



ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

STUDENT-ATHLETE & PARENT HANDBOOK

Revised 2026

Winning matters. Development matters. Virtue matters most.

Purpose of This Handbook

This handbook establishes the shared expectations, policies, and responsibilities that guide participation in Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics. It is intended for student-athletes and their parents or guardians and should be reviewed before each season of participation.

Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics

atlantaclassical.org/athletics

WELCOME TO ACA ATHLETICS

Participation in athletics is an extension of the educational experience and provides opportunities for students to develop courage, courtesy, honesty, humility, perseverance, self-government, and service. Our goal is to provide every student-athlete with a positive, challenging, and rewarding experience while pursuing excellence through ACA's virtues.

We are excited to partner with our families as we develop young men and women who compete with integrity and represent Atlanta Classical Academy with pride.

ACA Athletic Vision

At Atlanta Classical Academy, athletics is an extension of the classroom and an important part of developing the whole student. Through competition, student-athletes learn discipline, resilience, leadership, humility, teamwork, perseverance, and service.

Our vision is to build a unified, high-performing athletics program that prepares students to compete at the highest level while never sacrificing character, academics, or integrity.

Our Standard

Winning matters. Development matters. Virtue matters most.

ATHLETIC GOVERNANCE & PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Governing Organizations

Atlanta Classical Academy high school athletics participates under the rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA). ACA middle school teams participate in the Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference (MAAC). Student-athletes and families are also responsible for following applicable school policies and sport-specific team expectations.

Athletic Offerings

ACA offers a range of middle school and high school athletic opportunities across the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Offerings may change from year to year based on enrollment, student interest, coaching availability, facilities, scheduling, and governing-association requirements. The current list of teams, tryout dates, and registration information is maintained on the ACA Athletics website.

Club Athletics

Club athletics may be offered when student interest exists, but a sport is not currently operated as an official ACA interscholastic team. Club programs are intended to expand participation while remaining consistent with ACA's mission and athletic philosophy.

- Club offerings must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director and school administration.
- Each club must have an approved faculty/staff sponsor or qualified coach who serves as the primary point of contact.
- Club programs may be self-funded. Participation costs, uniforms, facilities, transportation, insurance, and scheduling expectations will be communicated before registration.
- Club participation does not guarantee that the activity will become a GHSAA- or MAAC-sponsored school team.

- Current club offerings and proposal deadlines will be published by the Athletics Department as opportunities become available.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & PLAYING TIME

ACA's 6-12 athletic structure is designed to provide a clear developmental pathway. Expectations, competition, and the role of performance increase as student-athletes advance through the program.

Level	Primary Purpose	Playing-Time Standard
Middle School B	Participation, learning, fundamentals, confidence, and preparation for the next level.	All participants will receive playing time in some capacity when they meet team expectations and are available to compete. Playing time may not be equal.
Middle School A	Skill refinement, learning to compete, and preparation for high school athletics.	Playing time is not guaranteed. It is earned through preparation, effort, conduct, attendance, performance, and team needs.
Junior Varsity	A bridge between middle school and varsity with increased expectations and competitive demands.	Playing time is not guaranteed. It is earned and determined by the coach based on development, performance, and team needs.
Varsity	ACA's highest level of competition, focused on excellence and competing for region and state success.	Playing time is not guaranteed. It is earned and determined by the coach based on performance, preparation, role execution, and team needs.

PARTICIPATION, REGISTRATION & TEAM SELECTION

Pre-Participation Requirements

Before participating in tryouts, practices, or competitions, student-athletes must complete all required registration steps and receive clearance from the Athletics Department.

- Register for the sport through MyPaymentPlus by the published deadline.
- Complete and electronically sign all required forms in Privit.
- Upload a current GHSA physical. Physicals are valid for one calendar year and must remain current throughout the season.
- Complete any required concussion, cardiac arrest, heat and humidity, and medical-history acknowledgments.
- Meet all academic, behavioral, and enrollment eligibility requirements.

Tryouts & Team Selection

Tryouts evaluate current ability, coachability, effort, attitude, sport knowledge, physical readiness, future potential, positional needs, and roster limitations. Coaches use established evaluation criteria and the needs of the program when selecting teams. Team-selection decisions are final.

Final rosters will be posted or communicated through the official method identified by the Athletics Department after the conclusion of tryouts. Students who are not selected are encouraged to request constructive feedback at an appropriate time and to continue developing for future opportunities.

Commitment After Selection

Accepting a roster position is a commitment to the team for the entire season. A student-athlete who is considering leaving a team should first meet with the head coach and Athletic Director. Quitting without an approved extenuating circumstance may affect eligibility for another ACA sport or a future season.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Participation in ACA Athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes are ambassadors of their team, family, and school and are expected to uphold ACA's virtues in classrooms, practices, competitions, transportation, online spaces, and the community.

- Honor ACA's virtues and represent the school with pride.
- Place academics first and manage classroom responsibilities.
- Attend practices and competitions, arrive on time, and communicate responsibly.
- Be coachable and respond appropriately to instruction and correction.
- Compete with relentless effort and put the team before self.
- Respect teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, spectators, and school personnel.
- Care for uniforms, equipment, facilities, and transportation.
- Follow the Athletic Handbook, governing-association rules, and team-specific expectations.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS & ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic Eligibility

The student comes before the athlete. Student-athletes must satisfy all ACA, GHSA, and MAAC academic eligibility requirements and remain in good academic standing throughout the season. ACA will conduct grade checks every two weeks during the season.

Student-athletes must be passing at least five of seven classes to remain eligible. A student who does not meet this standard may continue to practice at the discretion of the school and coach but may not participate in competitions until eligibility is restored and confirmed by the Athletics Department.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential to ACA's mission and virtues. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying work, misuse of technology or artificial intelligence, or assisting another student in academic dishonesty is inconsistent with the responsibilities of an ACA student-athlete.

A violation will be addressed through the school's academic and disciplinary procedures and may also result in athletic consequences. Depending on the seriousness, frequency, and circumstances, consequences may include a conference with the coach and Athletic Director, loss of leadership responsibilities, suspension from practices or competitions, a required restoration plan, or removal from the team. Athletic consequences do not replace school consequences.

Homework Passes

Homework passes or extensions, are granted only on a needs basis and should be identified at the beginning of each season. The Athletic Director will determine eligibility based on travel distance, departure time, anticipated return time, and the overall academic impact. Student-athletes are expected to use available study-hall time before departure and communicate with teachers in advance.

ATTENDANCE & COMMITMENT

Consistent attendance is essential to individual development, team preparation, safety, and competitive success. Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, team meetings, and required team activities unless an absence is excused.

School-Day Attendance Requirement

11:00 a.m. Requirement

A student-athlete must be present at school by 11:00 a.m. to participate in a practice or competition that day. Exceptions must be approved by school administration and the Athletic Director for a documented, legitimate circumstance.

Communication of Absences

TeamSnap is not an optional RSVP system. Attendance is expected. When an absence is unavoidable, the student-athlete, not only the parent, should communicate with the coach as early as possible and before the activity whenever circumstances allow.

Generally Excused Absences

- Illness or injury that prevents safe participation.
- A medical or dental appointment that could not reasonably be scheduled outside school or team hours.
- A family emergency, serious family matter, or bereavement.
- A recognized religious observance.
- An approved school-sponsored academic, fine arts, or extracurricular obligation.
- Another extraordinary circumstance approved in advance by the head coach and, when appropriate, the Athletic Director.

Vacations, non-school club-team events, work obligations, transportation problems, social events, and routine appointments are generally not considered excused when reasonable alternatives were available. School athletics take priority over outside athletic competition during the ACA season unless an exception is approved in advance.

Effect of Missed Practices or Games

Missing practice affects preparation, team continuity, safety, and role readiness. Game participation and playing time may be affected and remain at the coach's discretion, even when an absence is excused. The purpose is not to punish a student for legitimate circumstances, but to account for missed preparation and the readiness of teammates who were present.

As a general baseline, a first or isolated absence may result in a conversation, make-up expectations, or an adjusted role. Repeated, late-notice, or unexcused absences may result in reduced playing time, not starting, sitting part or all of a contest, suspension from a team activity, or, in serious or continued cases, potential removal from the team. Coaches may adjust consequences based on the circumstances, pattern of conduct, and needs of the team.

SPORTSMANSHIP, CONDUCT & ACA VIRTUES

Student-athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to represent ACA and its values. Competitive emotion never excuses disrespectful or unsafe conduct.

Prohibited Conduct

- Profanity, vulgar gestures, taunting, threats, fighting, or discriminatory or abusive language.
- Disrespect toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, spectators, or school personnel.
- Unsportsmanlike or behavioral technical fouls, red cards, ejections, or removal from a contest for misconduct.
- Deliberate damage to facilities, uniforms, equipment, vehicles, or another person's property.
- Alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, or other prohibited substances.
- Online conduct that harms another person, the team, or the reputation of Atlanta Classical Academy.

Athletic Consequences

Conduct that fails to uphold ACA's virtues will not be tolerated. Behavioral technical fouls, red cards, ejections, profanity, fighting, taunting, and similar misconduct will result in disciplinary action and may result in immediate suspension from practices or competitions. Any mandatory penalty imposed by GHSA, MAAC, or another governing body will be enforced, and ACA may impose additional consequences.

Consequences will be based on the nature and severity of the conduct, prior incidents, honesty and accountability, safety considerations, and applicable school policy. Consequences may include a coach conference, parent meeting, loss of captaincy or leadership role, written restoration plan, contest suspension, team suspension, or dismissal from the team.

COMMUNICATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Official Communication Platform

TeamSnap is the official communication platform for ACA teams. Families are responsible for reviewing schedules, messages, alerts, and updates. Student-athletes are expected to learn to communicate directly and respectfully with their coaches, with parents serving as partners.

Appropriate Topics for Parent-Coach Communication

- Health, safety, injury, or student welfare.
- Schedule, transportation, or logistical questions not already answered in TeamSnap.
- Ways the student-athlete can improve or better meet team expectations.
- Concerns about the student-athlete's treatment, experience, or development.

Topics That Are Not Appropriate for Parent-Coach Discussion

- Playing time or starting assignments.
- Game strategy, play calling, substitutions, or lineup decisions.
- The performance, role, discipline, or selection of another student-athlete.

Parent Conflict-Resolution Process

Disagreements should be handled privately, respectfully, and through the proper sequence. Public confrontation, group-message debate, social-media criticism, sideline discussion, or approaching a coach immediately before, during, or after a practice or contest is not appropriate.

1. Student-Athlete Conversation

The student-athlete should first speak directly with the coach at an appropriate time, unless the matter involves safety, harassment, discrimination, abuse, or another concern that should be reported immediately to an adult.

2. Observe the 24-Hour Rule

Parents should wait at least 24 hours after a contest or emotionally charged incident before requesting a conversation.

3. Request a Scheduled Meeting

If the concern remains unresolved, the parent may request a scheduled meeting with the coach. The request should clearly state the concern and desired outcome.

4. Athletic Director Review

If the issue is not resolved after the coach meeting, the parent may submit the concern in writing to the Athletic Director and request a meeting. The Athletic Director may include the coach or another administrator as appropriate.

5. Administrative Review

If additional review is warranted, the Athletic Director will notify the Head of School or Assistant Head of School. The school's decision after review is final.

Immediate Reporting Exception

Concerns involving student safety, hazing, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, abuse, or suspected legal or policy violations should be reported immediately and do not require completion of the normal communication sequence.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Parents and guardians play an essential role in creating a healthy athletic experience. ACA asks families to support effort, encourage resilience, trust the developmental process, model sportsmanship, and allow coaches to coach while student-athletes learn to advocate for themselves.

- Cheer for ACA rather than against opponents.
- Remain in designated spectator areas and follow venue expectations.
- Do not address officials, opposing players, or opposing coaches.
- Do not enter team areas, benches, locker rooms, practices, or meetings without permission.
- Arrange prompt drop-off and pick-up and communicate delays.
- Avoid negative discussion about coaches or teammates in the presence of student-athletes.
- Use the established conflict-resolution process rather than confronting a coach or posting concerns publicly.

A parent or spectator whose conduct is disruptive, threatening, profane, or inconsistent with ACA's standards may be removed from an event and may lose attendance privileges for future contests. Student-athletes will not be penalized merely because a parent raises a concern appropriately; however, all parties are expected to follow established procedures.

TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH & SAFETY

Medical Clearance & Injuries

All required medical forms and physicals must be completed and uploaded to Privit before participation. A student-athlete whose physical expires or whose documentation is incomplete will not be permitted to participate until clearance is restored.

Injuries and symptoms must be reported immediately to the coach and, when appropriate, the school nurse. If a student-athlete is evaluated by a medical professional and restricted from participation, written medical clearance or written doctor recommendations will be required before return.

Transportation Expectations

ACA transportation is provided for designated practices and competitions when scheduled by the Athletics Department. Student-athletes must follow all vehicle rules, remain seated, keep vehicles clean, respect drivers and teammates, and comply with coach instructions.

Student-athletes are expected to travel with the team unless a parent or guardian receives advance approval from the head coach. When permitted to leave an event with a parent or guardian, the student must be signed out directly with a coach. Leaving without permission may result in suspension.

UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Student-athletes are responsible for the proper care, storage, upkeep, and timely return of all school-issued uniforms and equipment. Items should be used only for their intended team purpose and returned in the condition expected after normal use.

A student-athlete and family will be charged the replacement or repair cost for items that are lost, not returned, intentionally damaged, or damaged because of improper care. Outstanding uniform or equipment obligations will be placed on the student’s account.

Participation Hold

A student-athlete with unreturned equipment, unpaid replacement charges, or unresolved damage may not participate in future ACA athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or competitions, until all items are returned and the account is resolved or an approved arrangement is in place.

All participants are expected to help protect ACA and off-campus facilities. Locker rooms, benches, fields, gyms, buses, and equipment areas should be left clean and orderly.

ATHLETIC FEES

Athletic participation fees support the operation and continued growth of ACA Athletics. Fees are consistent across sports unless otherwise communicated by the school.

Program Level	Participation Fee per Sport
Middle School	\$350
High School	\$500

Fees must be paid in full by the deadline established by the Athletics Department. If payment has not been received and no prior arrangement has been approved, the student-athlete will become ineligible for practices and competitions until the balance is resolved. Outstanding athletic fees must also be satisfied before participation in a future season. Financial assistance is available for families who qualify through the school’s established process.

AWARDS, RECOGNITION & SOCIAL MEDIA

Awards & Recognition

ACA Athletics celebrates student-athletes through varsity letters, team awards, senior recognition, postseason honors, social-media features, and end-of-season banquets held during the fall, winter, and spring. Teams may also hold an approved team gathering at the conclusion of the season.

Social Media

ACA Athletics uses social media to celebrate student-athletes, coaches, teams, and the broader athletic community. Content may include game-of-the-week announcements, scores, team and individual accomplishments, senior recognition, postseason results, season recaps, and special events.

- Instagram: @AtlantaClassicalCavaliers
- Facebook: Atlanta Classical Cavaliers

Student-athletes and families are expected to use social media responsibly. Posts, comments, direct messages, videos, or images that include harassment, threats, profanity, hazing, discriminatory content, confidential team information, or conduct that damages the school or team may result in school and athletic consequences.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Role	Name	Email
Athletic Director	Rodney Latham	rlatham@atlantaclassical.org
Assistant Athletic Director	Jamal Lanier	jlanier@atlantaclassical.org
Athletics Assistant	Dave Psaki	dspaki@atlantaclassical.org

Athletics Website: atlantaclassical.org/athletics

STUDENT-ATHLETE & PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Participation in ACA Athletics confirms that the student-athlete and parent or guardian have reviewed this handbook and agree to follow its expectations, policies, and procedures. Team-specific rules may add expectations but may not conflict with school policy or this handbook without approval from the Athletic Director.

By signing below, we acknowledge that athletics is a privilege; that playing time is governed by the standards stated in this handbook; and that violations of academic, conduct, attendance, financial, uniform, equipment, or safety expectations may affect participation.

Student-Athlete Name (print): _____

Date: _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sport(s): _____

Handbook Updates

ACA may revise this handbook when necessary to reflect changes in school policy, governing-association rules, operations, or program needs. The version posted on the ACA Athletics website will be considered the current version.