



Overview

All coaches are expected to foster positive, Biblical character qualities in athletes throughout the season.

The following is a list of character qualities desired in ACA athletes. Each quality has a short description and a Bible verse that is applicable to that quality. Coaches are encouraged to use these qualities as topics for devotions and dialogue with student athletes.

Expectations

- ❖ **Boldness** – Being ready to boldly express what Jesus Christ has done for you. The Christian athlete cannot be one who is timid or gives up.

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.” (Acts 4:29)

- ❖ **Commitment** – Staying the course.

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (I Corinthians 15:58)

- ❖ **Confidence** – Knowing that he/she as an individual athlete is a winner in God's sight as he/she totally gives all he/she has to Jesus.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”



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“In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession — to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:7– 14)

- ❖ **Dependability** – Attending all practices games/contests unless excused by the coach. Doing what is expected in all situations.

“Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.” (Titus 2:6– 8)

- ❖ **Determination** – Making a mental, spiritual, and emotional decision to accomplish God's goals in His time, regardless of the opposition.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

- ❖ **Diligence** – Willingness to use all strength and ability to complete each part of a task whether in practice, in a game, or anywhere else.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)

- ❖ **Endurance** – Being able to withstand stress, hard work and the problems that all Christian athletes experience.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)



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- ❖ **Enthusiasm** – Taking an interest in every aspect of the sport and being willing to quickly carry out every part of the job with a positive attitude.

“Be joyful always.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

- ❖ **Faith** – Showing an understanding that the Lord is in control of all circumstances and that He is carrying out His will in each individual life.

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
(Hebrews 11:1)

- ❖ **Honesty** – Doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.” (Proverbs 11:3)

- ❖ **Humility** – Having an attitude that gives God all the credit for every team and individual ability, talent, and/or success.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

- ❖ **Intensity** – Always giving everything to the task at hand, focusing total attention upon the job assigned, and putting forth every effort to complete it perfectly.

“David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the Name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give all of you into our hands.’” (1 Samuel 17:45- 47)



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- ❖ **Joyfulness** – The result of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ from which His love naturally overflows to others.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)

- ❖ **Love** – Exhibiting self-sacrifice and showing a real concern for team members, coaches, and opponents. Remembering that Christ focused His love upon others, not Himself.

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

- ❖ **Obedience** – Jesus was always obedient to His Father's will. Each athlete should strive to be obedient to both the Lord and to those whom He has put in authority over us.

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- ❖ **Punctuality** – Arriving early to all practices and games.

“For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter.” (Ecclesiastes 8:6)

- ❖ **Responsibility** – Taking the initiative to work and make intelligent decisions. All athletes need to do everything that is expected of them. Coaches need to know that athletes are capable of doing things without direct supervision.

“If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:6- 8)



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- ❖ **Service** – Having a servant’s heart. Leading by serving.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

Requirements

To coach high school athletics at Agape Christian Academy, every coach—paid or volunteer—must meet the requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ohio Department of Education. These must be completed **prior to the start of the season**.

1. Pupil Activity Program Permit (PAP)

You must hold a valid Pupil Activity Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education. This is required to coach or supervise student-athletes in any capacity.

- Info & application: [education.ohio.gov – Coaching Permits](https://education.ohio.gov/Topic/Pages/Coaching-Permits.aspx)

Tip: You will need all the certifications below to apply.

2. NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” Course

This is a one-time requirement for all coaches in Ohio. Fulfill this one-time training requirement through one of the following training options:

- [The National Federation of State High School Associations \(NFHS\)](https://www.nfhs.org/)
- [Coaches’ Tool Chest](https://www.nfhs.org/coaches-tool-chest/)
- [LiFEsports and the U.S. Council for Athletes’ Health](https://www.lifesports.org/)



3. Concussion in Sports Training (Annual)

Ohio law requires annual concussion training.

- Free online course: nfhslern.com – Concussion in Sports
- Alternate option: [CDC Heads Up – Online Training](#)

4. CPR & First Aid Certification

You must have current certification in both First Aid and CPR (not online-only).

- Accepted providers include:
 - American Red Cross
 - American Heart Association

Check with the Athletic Director for local training opportunities or if group training is offered by the school.

5. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training (Lindsay’s Law, Annual)

This includes reviewing a video, handout, and signing a form each year.

- Requirements and resources:
 - Lindsay’s Law Info & Forms

6. BCI and FBI Background Checks

Both must be current and on file with the Ohio Department of Education.

- Can be completed at:
 - [Local sheriff’s offices or BMV locations]
 - Ohio Department of Education Background Check Info



Final Reminders

- You must complete **all six** steps to be eligible to coach.
- **Do not delay**—some items, such as background checks and permit processing, can take time.
- Keep digital copies of all certificates and training completions for your own records

Coach Communication Guidelines

As coaches at Agape Christian Academy, we carry the responsibility not only to develop athletes physically, but also to shepherd them spiritually and model Christlike character in all interactions. Our communication with students and parents must reflect Biblical principles, foster trust, and promote unity within our teams and school community.

Biblical Foundation

- ❖ **Speak the Truth in Love** (Ephesians 4:15): Communicate clearly and compassionately, even when addressing challenges or correction.
- ❖ **Be Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak** (James 1:19): Practice active listening and patience when parents or students raise concerns.
- ❖ **Let Your Words Build Up** (Ephesians 4:29): Encourage your athletes and affirm their efforts regularly, even when giving feedback.

General Communication Guidelines

- ❖ **Set Expectations Early**: At the beginning of each season, provide families with a written overview of your communication practices, including preferred contact method and response time (e.g., within 24–48 hours).



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- ❖ **24-Hour Rule:** Encourage parents to wait at least 24 hours after a game before discussing concerns. This ensures emotions are managed and discussions remain respectful and productive.
- ❖ **Direct Athlete Conversations:** Athletes should be encouraged to speak directly with their coach first about playing time, concerns, or questions. This teaches responsibility and maturity.
- ❖ **Addressing Conflict Biblically:** If a conflict arises, follow the Matthew 18 model: address issues privately, then involve appropriate parties if resolution is not reached.

Agape to Coach Communication

- ❖ **Attend Monthly Coaches Meetings**
You are required to attend regularly scheduled coaches meetings (typically once a month). These meetings include prayer, coaching development, team updates, and spiritual encouragement.

GameChanger App

- ❖ Use the GameChanger app as the **primary team communication tool** for sharing:
 - Game and practice times
 - Weather-related changes
 - Transportation details
 - Team reminders and announcements
- ❖ Communicate updates promptly and keep messaging concise and respectful.
- ❖ Monitor the tone of all communication and moderate team chats if necessary to maintain a Christ-honoring environment.



School Website Calendar

- ❖ All official practices and games must be submitted to the athletic director for inclusion on the calendar located at www.agapeca.com.
- ❖ Remind families that the **website calendar is the authoritative source** for all schedule-related information and should be checked regularly for changes.
- ❖ If there is a discrepancy between GameChanger and the school calendar, default to the calendar on the school website.

Professionalism and Boundaries

- ❖ Use only school-approved platforms (GameChanger, or in-person meetings) to communicate with families. Avoid texting students or engaging in personal conversations on social media.
- ❖ Maintain a **professional tone** in all interactions. Conversations about student behavior, playing time, or discipline should be handled privately and respectfully

I agree to the requirements as stated above.	
Name	_____
Signature/Date	X _____ ____/____/____
Email Address	_____



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Phone Number	<hr/>
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