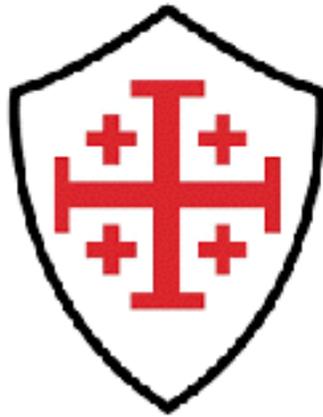


# Athletic Handbook

## 2020-2021



FOR  
Student-Athletes  
AND  
Parents/Guardians

Revised: May 28th, 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<b>Letter from Athletic Director</b> .....	2
<b>Department Overview</b>	
Philosophy.....	3
Definition of Excellence.....	4
Roles.....	5-6
Athletic Opportunities.....	7
Conference Affiliations.....	7-8
Crusader Athletic Booster Club.....	8
Volunteer Requirements.....	8
TAA Contact Information.....	9
<b>Policies and Procedures</b>	
Team Membership.....	10
Team Selection/Playing Time.....	10-11
Eligibility.....	11
Club/Select Teams.....	12
Required Athletic Forms.....	12
Financial Obligations.....	12
Practice Times.....	13
Attendance.....	13
Religious Commitments.....	14
Holidays.....	14
Illness & Injury.....	14
Classwork.....	14
Practice Gear.....	15
Uniforms/Warm Ups.....	15
Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport.....	15
Fall Pre-Season Summer Requirements.....	16
Travel.....	16
Lettering.....	17
Season Awards/Banquet.....	17
Practice and Game Cancellations.....	17-18
Gym/Locker Rooms.....	18
Facility Usage Policy.....	18
Substance Abuse and Hazing.....	18
Parent/Coach Communication.....	19-20
Athletic Website.....	20
Student Athlete/ Parent Contract for Participation.....	21

Dear Parents and Student Athletes,

We would like to welcome you to The Atonement Academy Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assists students in personal growth and development.

The Atonement Academy believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well organized sports program meets student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, spiritual and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that parents have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes and the parents of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, parents, and coaches.

The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at The Atonement Academy. As an athletic department, we can assure you that students and the teams in which they are a part of are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision we make. Our primary objective- in making this handbook and in all that we do- will always be to do what is in the best interest of the student and the team. This combination shall ensure a promising and successful future for Atonement Academy Athletics.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Atonement Academy athletic program.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of The Atonement Academy Athletic Department.

GO CRUSADERS!  
Dakotah Vidal,  
Director of Athletics

## **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

### **Philosophy:**

The athletic department at The Atonement Academy is an important part of our school's educational program. The athletic program is committed to building our student athletes into young men and women of integrity, character, and physical excellence. It is our mission to work together with the school/ parish to create a committed sports program based on the mission of our school within our community. Our goal is to develop the whole student, not just the athlete, in mind, body, and spirit. Specifically, the Athletic Department seeks to provide interested students with the opportunity to participate in its program of interscholastic athletics and is committed to the following:

- To offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics (based on numbers and the best interest of our student athletes)
- To teach the value of competition
- To foster the development of athletic skills
- To encourage the development of a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice
- To teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation
- To encourage the development of judgement, character, and leadership
- To teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play
- To encourage the development of loyalty and pride in one's self, their team, and the school community

The Athletic Department expects the following of each participant in the school athletic program

- To be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by school and community expectations.
- To maintain health and fitness levels by following the training rules prescribed by the coach
- To reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without commitment to hard work in practice
- To understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that an Atonement Academy student strives to achieve excellence in all areas
- To learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities
- To express feelings intelligently and appropriately
- To accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect
- To help student athletes learn how to balance a demanding academic schedule with an arduous athletic training schedule

## **Definition of Excellence**

First let's define winning. Winning on the scoreboard is not always in our control. We cannot always control our level of talent. Certainly, it is important that through a strong work ethic we maximize what we have, but everyone is born with a certain amount of God-given ability. Injuries can also play a major role in whether a team is successful on the scoreboard. If we base our criteria for success on "winning them all," we will be needlessly disappointed most of the time. Winning must be defined in such a way that we maintain a level of control. If success is not achieved, positive steps can be taken to assure positive results. There should never be a feeling of helplessness or despair, only a continual examination of attitudes and practices that brings about improvement. How is this to be done? Our criterion for success on the field or court is the achievement of excellence. Unlike victory over an opponent, we have control of our standards of excellence. What is excellence? Excellence is the ongoing process of becoming better than we once were, particularly in the below list areas.

### **EXCELLENCE:**

- Superior Work Ethic
- Personal Humility
- Team Oriented
- Determination
- Mental Toughness
- Actions Deserving of Victory
- Loving One Another
- Belief, Faith and Trust
- Sacrifice

All these areas must be present to achieve excellence. The success of our teams will be a reflection on the degree of which the individuals on our teams develop these areas as fundamental components of who we are as a team and as individuals.

## **Roles:**

### **Athletic Director:**

The Athletic Director is responsible for administering the Athletic Program at The Atonement Academy. His/ her duties include but are not limited to: hiring and training coaches, coordinating the athletic budget, scheduling games and coordinate practice schedules with head coach of each sport, approving and scheduling transportation and officials, conflict resolution, and overseeing all aspects of the Department of Athletics. He/She will advise the Administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes and communicate the needs of the Athletic Department to the Administration, Booster Club, and Board of The Atonement Academy.

The Athletic Director is expected to provide appropriate instruction and support to all part-time and full-time coaches. He/She must also be a positive representative of The Atonement Academy and the Athletic Department.

### **Coaches:**

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and travel schedules, turning in roster prior to the season, distributing and collection uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must fulfill his/her duties to the end of the season-last game or once all uniforms are turned in. More duties will be included on the contract that coaches will sign before the season. The coach must also ensure that student athletes are exhibiting good behavior on and off the court/field.

The coach is expected to be a positive representative of The Atonement Academy and the Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conducts himself/ herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. He/She is expected to make decisions based on the collective interests of the team, while also developing each student athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear in expectations and available to student athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. He/She is expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players, and promote sportsmanship always.

**Any coach who is ejected from a game will automatically have to pay a fine according to ISAL/TAPPS rules and regulations. The Athletic Director will then decide whether or not to suspend for the next athletic contest.**

**Student Athletes:**

The student athlete is expected to be a positive addition to The Atonement Academy Athletic Department. If a student athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, he/she must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a solution cannot be reached, the Athletic Director may assist.

Student Athletes will be representing The Atonement Academy on and off the playing field/court and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit good behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student athlete fails to conduct himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, he/she may be subject to penalties which may include game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team.

**Any player who is ejected from a game will be suspended from the following contest under the discretion of the Athletic Director for how long and in accordance to ISAL/TAPPS rules.**

**Parents:**

Parents play a vital role in The Atonement Academy Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard.

We are appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to an athletic event, volunteering to serve athletics as a member of the Booster Club, and sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches are trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members.

Regarding games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator, or student athlete.

### **Athletic Opportunities:**

<i>High School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Fall</b>
Cheerleading	Cheerleading
6-man Football	6-man Football
Volleyball	Volleyball
Cross Country	Cross Country
<b>Winter</b>	<b>Winter</b>
Basketball- Men's and Women's	Basketball- Boys and Girls
	Soccer- Boys and Girls
Swimming	Swimming
<b>Spring</b>	<b>Spring</b>
Golf	Golf
	Baseball/Softball
Tennis	Tennis
Track	Track

**\*\* High School teams can separate into Junior Varsity and Varsity team depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

**\*\*Middle School teams can separate into A (7-8 Graders) and B (6 grade) teams depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

### **Conference Affiliations:**

#### **Middle School (ISAL)**

The middle school athletic teams compete in the Independent Schools Athletic League (ISAL). The purpose of ISAL is to glorify God and to prepare the student athletes for life by providing a competitive environment where athletic competition is kept in its proper perspective, emphasizing sportsmanship and Christian Character.

ISAL offers Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track, and Golf. The ISAL conference is made up of 20 schools in and around the San Antonio area which includes:

Bracken, Castle Hills, Concordia Lutheran, Cornerstone, FEAST, Geneva, Great Hearts, Keystone, KIPP Aspire, KIPP Camino, Montessori, New Braunfels, Saint Mary's Hall, St. George, St. Luke's, San Antonio Christian, Shepherd of the Hills, TMI, Winston

### High School (TAPPS):

The High School Athletics Program competes in The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. The sports that we have in this league are 6-man Football, Cross Country, JV/V Volleyball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Golf, Track & Field, Swimming, Tennis, Baseball, Softball. The purpose of TAPPS is to encourage and promote the academic, athletic, and fine arts program to foster a spirit of fair play, good fellowship, and spiritual growth. The Atonement Academy competes as a 1A school based on its current enrollment.

We are proud of these affiliations and will respect their direction. All administrators, coaches, parents, student athletes and spectators are expected to be familiar with and abide by the rules set forth of their respective conferences. For further information about ISAL/TAPPS please contact Dakotah Vidal, Athletic Director.

### Crusader Athletic Booster Club

The Crusader Athletic Booster Club is a volunteer organization made up of dedicated and service-oriented parents who are committed to offering their time and energy to promote school and athletic spirit, support TAA sports teams and ensure that every athletic event is a success. In addition to volunteering time, the Booster club also provides funds to enhance all TAA sports teams. The Atonement Academy student athletes and coaches directly benefit from their volunteer and financial support of the Booster Club and we encourage ALL parents of The Atonement student-athletes to join. If you would like to join or would like more information on the Crusader Booster Club, please contact Brian Schott at [btschott@gmail.com](mailto:btschott@gmail.com)

### Volunteer Requirements

As members of The Atonement Academy athletic community, all parents will be required to volunteer during at least one TAA game or Booster Club supported event. This directly benefits all student athletes. Please do not feel limited to one service opportunity. A sign-up sheet will be available at all the parent's meetings. It will be first come, first choice. We would not be successful without our parents and truly appreciate your support and enthusiasm!

**The Atonement Academy Contact Information:**

**Upper School/ Middle School:**

Office: (210)-695-2240 ext. 113

**Athletic Department**

Dakotah Vidal: Athletic Director

[dvidal@atonementonline.com](mailto:dvidal@atonementonline.com)

**Head Coaches:**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>High School</b>
Football	Michael Hegedusich	Dakotah Vidal
Volleyball	Megan Alvarado	Alex Alvarez
Soccer (Boys)	Juan Pablo Ortiz	Carlos Miranda
Soccer (Girls)	Juan Pablo Ortiz	Juan Pablo Ortiz
Basketball (Boys)	Robin Cox	Dakotah Vidal
Basketball (Girls)	Megan Alvarado	Kimberly Buendia
Track and Field	Michael Hegedusich	Kimberly Buendia
Tennis	Reid McKee	Reid McKee
Cross Country	Kimberly Buendia	Jennifer Gray
Baseball	Dakotah Vidal	Dakotah Vidal
Softball	Kimberly Buendia	Kimberly Buendia
Swimming	N/A	N/A
Golf	Robin Cox	Robin Cox

**Team Membership:****Middle School:**

The Atonement Academy is committed to providing all middle school students interested in competitive athletics the opportunity to participate in athletics. Failure to attend tryouts or abusing their privilege of participation, can lead to disqualification of being on the team. We recognize that middle school athletics provides the introduction to competitive sports at The Atonement Academy. Because it is important to have players learn the fundamentals correctly from the beginning, the emphasis of the middle school program will be developing skills and habits. The level of success achieved in high school athletics is directly related to the skills developed through the middle school program.

**Upper School:**

Due to low numbers, student-athletes will not be cut in High School sports, unless they abuse the privilege of participation or cannot meet the financial obligations of the sport or tuition. All teams may have player limits set forth by the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach. Failure to attend tryouts can lead to disqualifications from the selection process if tryouts are held.

**Team Selection/Playing Time:**

It is our goal in team selection to find opportunities not only for participation, but more importantly, for success. Placing each student athlete at the level where he/she can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from his/her efforts is important to the coaching staff. Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and it is very important that student athletes feel the support of teammates, parents, and coaches.

We believe in our coaches. Their job is to manage and direct a specific sport. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting students for teams, as well as determining the degree to which each student athlete will participate, and they do this with considerable thought and sensitivity. During the selection process, coaches will evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and various other attributes.

We want our student-athletes to learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members have a responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to learn and perform their role on the team. Teamwork requires the development of many interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates and coaches. Student-athletes have an obligation to participate in practice sessions and games with full commitment and enthusiasm.

**The Atonement Academy athletics believes that at all levels- sixth grade through Varsity- playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement.** Regardless of the subjective nature of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches WILL NOT discuss playing time with parents. Also, members of a varsity/middle school team are not guaranteed playing time. Student athletes should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team.

### **Eligibility:**

Participation in athletics is a privilege, NOT a right. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students that are currently enrolled in grade six through twelfth grade, and attend The Atonement Academy are eligible to participate in athletics. All students in grade sixth through eighth grade are eligible to participate in Middle School Sports. All students in ninth through twelfth grade are eligible to participate in High School Sports. According to TAPPS rules, an eighth grader may not be eligible to play up in the high school.

### **Academic eligibility:**

Student-athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes. If a student-athlete is FAILING one course during the athletic season, he/she will meet with the coach, or Athletic Director to discuss his/her academic situation, but may continue to play or practice that week. If the student-athlete is FAILING two or more courses then the student will be immediately ineligible in games and practices for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). If the student-athlete is failing two or more classes after the first week, they will be ineligible for the following week (Sunday through Saturday). This will continue until they are passing all classes. They will be expected to seek tutoring from the appropriate teacher. If the student-athlete does not improve the failing grade after the two week probationary period, then he/she may be removed from the team.

### **Conduct Eligibility:**

Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory conduct in all classes. Any student-athlete who does not maintain satisfactory conduct in a class will be subject to a behavioral probation that will follow the same two week guidelines as the academic probation.

**Club/Select Teams:**

The Atonement Academy Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. Student-athletes will not be excused from The Atonement Academy practices or games, to attend game or practice sessions for club or league teams. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or league teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out. Failure to communicate before the season may result in the removal of a student-athlete from the team and no refund.

**Required Forms for Participation:**

Prior to the start of each season, all parents and student athletes must complete the following forms:

- The Atonement Academy Athletic Expectations Form (Handbook)
- TAPPS Medical Packet & Physical Form (must be completed by a Physician and Parent) Middle and Upper School through **RANKONE**
- TAPPS transfer form (if a student is transferring from another school and plans to participate in athletics) Upper School only through **RANKONE**
- Concussion Form

***Failure to complete all forms required for participation will result in the student athlete being declared ineligible to participate.***

**Financial Obligations:**

Although the school pays for most of the cost associated with the athletic program, some sports, by nature, require specialized equipment or uniforms for which the cost is shared between the school and the parents of the student athletes. Below are the costs associated with each sport:

<b>Sport (Middle School and Upper School)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Football	\$350
Volleyball	\$350
Soccer	\$350
Basketball	\$350
Track & Field	\$100
Cross Country	\$100
Baseball	\$350

Softball	\$350
Swimming	\$250
Golf	\$100

**Practice Times:**

Middle School:

Middle School practices for organized sports will fall between the times of 7:00 am-8:55 am for 2020-2021 academic school year.

Upper School:

The coach of each sport, along with the Athletic Director will determine the team practice schedule. Weekend practices should be expected and will be determined and communicated by the coach. There may be circumstances where the practice times require adjustment. In those cases, parents and student-athletes will be notified in advance of the change in day and/or times. In most cases varsity or junior varsity practices will start at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Practices will be held rain or shine unless the coach and/or Athletic Director cancels the practice or game.

Non-religious, early dismissal school days will follow a different practice schedule. For example, if school gets released at 12:00pm, then the Upper School will have practice for two hours from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. The coach will notify the parents and student-athletes in advance if there is a change to the practice schedule on those days. Cross Country, Track & Field, Swimming, and Tennis will have special practice schedules due to the nature of the sport and/or facility availability. These schedules will be communicated by the coach to student athletes and parents prior to the season.

**Attendance:**

Attendance at all games and practice sessions is mandatory for all team members. If a student-athlete will not be attending a practice, meeting, or athletic contest, the coach must be notified at least **one day** prior to the event being missed. Any student-athlete who has more than three absences (excused or unexcused), may result in limited playing time or removal from the team. Practice is held rain or shine unless otherwise noted by the coach and or Athletic Director. If a student-athlete is absent from school or arrives after 10:00am, he/she may not be able to practice or play in a game that day. In the case that a player must miss practice (excused or unexcused), he/she will be expected to make up any work that was missed. Any student-athlete who leaves an athletic event without permission, or violates team rules, will be subject to suspension from the team.

**Religious Commitments:**

The Atonement Academy understands that from time to time a student-athlete may need to miss practice or a game to fulfill religious obligations.

**Holidays:**

For teams to remain cohesive, effective, and competitive, student athletes may be expected to play and/or practice during non-religious holidays (i.e. Winter break, Easter break, Summer break, Thanksgiving break, etc.). These dates and times will be announced by the coach as early as possible to allow families to plan accordingly. If there is any question and the dates have not been announced, please contact the coach and/or Athletic Director. He/She will not be required to play and/or practice on a day of religious obligation.

**Illness and Injury:**

All injuries should be reported to the coach and/or Athletic Director at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

1. Tell the coach and/or Athletic Director that you are injured before leaving the court/field
2. No matter how small the injury, get treatment
3. No one shall miss practice without the doctor's permission
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend team practice each day they attend school
5. A second notice from the doctor should be given to the coach to end physical restrictions
6. Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach and/or Athletic Director immediately

**Covid-19 Protocols**

The Atonement Academy Coaching staff is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our student-athletes. We have hand sanitizer stations positioned throughout the gymnasium for our athletes, coaching staff, and spectators that can be utilized. Athletes and coaching staff will have their temperature checked daily in order to be on campus. If anyone has a fever of 100 or over, they will not be allowed to participate in athletics, or competitions. Face masks will not be required to wear, however we will have a supply for use on bus transportation.

**Classwork:**

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they will be held responsible for turning in class work that is due that day, and will be responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

**Practice Gear:**

Student-athletes may be expected to purchase and wear sports specific or school specific practice gear for all practices. The coach will communicate this to the players prior to the beginning of the season. All game safety equipment must be worn during practices and games. This is a shared responsibility of the coach and student-athlete. Failure to bring one's equipment or uniform may result in the student athlete not participating in the practice or game. The coach of each team will give further instructions regarding required practice gear. The coaches will administer practice gear the school provides and if not returned, the student-athletes account will be charged. If the student-athlete does not bring their practice gear for practice on a certain day, and they have not told their coach as to why, they will be required to still practice with the team.

**Uniforms/Warm-ups:**

Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued. If the school year ends and the student-athlete has not returned all items issued to him/her, the student-athlete's grades will be held until items are returned to the school or paid for.

***All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on the date set by the coach.***

**Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport:**

There will be times when some student-athletes make the decision to leave before a sport is finished, during or after the season, although we highly discourage it. Whatever the reason, a student-athlete must follow the steps listed below:

1. The student athlete must talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. A conference with the parents, student athlete, coach, and athletic director or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before a student-athlete leaves the sport.
2. If a student-athlete leaves the sport, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class. In addition, all equipment must be turned in clean and undamaged. The student-athlete must pay for any equipment not turned in.
3. A student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next seasons sport if they leave the team of a previous season. For example, if the student athlete quits basketball to join Track & Field, then they will not be permitted to participate in Track and Field.

#### **Fall Pre-Season Summer Requirements:**

TAPPS governs the start and end date for all sports practices. Fall athletic teams begin practice the first day in August prior to the start of school to prepare for early season competition. All candidates for high school teams are expected to be in attendance. Any conflict must be cleared with the coach before the end of the previous school year. If the student-athlete is not in attendance the first Monday in August and has not received clearance from the coach, it is at the discretion of the coach to allow him/her to try out for the team. Middle School teams will begin practice and hold tryouts the Monday of the first day of school. All interested students are expected to attend.

#### **Travel:**

The Atonement Academy does provide transportation to away contests. The shuttle bus we utilize for away contests seats 15 passengers. Therefore with limited seating, if there are multiple teams that have away contests, Upper School will have higher priority. In that case, all other teams would be expected to provide their transportation to games. All players are expected to travel with their team and/or families to the competition site.

STUDENT ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT OR COACH, UNLESS PARENTAL PERMISSION IS RECEIVED.

Varsity teams periodically have overnight trips during the regular season or post season tournaments. Hotel and transportation arrangements are made by the Athletic Director. The nature of team travel will require implementing room curfews, limiting or denying student-athletes separation from the group, and defining appropriate dress and behavior while our student-athletes are representing our school.

School rules are in effect when team travel occurs. Whether in or out of town, on or off the field/court, The Atonement Academy student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.

### **Lettering:**

High School Varsity student-athletes have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter based on their participation in competitive athletics. While the requirements for lettering may vary from sport to sport, general guidelines include the following criteria:

- Good Practice habits
- Knowledge of and compliance with rules
- Sportsmanship
- Regular attendance and practices and games

Student-athletes who have played on a varsity team and earned a varsity letter are eligible to purchase an Atonement Academy letter jacket. The purchase of the letter jacket must be arranged through the Athletic Department.

### **Season Awards/Banquet**

All season ending awards will be voted upon by the coaches and will include season stats, practice habits, game performance and overall contribution to the team. Team specific awards will be handed out at the end of each season. TAPPS awards will be handed out by the Athletic Director to the student athlete(s). These awards (All-District, All-State, All-Area, etc.) will be sent in to the local media outlets for recognition of those student athletes.

End of the year awards will be handed out at the end of the year sport banquet. The sports banquet will be a formal recognition of the accomplishments of each team and overall success of our athletic program. Athlete of the Year awards will be given, and all sport specific awards will once again be announced.

Middle School will not have an end of the year banquet, instead there will be end of season awards at a central meeting location where all members of the team, coaching staff and families can gather to recognize award recipients.

### **Practice and Game Cancellation:**

If the coach must cancel practice, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or Athletic Director to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will be held- the coach makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible. In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, The Atonement Academy will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by **1:00pm** on the day of the event.

When a game is cancelled, the coach may choose to hold practice in its place. If the coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the cancelled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

### **Gym/Locker Rooms:**

All Atonement Academy students, 6-12 grades will be using the locker rooms in Crusader Gym. The student-athletes in middle school are encouraged to put all valuables in their locker and lock it before heading to practice. The Upper School student-athletes should take their belongings with them to their practice after they change. The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Director are not responsible for lost or stolen items, (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that are left in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities.

### **Facility Usage Policy:**

Any usage of the facilities must be approved by the Athletic Director. Student-athletes must be accompanied by an approved faculty supervisor when using the facilities. Non Atonement Academy groups or individuals may be subject to a facility usage fee as well as an administrative fee for facility usage. Such usage must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

### **Substance Abuse and Hazing:**

Any student-athlete found to be in violation of the school's substance abuse policy will automatically be suspended from all team activities including practices, games, tournaments, dinners, etc., while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic director, and school administrator. The Atonement Academy Athletic Department reserves the right to impose

a disciplinary action or other condition which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of the season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

The Atonement Academy forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as any forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with The Atonement Academy. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited by The Atonement Academy and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

### **Parent/Coach Communication**

#### Parent Meeting:

The coaches for each sport during the three sports seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) will hold a parent meeting prior to the first game in each sport. Parents are encouraged to be in attendance. The meeting will allow parents to meet the coach for their student-athletes sport, ask questions, and receive all information pertinent to the season.

#### Communication Tools:

Coaches will communicate regularly with parents and student-athletes in person, via email or by phone. The coach will provide a contact number for parents and student athletes to use in the case of an emergency **ONLY**.

#### Concerns or Issues:

Step 1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coach are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are preempting to resolve

Step 2: If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent should wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach or parent after an athletic event. Under no circumstances should a parent approach a coach or another parent in a

harsh manner or immediately before, during, or after a practice or a game. Taking this time to reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone.

**It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (including playing time), play calling, or other student-athletes. It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, and for physical treatment advice.**

Step 3: If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Step 4: If the Athletic Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the appropriate administrator.

### **Athletic Website:**

All athletic information will be posted on the athletic page of The Atonement Academy website for sports at [theatonementacademy.org](http://theatonementacademy.org) The information found on this website will include: sports schedules, atonement crusader athletic forms, TAPPS Athletic Forms, coaches information, and other Athletic Department information pertinent to athletics at The Atonement Academy.

**All directions and addresses to the games locations will be emailed to parents the day before or day of the athletic contest. They will also be listed on the Sports website.**

# The Atonement Academy

## Student Athlete/Parent Contract for Participation

We have read and agree to fully abide by the terms of The Atonement Academy Athletic Handbook. Failure to comply with the policies set forth in the handbook may result in my suspension and/or dismissal from a sports team and, potentially, my dismissal from the sport program for 2020-2021.

We understand that we must sign this document and turn it into the Athletic Director or Head coach prior to being issued a uniform and included on a team roster.

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Date

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Print Name

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Student Athlete Signature

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Date

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Print Name

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Parent/ Guardian Signature