



ATLANTA
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Athletic Department Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to help student-athletes, coaches, and parents understand the commitment they are making by choosing to participate in Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics. The expectations stated in this handbook are meant to articulate a shared vision of the athletic department and school's mission and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the coaches, student-athletes, and parents.

ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

The Atlanta Classical Academy's Athletic Department takes inspiration from the ancient Greek word, *arête*, which translates as the idea of fulfillment of purpose or full potential through moral excellence. Our goal in the Athletic Department is to pursue our *arête*. Our program aims for greatness and success by making disciplined, conscious choices, having a positive mental attitude, and facing challenges that will push ourselves to achieve our *arête*. By doing this, we will strive to attain true virtue, knowledge, and personal fulfillment.

The mission of the Atlanta Classical Academy's Athletic Department is to develop student-athletes in excellent character, mind, and health through quality and meaningful competition that emphasizes virtue, community, and the love of the game.

Atlanta Classical Academy believes that virtues are the foundation of our character and of our actions as individuals, school, and community. Our core virtues of courage, courtesy, honesty, perseverance, self-government, and service ought to shape every part of this school, including athletics. Athletics are an excellent opportunity to teach student-athletes the characteristics of virtuous citizens.

Atlanta Classical Academy believes that the purpose of athletics is threefold. First, sports are a good platform to show our joyful passion, have fun, and develop physical excellence. Second, athletic teams enhance the atmosphere of the student body, providing students, parents, faculty and staff with the opportunity to express school spirit and build community. Lastly, athletic competition inspires and elevates the minds and characters of those who compete and as well as those who spectate.

Atlanta Classical Academy's athletic program will set realistic goals and persistently commit to them even when faced with adversity. We will adhere to all governing organizations' rules and regulations. We will represent ourselves, families, and school with class, integrity, and self-control. We will treat others honorably, justly, and respectfully. We will be confident and resolute when facing stressful physical and mental challenges. We will recognize our roles in our athletic community and serve others to the best of our ability. Student-athletes are expected to become knowledgeable in their sport and experts in discipline, cooperation, and leadership.

GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS

Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference

Atlanta Classical Academy Middle School competes in the Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference (MAAC). This league is for 7th and 8th graders. This opportunity may also be extended to 6th graders based at the Athletic Department's discretion. Students are given the opportunity to be on the appropriate teams if they are eligible. The purpose of MAAC is to organize and promote athletics programs that foster fair play and friendly rivalry for boys and girls through interscholastic competitions that encourage good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities.

Georgia High School Association

Atlanta Classical Academy High School competes within the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA). The GHSAA is a voluntary organization composed of over 400 public and private high schools. It strives to promote good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among its member schools. It endeavors to maintain high standards so that every pupil competes on the same basis. GHSAA bases its athletic rules on the safety of its participants.

The GHSAA operates under a Constitution and By-Laws, which outline the scope and purpose of the Association. They contain the standards of eligibility to be met by high school pupils for attaining the privilege of participation in interschool contests, and rules controlling the participation among schools. By adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws through its membership, member schools have by their initiative acted to operate and discipline their interscholastic activities and contests.

Schools are divided in classification according to size so that schools will have an opportunity to compete for honors among schools of their own size. The state is divided into regions in each classification. Atlanta Classical Academy will compete in Region 5 Class A.

Athletic Offerings

Middle School

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer	Boys Basketball	Boys and Girls Golf

High School

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
JV Cross Country	JV Girls Basketball	JV Girls Soccer
JV Competitive Cheerleading	JV Boys Basketball	JV Boys Soccer
Varsity Cross Country		

DEFINITIONS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, SUB-VARSITY, AND VARSITY SPORTS AT ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Middle School sports are about participation, sportsmanship, and skill development. Everyone will have adequate playing time based upon performance and meeting of team specific expectations. Any extracurricular activities that conflict with the teams practice or game schedule needs to be discussed with the coaches immediately.

High School, sub-varsity or junior varsity (JV) sports are a transition to high school athletics. The commitment, dedication as well as intensity for the sport and competition increases. Each student-athlete will receive adequate but not equal playing time based upon performance and meeting of team specific expectations. At the high school level, commitment to the team is the utmost importance. Any extracurricular activities that conflict with the teams practice or game schedule needs to be discussed with the coaches immediately.

Varsity sports are the focal point of Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics. Being a part of the varsity team is an honor earned through hard work, commitment, and perseverance. Varsity rosters are limited depending upon the head coach's decision. Members of varsity teams are not guaranteed playing time. Any extracurricular activities that conflict with the teams practice or game schedule needs to be discussed with the coaches immediately.

CLUB SPORT POLICY

Parent-led club sports at Atlanta Classical Academy increase the available avenues of athletic involvement for students, faculty, parents and the community at large. They promote activity, interaction, and the opportunity to pursue, share, or discover a passion. This kind of pursuit is consistent with the philosophy of the athletics program. This policy assumes that Atlanta Classical Academy students would rather participate in a club sport that has some level of affiliation with the school versus involvement in the same activity without school affiliation.

The school has placed all sports sanctioned by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) under the direction of the Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics Department. Therefore, those programs are funded by the school's athletics budget. Club sports that fall outside of the GHSA umbrella are self-funded programs that have their operating costs built into a registration fee paid by each participant.

Club Sports must have a club sport advisor or coach from the Atlanta Classical Academy faculty and/or staff. The sports club will be approved by the Athletic Department and the administration. The club sport advisor/coach will be the point of contact and source of all information regarding their program.

CLUB SPORTS

Winter

Sailing Club: Grades 5-11

Swim Club: Grades 5-8

Spring

Kilometer Kids: Grades 3-6

STUDENT SECTION

Eligibility

The student-athlete must have the following on record prior to participation:

- Physical on file with the Athletic Department
- Proof of Insurance
- Parent permission
- Baseline Concussion Test (provided by ACA)
- Team Fee may be submitted on line before the first game of the season.

In addition to the “Player Academic Eligibility” and “Player Behavioral Eligibility” requirements outlined below, the head coach reserves the right to enforce stricter regulations and standards concerning academic grades, disciplinary referrals, and unexcused absences.

Player Academic Eligibility

Only enrolled students may participate in Atlanta Classical Athletics. Student-athletes are ineligible for athletic activities if they have two D's or one F in any subject(s). Academic eligibility will be monitored throughout the semester by the Male's and Female's Athletic Program Managers. Student-athletes who have five unexcused absences or five tardies at any time throughout the school year may not be permitted to participate in athletics.

Player Behavioral Eligibility

Two disciplinary referrals in one quarter or three in one semester will render a student-athlete ineligible for any extracurricular activities for the remainder of that quarter. Four disciplinary referrals in one year will render a student-athlete ineligible for all athletic activities and functions for the remainder of the school year.

The Athletic Program Managers may deem a student-athlete ineligible for the following season or for off campus field trips based on repeated misconduct.

Team Selection and Playing Time

The head coach of each sport will determine the roster for their team. The selection criteria will include, but are not limited to, skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude, and experience in the sport.

Tryouts are defined as sport-specific tests for coaches to discover the strengths and weaknesses of individual players. If cuts are necessary, student-athletes who do not make the team will have a private conversation with the head coach at which time the coach will provide constructive criticism for the reasons the student-athlete did not make the team and encouragement on how the player can improve. These students may be asked to be a part of the team in another way (e.g. scorekeeper, team manager, or any role that can keep them near the team and involved in the program).

During or after try-outs cuts may occur for any of the following reasons, but not limited to :

- Repeated misconduct or character issues
- Academic ineligibility
- The nature of the sport can only support a limited number of players in practice and in games (i.e. facilities or transportation cannot support all students trying out).

Sixth-graders are not allowed to try-out for middle school sports unless notified by the Athletic Department. They will tryout with the rest of the middle school student-athletes

Practice and Game Attendance

Student-athletes and parents will be presented the team rules and expectations regarding practice and game attendance per sport from the head coach. Failure to attend may result in consequences specified by the head coach.

Student-athletes must travel to and from athletic contests with the team on school-provided transportation unless specifically authorized by the head coach to travel using personal transportation. Student-athletes must communicate with their coach if they wish to leave the athletic event with parents. Parents must sign their child out with one of the coaches. Student-athletes who leave an athletic event without permission from the head coach will be subject to suspension from the team.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

All student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in alignment with Atlanta Classical Academy's virtues, courageously, courteously, honestly, with perseverance and self-government. The team's goals, welfare, and success must come before any individual goals. Student-athletes are responsible for all school issued uniforms and equipment. If either are lost or damaged, the student-athlete will be responsible for reimbursement to the Athletic Department. Student-athletes must follow the rules and regulations stated in the Atlanta Classical Academy Family Handbook, the Athletic Handbook, and the team rules.

Student-athletes are ambassadors and represent not only themselves, but also Atlanta Classical Academy. Any student-athlete using or possessing alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs will be suspended up to a full year. Fighting, taunting, or displaying any sort of poor sportsmanship to opponents, coaches, and/or officials will not be tolerated and will result in a suspension, as deemed appropriate by the coach. Student-athletes, who are caught cheating will be suspended from Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics for one year.

Commitment

Participation in athletics is a commitment. Student-athletes must consistently attend practice sessions. This also includes weekend and holiday periods (if applicable). Student-athletes should always consult with the coach a week before missing practice. Missing a practice or a game without good reason will have consequences decided by the coach. Please try to avoid scheduling any appointments or events during practice time or competition.

Vacations by athletic team members during a sports season are discouraged. In the event of an absence for a vacation, student-athletes must notify the coach well in advance and be willing to assume consequences related to his or her status on the team.

Players must be in school by 11:00 a.m. if they expect to take part in practice or games that day.

Once committed to a sport, a student-athlete must remain on the team for the entire season unless extenuating circumstances arise. Quitting a sport mid-season may result in ineligibility for other sports or subsequent seasons. If an extenuating circumstance arises, consult the lead coach, report the situation to the Athletic Program Managers, and check in all equipment.

Communication

Players must be receptive to coaching, for it is meant to be constructive.

Whenever the student-athlete has a question about his or her role on the team or their performance, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to seek clarification with the coach. If injured, a student-athlete must report all injuries and doctor's notes to the coach and school nurse.

Parent Section

Parent Responsibilities

Parents will have the opportunity to attend a pre-season meeting. At the meeting, parents will be introduced to coaches, given specific information for the upcoming season, and reminded of our shared commitment to Atlanta Classical Academy Athletics. Parents are encouraged to volunteer at athletic events, attend games and support the team

Prior to the start of the season, all parents and student-athletes must complete the following items and turn them in to the Athletic Program Manager

- Parent consent/proof of insurance/media release
- Physical forms valid up to one calendar year
- Baseline Concussion Test (provided by ACA)
- Team fee (may be submitted online and is subject to change due to the level of sport)

High School and Middle School athletic fees must be paid prior to the first game or competition of the season.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents help their child understand the valuable lessons athletics can teach. Parents will represent Atlanta Classical Academy well at all games or events by remaining in the spectator area during games, meetings, and practices and cheering for their child's team, not against the other team.

Parents will respect the coach/coordinator by not advising him/her on how to coach and by abiding the coaches' decisions regarding play time and not discussing play time with the coach. Additionally, parents will refrain from negative comments about their child's coach in the child's presence as not to negatively influence their child's motivation and overall experience.

Parents will be courteous to coaches/coordinators, officials, and parents of either team by being as prompt as possible dropping their child off and picking their child up from practices and games. Parents are also asked to synchronize schedules and vacations with the school and athletic calendar to avoid conflicts that would lead to absences from games and practices.

In the event that a family has a question or disagreement regarding an athlete or coaches performance, they must first wait 24 hours after the incident before contacting the coach. After that period:

- The student-athlete must meet with the coaching staff
- If the issue is not resolved, parents will arrange and face-to-face meeting with the coach(es) to try to resolve the issue.
- If the issue is not resolved, the parents must arrange a meeting with the coach(es) and Athletic Program Manager.

COACH SECTION

Atlanta Classical Academy coaches are selected by the Athletic Department to oversee all aspects of the various teams. Head coaches report directly to the Athletic Program Managers and both coaches are evaluated on an ongoing process.

Coaching Responsibilities

The coach will communicate goals, expectations, and logistics with prospective players by holding an interest meeting at least one month before tryouts and leading the parent/student-athletic team informational meeting.

After try-outs and formation of the team, the coach will provide a contract to the players outlining the team rules and expectations and collect a student/parent signed document for accountability. The contract will contain the game and practice schedule, including dates, times, and locations to the student-athletes and the parents.

Any correspondence to the coach via email will be responded to within 24 hours of receipt.

The coach is responsible for all aspect of the team's management, including:

- selecting the team(s) and updating the team rosters.
- documenting practice and game day plans to present to coaching staff and the Athletic Program Managers. This includes a supervision plan for classrooms, locker rooms, and athletic arenas.
- determining the style of play, including the offensive and defensive philosophy.
- teaching and instruction at practice sessions.
- deciding who starts, who plays in which position, who are the captains, and how long an athlete plays in a contest
- knowledge of the sport's rules as well as the GHSA or MAAC ruse and regulations.
- distribution and collect of school uniforms
- properly using and storing team equipment on campus and off campus
- coordinating and executing team transportation plans with the Athletic Program Manager
- the conduct of the entire coaching staff and sideline personnel including players.
- providing contest write-ups for the Athletic Department and Atlanta Classical Academy for publication.

WEATHER AND/OR RESCHEDULING OF EVENTS

The decision to cancel Middle School and High School contests and practices will be made by 1:30 p.m. on the day of the game or practice. Notification of cancellations will be made over the intercom to inform students, and a TeamSnap message will be sent out to the parents of the student-athletes.

If a coach is aware of a rescheduled practice or contest, the coach must notify the Athletic Department. The Athletic Department will, in turn, notify the front office.

Atlanta Classical Academy will follow the GHSA Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity in regard to guidelines and rest breaks.

TEAM CEREMONIES

After the end of each season, teams may hold a team party, which may be after the last game. The Athletics Department will hold an end-of-year Athletic Ceremony for all sports teams.

Although these events may occur offsite, all coaches will refrain from consuming alcohol or indulging in any behavior that is contrary to values or policies acceptable at any student attended event affiliated with Atlanta Classical Academy.



ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY MINI BUS PROCEDURE

Introduction

Atlanta Classical Academy leases mini-buses from Busmax for the school year. The insurance and leasing information is located in the glove box of each bus. The keys to the mini-buses are located in the athletics office. Drivers must be insured under the Atlanta Classical Academy school insurance policy and a copy of each designated drivers' driver's license must be on file with the Business Manager. Designated drivers must receive an orientation and safety briefing from the Assistant Principal prior to driving the buses.

General Guidance

- 1) The Athletic Director will keep a weekly calendar of bus use.
- 2) The Athletic Director is the only person authorized to fuel the buses.
- 3) The Athletic Director will check and annotate the mileage before each departure.
- 4) For sporting events, the Athletic Director will provide the team rosters for each head coach and will select which coaches and students will be riding on each bus.
- 5) The Athletic Director will keep track of overall mileage and give a monthly report to the administration tracking mileage and fuel consumption costs, and will inform the administration when oil changes are due per the lease requirements.

ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY MINI BUS OPERATION CHECKLIST

Prior to Operating

- 1) Check out the keys from the athletic director.
- 2) Check the general condition of the bus inside and out.
- 3) Check all mirrors for visibility.
- 4) In order to start the bus, the deadbolt lock on the back exit door must be in the unlocked position.

CAUTION

- ***The bus is wider and taller than a normal utility truck. Always check height and width clearances.***
- ***Observe all posted speed limits and traffic regulations.***
- ***Due to poor rearward visibility, use a spotter when backing up.***

After Operating

- 1) Check the general condition of the bus inside and out
- 2) Ensure all school and personal property is removed.
- 3) Close all windows.
- 4) Empty all the trash and replace the bag in the trash receptacle.
- 5) Lock the back exit door (slide the dead bolt shut).
- 6) Turn off all interior and exterior lights.
- 7) Lock the driver's side door.
- 8) Inform the athletic director via e-mail if the tank is less than ½ full.
- 9) Turn in the keys to the athletics office.

Additional Student Guidance

- If the trip is coed, boys and girls will be separated.
- No food or gum is permitted.
- Water is allowed.



**ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY
PARENT ATHLETICS COMPACT**

To be Signed by all Legal Guardians and Student Athletes

I have read and understand the Atlanta Classical Academy Athletic Department Handbook and consent to adhere to the rules outlined therein.

Legal Guardian _____

Date _____

Student Athlete _____

Date _____