they enjoy the students and the sport. It is important that any conversation at home regarding the coaches or their decisions is put in a positive tone. We cannot expect your child to respect his/her coach if you do not. *Coaches are not above the law.* They should be called on just as players are called on to grow in character and to do all things for the greater glory of God.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. The coaches are at practice and are in a place to evaluate not only individual skill level, but also team chemistry and how an

individual athlete fits into this team dynamic. Coaches also know who has missed practice or broken team rules. Often there are intangibles such as attitude that the coach sees daily that have bearing on a particular athlete's place on the team. Every effort should be made by the coaching staff to communicate these intangibles to the athletes so that they have the opportunity to mature and grow in character.

You may actually be able to do a better job than a particular coach. You, however, are not the coach.

Parent Procedures For Communicating Concerns

If you have a concern, express it at the appropriate time and place. **Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.** Listed below is the Alleluia Community School procedure for addressing any concern you may have regarding your child's athletic experience.

We ask that you use the following procedure until you feel the issue is resolved.

1. Have your child speak to the coach. Sometimes the coach is unaware of your child's concern or feelings. Also, it is important that we teach our students how to communicate with adults in a mature manner.

2. Arrange an appointment to speak with your child's coach about appropriate concerns. Our coaches will respond to you as quickly as possible.

3. Arrange an appointment with the Athletic Director in the Athletic Office.

The Athletic Director will investigate the situation promptly. Some situations may require a conference between the coach, athlete and parent in order to reach a solution. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

4. *We should all be willing to follow Matthew 18:15 -18 in our dealings with each other where we believe a wrongdoing has taken place. When it is just a matter of a better way, we should defer unless our input is sought.*

Being Removed From A Team

Those individuals who are removed from a team for disciplinary reasons will not be given credit for participation in that sport.

Transportation

All athletic teams will be transported by Alleluia's own vans or busses to out of town contests. Ordinarily coaches accompany athletes in the transportation vehicles unless mitigating circumstances arise. The Athletic Department must be informed when coaches are not able to accompany the students in the vans or busses. Since an adult must accompany the team, it sometimes might be necessary to have a parent act as chaperone for a particular trip. The Athletic Director will provide the coach with maps to the schools and/or fields. **Students may be released to their parents following the game only if the coach is informed in advance of the trip. Students are NOT allowed to depart with another parent unless the coach has**

received prior written notification from the student's parent(s). We discourage this because the time together is part of being a member of the team, and is an opportunity for building team unity.

Only in very exceptional circumstances will a student be allowed to drive him/herself to and from an out of town athletic competition. If this is the case, the student must have a release filled out and in the Athletic Department a day prior to the competition. Athletes are responsible to tell the coach that they will not be riding in a van. The coach needs to inform the Athletic Department and see to it that the release is turned in a day prior to the competition. If the athlete fails to turn in a parental release and drives, the athlete may not play in the competition. It is the coach's responsibility to see that the rule is enforced.

FURTHER, ATHLETES ARE NOT ALLOWED, EXCEPT UNDER THE RAREST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, TO TRANSPORT OTHER ATHLETES TO ANY OUT OF TOWN COMPETITION. THIS WILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT WITH EITHER THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

Team Travel Guidelines

Inasmuch as the administration and coaching staff at The Alleluia Community School assume supervisory responsibility for your son or daughter on athletic trips away from school, we feel it is important that students and parents fully understand the rules that govern such trips. A trip is a continuation of the school day and, as such, students participating on these trips are subject to the rules and regulations that govern our school while they are on campus. Because the students will be representing Alleluia and because their conduct, behavior, and safety are our responsibility, we have established the following guidelines which must be adhered to while they are away from home.

The following requirements are to assist in planning for any overnight travel during the regular season. Coaches are expected to adhere to all school policies as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

The Athletic Director and Coaches will:

1. Inform parents in writing of all out of town trips, and use the Google Calendar to provide information about the contests including maps to the event.
2. Stress to team members that the team represents Alleluia, and their appearance is to be neat and respectable at all times.
3. Recognize and ensure that athletes understand that they are governed by the Alleluia Community School code of conduct and the Athletic Contract while participating in interscholastic athletics. Any infractions of these policies can result in athletes being suspended from practice and play by the Athletic Department and being subject to discipline as stated in the family information handbook. It is understood that the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol on team trips or whenever a student is representing Alleluia is expressly prohibited.

In Christ,

Dennis McBride