

# ARMA DEI ACADEMY

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## ATHLETICS



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### Mission Statement

*Our mission is to glorify God by providing an excellent classical Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview which equips students to live purposefully and intelligently in service to God and others.*

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Arma Dei Academy is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools

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## **Athletics Handbook**

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## Athletics Handbook

### **I. Letter from the Athletic Director**

Dear Athletes and Parents,

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents and athletes with the philosophy and guidelines of the Arma Dei Academy Athletics Department. Athletics at ADA is an extension of the classroom - meaning, we should always remember that our mission is to glorify God by providing an excellent classical Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview which equips students to live purposefully and intelligently in service to God and others. To understand how athletics plays a role in this mission, we must understand Christian anthropology - namely, that we are composite beings comprised of body, mind, and soul, made in the image of God. To disregard the physical is to disregard what it means to be human and eliminates the potential for a flourishing, fully educated person. Therefore, in order to cultivate the good of the whole person, physical education must be a part of a Classical Christian Education. Socrates wrote, "No man has the right to be an amateur in the matter of physical training. It is a shame for a man to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of which his body is capable." While competing in athletics for the sake of physical training is important for cultivating aspects of our humanity, it misses out on the truth that competition also allows for glorifying God and serving others. Just like the father who experiences joy when his son is thrilled to ride a new bicycle received on his birthday, God our heavenly Father is glorified when we enjoy and put to use the gifts He has given us. When it comes to serving others, the athletic field can be the best classroom for teaching humility, graciousness, sacrifice, and teamwork. Competition in athletics enables unique opportunities for our mission to be realized in the hearts of our students and in their impact on the surrounding community.

This booklet is required reading for student-athletes and their parents. Upon reading the booklet, please sign the Athletic Contract.

The guidelines here are not exclusive of school policy and may be changed as necessary. ADA does not limit itself to the protocols outlined here and will work with each individual student-athlete and their parents to resolve all possible challenges.

Furthermore, it requires a significant commitment by parents and athletes to both create and maintain a highly successful, Christ-centered sports program. Referring back to this handbook should be a tool for both parents and coaches to best support our school's mission and expectations.



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Finally, although we desire to win each competition, it is vital that we not lose sight of the fact that these activities are ultimately a means for student-athletes to grow in virtue and serve in love. The life lessons that student-athletes will learn are not found in the outcomes of matches but in the process of training and competing. We delight in the opportunity to play, celebrate victory, and develop our character in the suffering that comes from struggles, adversity, and losses. Prioritizing these experiences confirms the notion that education is more than the shaping of minds solely in the classroom; it is the shaping of lives.

Sincerely,

*Tatum Lehman*

Athletic Director



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### **II. Mission Statement**

In our desire to win, help us not forget the mission of ADA, “To glorify God by providing an excellent classical Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview which equips students to live purposefully and intelligently in service to God and others.”

### **III. Introduction and Philosophy**

One integral aspect of the classical Christian school is the Biblical world and life views that are woven into every aspect of academia, relationships, and extra-curricular activities such as athletics. Thus, the athletic program plays an integral role in the school’s holistic approach to learning. The beauty of the classical model of education is that it seeks to meet the students where they are in each of the developmental stages. This is also true of our athletic department. The objectives for each level of participation (Logic and Rhetoric) are developmentally appropriate - i.e., length of season, learned skills, and expectations. While the varsity competition puts a greater emphasis on winning, one of the main purposes of the junior varsity and junior high programs is to develop and prepare student-athletes for the varsity level. Ultimately, at the JH and JV level, gaining experience is essential through experience in competition, commitment to teammates, having a winning attitude, as well as the development of individual skills. Regardless of the student athlete’s age, one of the complementary principles of the athletic program is to develop endurance, strength, coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork. Sports are a microcosm of life. In other words, many emotions emerge within a particular athletic competition or season, such as success, discouragement, confidence, defeat, struggle, and tension. Yet, truthfully, life is a struggle, which is why athletic competition is so significant in the lives of student-athletes.

### **IV. Our Responsibilities to God**

The Lord has enabled us to use athletics as an instrument to connect with countless numbers of people outside our school community in ways that we never could without the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletic competitions. Thus, as Christians, we recognize that we are to be ambassadors for Christ and the light of the world. II Corinthians 5:20 says, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf, Be reconciled to God.”

Ultimately, the athletic department’s priority is to exemplify the character of Christ. As believers, we are aware that often, people know/learn who God is through us. Their image of God is the reflection of how they see Him lived out in and through us. With this understanding, we recognize the opportunity and responsibility to display His character so that they may be drawn closer to Him and His saving grace.



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After all, how does the world know that we are authentic followers of Christ? By the love we demonstrate and by our unity. In John 13:35, Jesus said, “By this, all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

### V. Approach to Competition

Students in grades 7th – 12th are invited to participate in the tryouts of each sport. The coaches for each sport will determine which players make the team. The coaches are looking for qualities that include sport fundamental talents, attitude, work ethic, and academic progress. If a team has been selected prior to the enrollment of a new student, the new student will be provided the following opportunity:

- A discriminating tryout procedure will be conducted.
- If the student would have made the original cut, he/she may be added to the team or as an alternate depending on the coaches needs.
- If a team was selected without fulfilling the maximum number of dressed-out players as determined by the coach, the new student would be eligible to fill one spot according to his/her performance in the tryout.
- If an original member is not able to fulfill his/her duties to the team due to grades, disciplinary issues, injuries, etc., an alternate may be used at the discretion of the coach.
- If a team has not been selected prior to the enrollment of a new student, the new student will be provided with an equal opportunity to try out and make the team during the same year as his/her initial enrollment.
- A student athlete’s playing time will be determined by athletic ability, coachability, attitude, practice and game attendance, and academic eligibility. Each student-athlete is competing for playing time and a starting position. The coach will determine the playing time based on a number of factors, including the strengths and weaknesses the student-athlete exhibits. Parents should not expect a coach to discuss playing time with them. Rather, encourage your student-athlete to talk to the coach when playing time questions arise. Parents must avoid running interference and robbing their child of a wonderful opportunity to develop mature communication skills of his/her own.

### VI. Athlete Playing Time Policies and Guidelines

#### 1. The Player should:

- Practice so intensely that the coach feels pressure to reward him with playing time. Coaches notice intensity in practice, not occasional periods of intensity, but consistent effort.
- Understand everything that the team does – both offensively and defensively. A player can’t expect to play if his/her coach has doubts about his understanding of what to do in the game.
- Have a “coachable” attitude. Develop knowledge of as many positions as possible. You never know when the opportunity may come due to another player’s injury or illness, etc. Be ready to



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play whenever and wherever.

- Want to play – whether it is for long or short periods of time. Be ready by staying in the game mentally while on the sideline. When the coach starts to think about whom to substitute into a game, your chances of being chosen will be increased if you are focused and aware of the game situation while encouraging your teammates from the bench.
- Be UN-selfish – a team player. Even if you are not a starter, support those who are playing in the game.
- If you are a starter, be genuinely glad when the substitutes get to play and support them. It is easy for a starter to have an inappropriate team mentality by becoming spoiled and selfish about playing time. Respect the substitutes and the role that they play in practice. After all, they are the ones who push you to become a better player.

### 2. The Parent should:

- Consider the “big picture” before becoming critical. Remember that you are not at practice, and often game decisions are based on what happens in daily practice. Give the coach time to evaluate the player to see who gets the job done and plays well together.
- Try to schedule vacations, doctor, dental, and other appointments so as not to conflict with practices and games. Illness and death in immediate family are excused absences. All other absences need to be approved by the coach.
- Avoid sowing seeds of dissension. Resist the urge to talk to other parents about your dissatisfaction. Misery loves company, but nothing good ever comes from it.
- Encourage your athlete to talk to the coach when playing time questions arise.
- Agree that you are not the coach. You may not agree with the coach’s decisions, but you do have to agree that he/she is the coach and that is their job. Acknowledging and respecting this notion will make your student athlete’s overall experience much more enjoyable.

### VII. What to Expect from Arma Dei Academy Coaches

- Men and women who are committed to Christ and demonstrate a life under the control of the Holy Spirit
- Possess a heart and a love for young people
- Knowledgeable in their sport

Each coach is expected to be a Christian role model who regularly engages the team in prayer, devotions, service projects, and life lessons. He/she must sign and commit to the ADA Statement of Faith, being actively involved in a Christ-centered church, and believe in the authority of the Bible. Coaches should strive not only to develop ADA student-athletes but also lovingly desire to present the Truth to each one and the entire athletic community (fans, coaches, opposing players, etc.).

Each coach will hold a pre-season parent informational meeting to discuss athletic fees, travel expenses,



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scheduling issues, game volunteer opportunities, etc.

According to CHSAA, all staff coaches and non-faculty coaches must complete the Coaching Principles and Sports First Aid Courses prior to conducting any coaching activities. Each coach must also be CPR certified, a certification that must be current when coaching athletes. Visit [www.chsaa.com](http://www.chsaa.com) for additional requirements and information available to coaches.

### VIII. Parent Support and Cooperation Guidelines

- Our home game helpers are often our student athlete's parents. If your child is on a team, we are relying on you to help carry some of the workload. We attempt to schedule parent workers on nights/times when their particular athlete is not playing. At the parent informational meeting, parents will be asked to support in various areas depending on the particular sport. Everyone must pitch in. If you cannot work in a position or role, then it is your responsibility to let the coach know and, if possible, find a substitute worker.
- Be a model, not a critic; model appropriate behavior, poise, and confidence.
- Attend the pre-season parent information meeting.
- Watch the game with the team's goals in mind. Try to be a "team" supporter, not just your child's supporter.
- Attempt to relieve pressure, not increase it with your student-athlete. Don't try to live through your child. Be positive and supportive without adding undue pressure and unrealistic expectations.
- Encourage multi-sport participation. Sports often complement each other in athletic development.
- Look upon opponents as friends involved in the same experience.
- Accept the judgment of the officials and coaches; model self-control.
- Be a good listener.
- Accept the goals, roles, and achievements of your athlete.
- Believe in and support the coach's judgment, character, actions, strategy, and overall philosophy, which will help your child to do the same. In contrast, criticism and constantly questioning a coach's actions and overall program will likewise lead the student-athlete in that way. The attitudes and ideas communicated in the home will often be carried out in the heart and mind of the athlete.
- Monitor and encourage excellent academic performance.

### IX. Communications and Concerns

If your student-athlete must miss a practice or contest for family reasons that are unavoidable, the student-athlete must let the coach know directly as soon as possible, preferably in person. If that is not possible, let them know via phone, email, etc.

If you have a question or comment, verbalize it to the appropriate person. The best way to do this is to set up an appointment to meet with him/her.





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### **X Guidelines for handling parent/coach concerns:**

Proper communication with coaches is vital in maintaining a positive atmosphere within the athletic community. Problems and complaints should be handled in keeping with Christ's teaching in Matthew 18:15-17.

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even in the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Generally, the first responsibility is for the student-athlete to talk to the coach. This is part of teaching life-lessons of confrontation and communicating as a young adult. A coach appreciates communication from the student-athletes regarding team or individual situations. A coach should never "hold it against" a student-athlete for desiring to talk about a situation. If a parent wants to speak with a coach about a concern, it should be done during an appropriate time via face-to-face appointment. More importantly, discussing problems with a coach before or after a contest is NOT an appropriate time. A coach should never be confronted before or after a practice or game.

Coaches are teachers. A parent would not walk into a classroom during class and confront the teacher about a poor grade. Please do not discuss concerns with the coach in a public setting. Problems get solved in meetings, not the public arena. If the concern still exists after meeting with a coach, it should then be taken directly to the Athletic Director. Observe the following chain of command when you have a question or concern:

Head Coach → Athletic Director → Head of School → School Board. The organization of the athletic department calls for these procedures to be followed for efficiency to ensure a smooth-running operation. It is an effective way to have input in the athletic program and allow the coach to clarify any issues from his or her perspective as well.

### **XI. Athletic Department Policies**

#### **1. Coaching Staff**

- Appointment of coaches will be made by the school administration.
- Will be evaluated each year and reappointed on the basis of that evaluation.
- Hold the responsibility for orchestrating his/her schedule for the particular sport.
- Responsible for distribution and inventory of all team uniforms at the beginning and end of each season.



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- Must carry an updated roster and medical release forms to every contest.
- Must verify and seek the signature and approval of the Athletic Director with a purchase order before making any purchases.

### 2. Code of Ethics

- Coaches will conduct themselves in a Christian manner. Their conduct, language, handling of student-athletes, treatment of officials, and relationships with staff and administration should at all times reflect the mind of Christ and the goals of ADA.
- No coach will engage in any unethical treatment of his or her student-athletes.
- No favoritism shall be present in the selection of student-athletes.
- Coaches shall instill in their players graciousness in both winning and losing. Coaches insist on the highest standards of conduct and attitude among players both on and off the field or floor.
- Misunderstandings and problems among or between coaches, fans, or parents shall be handled with the utmost care, tact, and a spirit of love and forgiveness. Irreconcilable differences shall be brought at once to the attention of the Athletic Director.
- Coaches shall always be mindful that the student athlete's primary responsibility is in the classroom. Coaches shall encourage study habits and set high standards of academic expectations and performance.
- Coaches shall maintain constant and evident concern for the spiritual growth and development of the student-athlete.
- Coaches should know and follow the policies and guidelines of CHSAA.

### 3. Athletic Director

- Is in total charge of the athletic program and is responsible directly to the school administration.
- Supervises all coaches in the implementation of policy and procedures.
- Is responsible for:
  - Managing and approving schedules and determining playing sites with the coaches' input.
  - Purchasing within an established budget.
  - Maintaining an up-to-date inventory of supplies and equipment.
  - Shall conduct regular coaches meetings.
  - Shall assess and establish goals with the staff and seek the continuing improvement of the entire program.

## XII. Athletic Administrative Policies

### 1. Grades and Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 are required to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA during each academic quarter in order to assure adequate academic progress. In calculating GPA, courses meeting fewer than 4



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times per week will be given half the weight of classes meeting 4 or 5 times per week and music, art, and PE are not included.

- If a student's GPA is below 2.0, that student will be placed on academic probation during the following quarter. A parent/teacher conference will be arranged to design a plan to improve performance.
- Students who are on academic probation are ineligible to participate in school-related extracurricular activities during the quarter in which they are on probation as determined by the administration. Eligibility is defined as being able to dress out, practice, play in a game, and travel with the team.

### 2. Insurance

- No student-athlete shall participate in any practice or game without the coverage and documentation of major medical insurance on file with the school.

### 3. Physical Examinations

- No student-athlete shall participate in any practice or game without having passed a physical examination for the year in which the student-athlete shall be competing. Such a form must be signed by the physician and documented by the Athletic Director prior to tryouts/the first practice.
- Everyone who anticipates participation on a team during the next school year should have their physical completed prior to tryouts/practicing with their sport.

### 4. Substance Use

- Student athletes that smoke, chew, drink, or supply, possess, or use dangerous substances shall be subject to dismissal from the team upon consultation with the Athletic Director and the Dean of Rhetoric.

### 5. Practice Policy

- Practice sessions shall not average more than two hours on school days without prior approval of the Athletic Director. No practices or team meetings shall be held on school holidays without the approval of the Head of School. No practices or meetings may be held on Sunday.

### 6. Varsity/Junior Varsity

- The varsity coach shall have the authority to select a player from a junior varsity squad to participate in a varsity game, provided:



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- a. The Athletic Director has given his/her approval.
- b. Maximum playing time by CHSAA policy is not exceeded.
- c. The junior varsity coach is notified in advance, preferably 48 hours, before any junior varsity contest in that week.

### 7. Equipment and Supplies

- Shall be made in advance of the season at a designated time to the Athletic Director.
- Shall be made only to the Athletic Director. Coaches shall not solicit actively or passively from parents, parent groups, or any other person or organization without the knowledge and consent of both the Athletic Director and the Head of School.
- No fund-raising project shall be undertaken without the approval of the Head of School.

### 8. Eligibility

- Coaches shall never knowingly play a student-athlete who is ineligible or out of his/her grade level classification without the approval of the Athletic Director and Head of School. In addition, no player shall practice or play if:
  - a. Suspended from school.
  - b. Ineligible for any reason.
  - c. Absent on the day of either practice or a game unless he/she attended at least 4 periods. Special circumstances should be communicated to the Athletic Director at least 24 hours before scheduled practice or sporting event.
  - d. Physically unsound as judged by either parent, coach, or physician.

### 9. Transportation

- All transportation both to and from all away games, contests, or matches shall be by coaches or parent-volunteers unless decided otherwise by the Coach. Students may not transport other students due to school liability purposes.
- Parents may provide verbal or written instruction to the Coach to allow students to be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent to ride from any away contest. Students may not be released to other students due to school liability purposes.

### 10. Uniforms

- Uniforms are the property of the school and need to be returned to the school in the same condition they were received at the conclusion of the season.
- Coaches are responsible for the issuance of all practice, playing equipment, and supplies. Any lost equipment shall be reported at once to the Athletic Director. Equipment lost or destroyed due to



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student-athlete negligence shall be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director and charged to the student athlete's account. An inventory of all equipment shall be communicated to the Athletic Director at the end of the season.

### 11. First Aid/Emergency

- Coaches shall administer emergency first aid they are certified to perform. In emergency situations, the coach should immediately request help to address the situation and implement the appropriate Athletic [Emergency Action Plan](#) (AEAP). All head coaches must possess a current CPR certification each year.

### 12. Suspension/Dismissal from a team:

- Suspension shall be issued only with the authorization of the Athletic Director and for a period of time established jointly by both coach and Athletic Director. Each suspension shall be reported to the Dean of Rhetoric.
- Permanent dismissal from a team requires the approval of the Dean of Rhetoric.

### 13. Multi-Sport Participation

- Student-athletes may not participate in more than three sports per school year and no more than one sport during the same season. Any exceptions must be made by the administration and the Athletic Director. Requests should be made in writing through the Athletic Director.

### 14. Leaving/Quitting a Team

- Any student-athletes who desire to quit a sport before the end of the season must meet with their coach and then the Athletic Director.
- Student- athletes who opt to not participate after making the team will not receive a refund of athletic fees
- Once a student-athlete has tried out and made a team, he/she has then committed to playing. If a student-athlete quits at any point once they have made that commitment, they must then have to sit out the next consecutive sport (fall, winter, or spring) season. For instance, if a football player (fall sport) quits once he has made the team and begun practice, he is then not eligible for basketball (winter sport); however, he would be eligible to run track (spring sport).

### 15. Expectations for Student Athletes

- Wearing an ADA uniform is a privilege. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will honor and glorify God. Attitude, language, and behavior during practice and games shall be in keeping with the high standards of ADA.



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- Student-athletes are expected to keep their priorities in order. Academic work shall always be the primary responsibility of the student-athlete. Student-athletes with grades declining or attitudes toward academics deteriorating may be dropped from the team.
- Student-athletes are often looked up to by the student body (especially those in grammar school); therefore, it is expected that their attitude, conduct, morals, manners, and school spirit shall reflect the name of ADA in the school community.
- Student-athletes are expected to refrain from the use of any dangerous or harmful substances, maintain proper dietary and rest habits, and follow the rules and training program as established by the ADA administration, the athletic department, and the coaching staff.
- Student-athletes are expected to make a commitment to the team, their teammates, and coaches when they elect to participate in ADA's interscholastic sports program. Their obligation to the team and coaches shall be carried on in the following manner:
  - Practice and game schedules shall be met faithfully and punctually. Generally, no excuse for missing a practice or game not excused under the school's policy of absences from school shall be accepted.
  - Student-athletes should not ask or expect to receive special consideration. Their obligation is to the team, and no team will ever be stronger than the attitude of its weakest member.
  - Student-athletes are expected to report any injury immediately to their coach.
  - The coach shall report any significant injuries to the Athletic Director.
- During the sports season in which student-athletes represent their school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest, they cannot compete as a member of a non-school team or competition in that same sport.

### 16. New Sport Startup

- There are many considerations in starting up a new sport at ADA. This section establishes the protocol for the founding of a new CSHAA team or a sporting club team representing ADA. The following questions must be answered in each case. Once these questions have been thoroughly vetted with the Athletic Director, a meeting with the administration (Dean and/or Head of School) must occur in order to approve the new team. If approved, then a startup plan will be developed.
  - Will the formation of the team be a detriment to other established CHSAA teams or clubs at ADA?
  - Will the student participation level be high enough to warrant forming a team?
  - Is there a willing coach that has the credentials to be hired by ADA?
  - If the coach is off campus, is there an ADA representative available to monitor the competitions?
  - Will the operating (including coaches' stipends) and equipment expenses be no cost to



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the school?

- Will the team travel requirements be reasonable?
- Is there a defined season of play?
- Is an on-campus or off-campus practice facility available?
- If applicable, can ADA host home events?
- What equipment will the team and students need to start?

### 17. Returning to Play After Ejection (work in progress)

- When an athlete is ejected from a CHSAA contest, the Athletic Director will ensure the administrative response to the CHSAA is complete. The fine will be paid by the athlete. The athlete will also complete and submit the sportsmanship course certificate to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
- Soon after the ejection, the athlete will meet with the Head of School and/or Dean to achieve good athletic standing once more. The athlete must understand how a lack of self-control reflects poorly on himself as a Christian and our school. Additional measures, if warranted, may be outlined in the meeting to further atone for the event, such as an apology letter.

### 18. Sunday Policy

- Sunday is the Christian Sabbath. Therefore, organized 'competitive' activities or practices for co-curricular, testing, etc., are not permitted on or off-campus. The use of ADA facilities on the Sabbath day for other than church/worship functions is prohibited.
- Only duties of necessity and mercy would be permitted.

### 19. Transgender Policy

Steps to take if an opponent has a male athlete identifying as a girl on their girls' team.

To be utilized (i) during any sporting event where physical contact is possible, or injury as the result of physical differences between boys and girls is possible (e.g., basketball and volleyball). (ii) During any CHSAA Playoffs/State Meet in any sport.

1. ADA Coaches, Director of Athletics, or Administrators will communicate to CHSAA referees that this division playoff is for "girls basketball," and ADA will not play if the young man on the other team plays. As girls, they have earned their right to play an all girls team, given the division is for girls, not coed. ADA, will not forfeit. The refs will have to call the game or force the forfeit.

2. ADA Coaches, Director of Athletics, or Administrators will demand that the referees or CSHAA official, if present, sign a document ADA has already prepared to say ADA did not



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forfeit their chance to play. Instead, the referees/CHSAA officials called the game. Director of Athletics will also place a call to the CHSAA Liaison to inform him of the situation at the game, and that ADA will not be forfeiting the game, which will trigger a call to the CHSAA commissioner.

3. This happening live at a game has the potential to be messy/hostile. Following the game/interaction, ADA would reach out to the Christian Law Association and or Pacific Justice Institute for the next steps legally. ADA believes the only way to combat egregious policies regarding transgender students at the high school level is to take action when the opportunity presents itself.

### XIII. Suggestions for ADA Parents

Parent support can be a strong and sustaining ingredient to the success of an athletic department. Therefore, it is important to recognize certain suggested “Do’s and Don’ts” that are important to the continuing success of athletics. Many of these have already been discussed in the content of the policy manual. Hopefully, this will serve as a useful reference for parents to better support the athletic department.

- **Do** always encourage your student athlete to do their best and to accept responsibility for their actions and omissions.
- **Do** compliment your student athlete’s efforts and not just the results of their efforts. •
- **Do** be a supporter of the entire ADA team and not just your student-athlete.
- **Do** support your student athlete when things are not going well for them. But do it in such a way as to not undermine the coach and/or the program. If handled properly, a negative experience can become a valuable growth opportunity from which your athlete may learn a valuable life lesson.
- In order to facilitate the best communication possible, we want our coaches to maintain an “open door” policy; however, **do not** expect the coach to discuss a student athlete’s playing time with his or her parents.
- **Do not** try to compare your student-athlete with someone else’s student-athlete when you do have a conversation with a coach. **DO** expect coaches to be honest with you in their assessment of your student athlete’s ability and potential.
- **Do** encourage your student-athlete to talk to the coach if they seem upset about the team and/or their role on the team. In the proper context, athletics is a learning center for the maturation process. This is an opportunity for personal growth by working through his/her issues.
- If you are having an issue with a coach, please **do** go talk to the coach (Matthew 18). If after this, you are not satisfied, then **do** use the proper chain of command.
  - Player with Position Coach (if applicable)
  - Player with Position Coach and Head Coach
  - Parent and Player with Position Coach and Head Coach





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- Parent and Player with Position Coach, Head Coach, and Director of Athletics
  - Parent and Player with Position Coach, Head Coach, Director of Athletics, and Dean
  - Parent and Player with Position Coach, Head Coach, Director of Athletics, Dean, and Head of School (as available and appropriate).
- 
- If you are upset with a coach, **do not** confront them during or after a contest. **DO** call to set up a private appointment with the coach.
  - **Do** expect the coaches to assist you in a collaborative effort to address and develop your student athlete's character with the desire to develop life-long habits of worship, devotion, and fellowship with the Lord.
  - **Do not** publicly criticize the student-athletes—your student-athlete or anyone else's.
  - Parents also serve as official representatives of Arma Dei Academy—**do not** misrepresent yourself to opposing schools or other organizations. **Do not** boo, jeer, mock, taunt, yell, or speak negative comments to opposing school administrators, coaches, student-athletes, fans, or officials. **Do** notify the Director of Athletics or Administrator if you feel that a situation requires an official response.
  - **Do not** send unsigned/anonymous letters to the coaches or the Athletic Office.
  - Please **do** remember that all student-athletes are not equal in skill level, determination, assertiveness, or their ability to function as a team member. Just as no two students are equal in math, and they do not receive the same grades, student-athletes are not equal and do not receive the same playing time. Interscholastic athletes are competitive. School sports should not be identified with or measured against recreational, club, church, and/or intramural athletic activities.
  - **Do** remember that athletics are an important part of each student's total development at ADA and an integral part of our curriculum. Athletics teach citizenship, respect for authority, self-discipline, self-control, teamwork, the pursuit of excellence, and how to deal with success and failure through winning and losing.

### XIV. Athletic Contract

We at Arma Dei Academy value the opportunity of having your son/daughter participate in our athletic program. We believe athletics is a powerful instrument used to teach meaningful values and lessons to our students. We recognize your importance in this process and request your cooperation and assistance in implementing our athletic policies.

1. Student-athlete shall ensure that he/she meets the academic requirements of ADA as outlined in this Athletic Handbook.
2. The student-athlete shall respect his/her coaches at all times.



## Athletics Handbook

3. During the sport season in which student-athletes represent their school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest, they cannot compete as a member of a non-school team or competition in that same sport unless permitted by an CHSAA exception.
4. The student-athlete shall care for all equipment issued to him or her. They shall report any lost or stolen equipment to the coach immediately. The student-athlete may be held financially responsible for items that are misused or lost.
5. The student-athlete and parents must strive to adhere to the principles outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Failure to do so may be grounds for dismissal from ADA athletics.
6. Parents must agree to have their son/daughter pass a thorough physical exam and complete the necessary CHSAA forms each year before competing in any sport.
7. We hereby release the school and its staff from any liability for accidents incurred at practices and games, or transportation to and/or from such practices and games.
8. A parent signature below indicates the student-athlete has permission to participate on an athletic team during the current or upcoming school year.

STUDENT ATHLETE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

STUDENT ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_