

# **AOK Athletics**

## *“Putting Christ in the Contest”*

The purpose of athletics in our Christian schools is to provide students with an opportunity to develop their athletic abilities in an inter-scholastic setting. It is the league's goal to provide organizational structure, coaching and a competitive environment, which is consistent with our educational philosophies and the Christian faith. Although competitive in nature, athletics are a cooperative venture among several parties.

### **Student Athletes**

Student athletes are expected to be at all practices and games. In case of a conflict between the school's athletic program and a club or recreation program, the school comes first. **If conflicts are foreseen, parents and student must attempt to reach a compromise regarding how the student will demonstrate commitment to both teams.** This compromise must be reached before trying out for a school team. Missing a game or practice or any part thereof, will be grounds for dismissal from the team.

Student athletes will strive to conduct themselves in ways consistent with the Christian faith (Proverbs 20:11). This includes:

- a) Placing the good of the team ahead of personal accomplishment or recognition.
- b) Respecting all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- c) Allowing coaches to handle disagreements with officials.
- d) Recognizing the spirit and intensity of competition, while at the same time maintaining a spirit of cooperation and fair play.
- e) Not seeking pleasure from the degradation of an opponent.
- f) Avoiding personal confrontation with opponents and officials, including inappropriate remarks, taunting, or any action meant to put an opponent down.

### **Parents**

Parents of athletes will strive to conduct themselves in such a way that brings glory to God (I Thessalonians 5:11). This includes:

- a) Providing encouragement for their children as well as the children of others even when their teammates are playing more.
- b) Showing respect for the abilities and efforts of the opponent.
- c) Demonstrating respect for officials' even when their decisions are questionable or even **wrong**.
- d) Modeling for their child how to handle disagreements with the coach by communicating with the coach about problems rather than other players or parents.
- e) Approaching the athletic director only after communication with the coach has failed to solve difficult situations.

## **Coaches**

Coaches will assume the responsibility to conduct themselves in ways consistent with the Christian faith as they lead and direct young people in athletic endeavors (Proverbs 16:32). This includes:

- a) Showing respect for opposing players, coaches, and contest officials. It is particularly important that coaches model appropriate behavior and respect for officials who may be in error. The team's behavior is often a reflection of the coach.
- b) Facilitating fair and healthy competition by upholding not only the stated rules, but also the spirit of the rules.
- c) Modeling how to be victorious without being boastful and how to lose without bitterness.
- d) Assuming responsibility for the behavior and demeanor of our athletes before, during and immediately following a contest.
- e) Recognizing the value of all team members and communicating with them openly about their role on the team.

## **Athletic Directors**

Athletic directors will provide the organizational structure needed for competition to take place in a way glorifying to God (Matthew 18:15). This includes:

- a) Assuming responsibility for the behavior and demeanor of our school's coaches, parents and players.
- b) Communicating to coaches, parents and players expectations for participation in the league.
- c) Communicating to representatives of our school when they need reproof for inappropriate behavior.
- d) Communicating with athletic directors of other schools to inform them of situations that need attention.

**This form must be signed and on file with the office before participating in any sport.**

I acknowledge the importance of cooperation in athletics and agree to fulfill my responsibilities as outlined above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed – athlete)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed – parent(s))

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed – coach)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed – Athletic Director)

Date \_\_\_\_\_