

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Parent/Student Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

Athletics Staff			
Athletic Director	Charlie Buzogany	charlie.buzogany@alajohnston.org	*5341
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Sports Medicine	Byron Fairley	byron@epicpt.com	910-431-4219

ALA Johnston Sports Offered

2026-2027

Fall Sports

- Football (HS)
- Volleyball (MS/HS)
- Men's Soccer (MS/HS)
- Women's/Men's Cross Country (MS/HS)
- Women's Golf (HS)
- Cheer (HS)

Winter Sports

- Men's Basketball (MS/HS)
- Women's Basketball (MS/HS)
- Wrestling (HS)
- Cheer (MS/HS)

Spring Sports

- Baseball (MS/HS)
- Men's Golf (HS)
- Softball (MS/HS)
- Women's/Men's Outdoor Track (MS/HS)
- Women's Soccer (MS/HS)

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

In order to be cleared for the first day of permissive practice, a student-athlete must be cleared through the ALA Johnston Athletics Office. All of the below clearance paperwork will be done online through DragonflyMax.com

- **Physical-** Good for 1 Year. Print out the NCHSAA physical form from DragonflyMax website and upload the completed, signed form.
- **Consent to Treat Form**
- **Gfeller-Waller Concussion Form**
- **ALA Participation Waivers**
- **Handbook Acknowledgement**
- **Sign up for ATGenius (Connected to Epic PT)**
- **Crash Course Concussion Video**

Equipment/Uniforms- Students are responsible for all equipment and uniforms signed out to them for the season. Students will be charged for any equipment/uniforms not turned back in or damaged beyond normal use during their season. Uniforms should be washed immediately after every competition.

Commitment- Once a student has tried out and officially made a team or committed to a sport, the student is not allowed to quit unless forced to do so. For example: injury, illness, etc. If the student does quit, he/she then becomes ineligible to participate in any ALAJ extra-curricular group or team during that season or following seasons. Commitment as a team player is vital to the success of our sports program and to the other members of the team.

Detention/Suspension- Students with discipline issues resulting in detention or suspension will not be allowed to participate in practice or games the day that consequences are served. Failure to serve will result in additional punishment. If the student misses school and/or practice time due to suspension or after-school detention, additional disciplinary action may be assigned per individual sport by the coach. Students who have been suspended may not return to practices/games until they have met with administration, and permission to return has been granted.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Criterion:

- Students must have passed 70% of their classes from the previous semester and be on track to be promoted (or graduate) in order to participate
- Students must be passing all of their current classes to maintain eligibility
- Students must attend 85% of class days to maintain their eligibility
- Students must meet all NCHSAA Eligibility Requirements.

Eligibility Duration and Deadlines:

- An eligibility report will be pulled every two weeks using the school's student information system. If a student has a failing grade or a GPA below 2.0 they will be academically ineligible for a two-week period.
- Students who fail the grade check will have until Friday of that week to meet the eligibility requirements, get a grade check waiver signed by all of their teachers and submit it to the Athletics Office in order to maintain eligibility. The Athletic Director has the final say in any eligibility dispute.
- The eligibility report will be pulled on Tuesday mornings and enforced for a two-week period starting the Monday following the date of the report. Grades will begin being pulled after the second week of the athletic season.

Academic Ineligibility Consequences:

- Student will attend all team activities
- Student will not dress-out for any games
- Student will not participate in any competitions
- Students may participate in game day team attire
- 100% focus on academics until eligible
- Student may practice but tutoring comes first
- Students who fail **more than 2 grade checks** during their season (without submitting a valid grade check waiver) will be removed from the team.

Behavioral Ineligibility Consequences:

- Student may not dress out for or play game/activity
- Participation in practice, team activities, or team attire is at the discretion of the head coach

School Attendance:

Students are required to be at school on the day of the competition for at least half of the day (2 full periods). Failure to be in school for the appropriate amount of time will result in the student-athlete not being able to participate in the athletic activity that day (practice or competition).

Enrollment:

Students must be enrolled at ALA Johnston full-time to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

COACHES' EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYERS

Each player will be treated as an individual in regard to any discipline situation. However, any athlete who demonstrates poor behavior not conducive to the spirit of good sportsmanship and citizenship, or is in violation of ALA policies may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible exclusion or suspension from the program.

While on campus or representing ALAJ off campus, all team members will abide by all school rules and display conduct as a representative of ALAJ. He/she shall demonstrate the utmost respect to administrators, teachers, coaches, and staff at all times.

Any form of obscene, vulgar, or inappropriate language will not be tolerated at any time and will result in disciplinary action.

Any player ejected from a game will be suspended for the following game, complete the NFHS sportsmanship course, and be required to meet with the administration prior to clearance to rejoin the team.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Steroids, and Controlled Substances:

Members of any ALAJ athletic team shall not, at any time, use or attempt to use, have in their possession, or aid and abet anyone else to use tobacco, alcoholic beverages, steroids, or any form of narcotics or controlled substances unless prescribed by a physician. Possession means having any knowledge of, or any control over, an item. Control includes, but is not limited to, having access to an item in a school locker, personal effects, a vehicle, or other place where the item is located. It is not necessary that a student intends to control the item. A student may acquire knowledge of an item visually, by being told about the item, or through other sensory perception. A student's knowledge will

be based on the surrounding circumstances, not just the student's statements. For example, "forgetting" that an item is in one's locker, personal effects, or vehicle does not constitute lack of knowledge.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Players

- Be committed to the team.
- Be prepared.
- Attend all practices, games, fundraisers, and activities with a positive attitude.
- Embrace whatever your role on the team may be. If you are in a reserve role, take your responsibility seriously to push your teammates to be the best they can be. Encourage and cheer on teammates, whether participating in the game or not.
- Demonstrate the RAISE values on and off campus.
- Set a positive example for your peers and other students.
- Be a good student.

Parents

- Honor your students' commitment to the team. Do not plan activities that would make him/her break that commitment.
- Practices are closed to parents, but please come to as many games as possible and cheer on your child AND the rest of the team.
- Do not make comparisons between your child and another player. Realize you may not see the whole picture. Trust the coaches.
- Be a good example of positive dialogue regarding your child's teammates, coaches, opponents, and referees.
- If there are questions/issues regarding playing time or other issues your child has, encourage them to talk to the coaches directly. Students are expected to take responsibility in addressing concerns, as they develop the leadership qualities taught at ALA Johnston.
- No parents coaching from the sidelines, it is distracting. Please cheer, but refrain from coaching and trying to get the players' attention during the game.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Lines of Communication

- **The following lines of communication should take place in this order if there is any issue.**
 1. **Player to Coach: All initial communication about any issue should be from player to coach. Athletes should advocate for themselves.**
 2. **Parent to Coach: After the athlete has spoken to their coach if the issue has not been resolved, a parent may schedule a meeting with the coach. At no time should a parent or fan approach a coach to discuss an issue without prior scheduling.**
 3. **Parent to Athletic Director: After contact with a coach has been made, if the issue has not been resolved, a meeting can be scheduled with the Athletic Director.**

Issues Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Mental and physical treatment of your athlete
- Ways to help your athlete improve
- Concerns about your athlete's behavior or grades

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategies
- Play calling
- Other athletes

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents, fans, and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about and will make the sporting experience a GREAT one for all involved.

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that the game is for the youth involved, not the parents.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage good sportsmanship showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make any child feel like a winner every time.
- I will refrain from ridiculing or yelling at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will respect the officials at all times.
- I will not question, discuss, or confront a coach at an event. I will take time to speak with the coach privately at an appropriate time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the "official" coaches.

I agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary actions that could include but are not limited to the following.

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, or administration
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension
- Parental season suspension

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to Pursuing Victory With Honor, according to our R.A.I.S.E values: Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service and Excellence. The Code applies to all ALAJ student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports.

I understand that, in order to participate in high school athletics, I must act in accordance with the following:

The primary purpose of athletics is to use sports to teach student-athletes to become future leaders in their community. Student-athletes and their coaches will set an example and demonstrate the RAISE values on campus and off campus.

The American Leadership Academy Johnston Athletic Program will give student-athletes one of the best opportunities to learn and demonstrate Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.

Respect- Our coaches, student-athletes, and fans show respect for one another, for the opposing players and coaches, the officials, and the game.

Accountability- Our student-athletes and coaching staff are held accountable for their responsibilities and their actions.

Integrity- Our student-athletes and coaches value and expect honesty and adherence to the rules of the game and in all aspects of life.

Service- Our student-athletes and coaches seek and organize opportunities for service, both in and out of the team.

Excellence- Our student-athletes and coaches are held to the highest standard and seek constant improvement to become the best that they can be.