Aldersgate Christian Academy Athletic Handbook

Dear ACA Parents and Players, This handbook is intended to be a general reference guide to explain the purpose and goals of Aldersgate Christian Academy's athletic program and to answer any questions you may have.

Since the world is changing every day, situations may arise that will require rulings that are not in this handbook. Please be patient, for I am certain we have not covered every detail. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask.

Since athletics is a powerful tool in shaping a young person's life for God, it is the desire of Aldersgate Christian Academy athletics to be a ministry that is committed to excellence in every aspect of the Christian life, for the glory of God and to consistently project the image of Christ.

All student athletes, coaches, and individuals involved in the athletic program are required to work hard, play hard, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ every day.

The Aldersgate Christian program will always compete with the intent to succeed, but growing in the likeness of Christ will remain the primary goal for each student athlete involved in the program. If we strive to work together and become dependent on God, we will see His mighty hand on our lives, on our young people's lives, and on the ministry of Aldersgate Christian Academy. Then and only then will we see the desired product: a Christian Student Athlete who will have the character to do God's will whenever and wherever He has need of them (Luke 19:28-35).

As our school continues to grow in size and maturity, we will strive to provide the best and broadest athletic experience.

In His Service,

Stephen Klotz Athletic Director <u>sklotz@aldesgatechristian.com</u>

Athletic Office: <u>flames@aldersgatechristian.com</u> Game Schedule: kcsaa.net

Athletic Philosophy

Purpose

The purpose of Athletics at Aldersgate Christian Academy is to consistently portray the image of Christ with our God-given talents and abilities, encourage growth in the whole person, spiritually and physically, while building character and developing community.

Character Education and Athletics

We expect our student-athletes, parents, and coaches to exemplify the character of Christ as we compete in athletics. In order to accomplish this, there must be a higher level of accountability. Student-athletes have both the privilege and the responsibility of representing our school. These students are always representatives of Christ to those who see them. This increased visibility demands that the students be held to a higher standard of conduct that is glorifying to God, both in school and out of school. "So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." (Philippians 2:15-16a)

Character Goals and Expectations

The following are some of the character qualities we are seeking to build in our student-athletes through ACA Athletics. Each is drawn from God's Word. Our expectation is not that of achieving perfection, but of growing in conformity to Christ in very visible and very practical ways.

- Respect for Authority Obey and cooperate with your coach; honor the official. Recognize that they are placed in their positions of authority by God, and as such are owed your respect.
- Humility

Don't boast; don't act proud. Show forth the attitude that God is the one who is ultimately responsible for your abilities and successes.

• Endurance

Persevere in the face of pressure, hard work and discouragement. Keep your eyes fixed on the higher goals. Don't quit; don't let up!

• Intensity

Play on the edge of your limits. Give everything you've got at all times. Focus your total attention on the job at hand, and put forth every effort to execute it perfectly. Don't be content with mediocrity; strive for excellence!

• Enthusiasm

Carry out each task promptly and eagerly. Enjoy the game!

• Faith Show that y

Show that you know the Lord is in control of every situation and is carrying out His will in your life--even when things don't seem to go your way.

• Respect for the Opposition Be courteous. Don't let up on them, they deserve your best effort, regardless of the score. Commend an opponent's excellence. Shake a hand! • Responsibility

Be where you need to be when you need to be there. Do what is expected of you even without direct supervision. Choose to work and to make wise decisions on your own initiative.

• Integrity

Be honest! Earn a good name as one who is trustworthy. Play by the rules of the game. Have a sense of fair play that comes from a real commitment to the truth.

• Teamwork

Don't be selfish; conform your personal goals to team goals. Spur each other on to excellence. Cheer for each other. When someone's struggling, stick with them. Be a team!

• Servanthood

Look for ways to serve your teammates, your coach and your school. Remember Jesus' example.

• Self-control Know yourself. Know how you tend to act under stress. Recognize areas of weakness, and train yourself to respond in a godly way.

Athletic Policy

Athletic Policy Disclaimer

All written policies and areas of concern either specific or non-specific covered in the Athletic Handbook are subject to clarification and/or change by the school administration.

Athletic Requirements

No athlete will be allowed to participate in an athletic contest at Aldersgate Christian Academy until the Athletic Handbook consent form, ACA athletic medical consent form and Lindsey's Law forms have been signed and returned to the Athletic Office and all required fees have been paid.

Athletic Affiliation

ACA is currently competing in the Kentucky Christian School Athletic Association, West Region. The KCSAA consists of over 32 schools from Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee in 4 divisions.

All athletic contests are operated under the rules and regulations governing that sport by the National Federation of High School Athletics, the OHSAA .

Programs Offered (subject to change based on availability and interest)

Middle School (includes grades 5-8*)

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball

Junior Varsity**

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball

Varsity

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball

*Seventh or Eighth graders who show exceptional ability may also be placed on the Junior Varsity or Varsity teams.

** To participate in the Junior Varsity state tournament a player cannot turn 16 before August 1st.

Athletic Fees

Each athlete will be assessed an athletic fee for each sport. The purpose of the sports fee is to provide for the needs of the athletic program. The sports fee is required of all athletes for each sport that they participate in. The sports fees are set aside for athletic uniforms, athletic transportation, and other athletic purchases.

The fee will be applied to the student's bill when all forms/contracts have been signed and returned and is non-refundable. The student will be required to pay the fee of the highest level team on which they are participating. Fees can be paid in total before the first game or in two equal payments with the first payment being due before the first game and the second being due before Christmas break.

Fees:

\$150 - Varsity sports\$125 - Junior varsity sports\$50 - Middle school sports

In an effort to assist families with multiple athletes in JV and Varsity sports the fees will be as follows: 2 children - \$225 (each additional child will be \$50)

Physical Fitness Exams

Student-athletes are to undergo a physical exam by a physician prior to participating in a sport. Each student-athlete will need to submit an ACA or OSHAA approved medical release certifying the student's fitness for participation which is available through the Athletic Director's Office or the school's website. Physicals given before April 1st of the current school year may not be used.

Emergency Medical Form will need to be filled out and signed by parents/guardians consenting emergency medical treatment at Aldersgate Christian Academy events..

Practice and Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. Student-athletes with an unexcused absence from practice or game are subject to athletic probation/suspension at the coaches discretion.

Daily Attendance Requirements for Participation in Extracurricular Activities (including but not limited to athletic activities)

In order for a student to participate in extracurricular activities, he must be in school by 10:00 AM. The school administration may grant exceptions to this policy in certain instances. If a student is too ill to be in school by 10:00 AM, then a student is too ill to participate in any extracurricular activity that day unless a doctor authorizes in writing that the student is able to participate.

A student must be in attendance at school on the day after any extracurricular activity, unless an excused notice (see ACA handbook excused absence policy) is given to the office. If a student receives an unexcused absence, they will generally be ineligible for the next similar activity.

Commitment

Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they can manage while remaining academically successful. Student-athletes are expected to be loyal and committed to that team for the entire season. In case of multi-sport athletes or coinciding co-curricular activities, coaches will grant flexibility where possible. However, in case of dilemma, the ongoing or first joined sport must have the player's first loyalty.

Student-athletes playing on the varsity level may not participate in outside or non-school teams that coincide with the existing school sport's season without permission of the coach/Athletic Director. If this situation were to arise, the student-athlete would be asked to decide with which team he/she wants to participate.

Working Athletes

Because of the demanding schedules of our athletic teams and the responsibility of each student-athlete to maintain a high academic integrity, student-athletes are encouraged not to work during the season. Student-athletes will not be excused from practice due to outside work responsibilities.

Quitting or Dismissal from a team

Student-athletes who quit or are dismissed from the team by the coach or Athletic Director due to poor attitudes or discipline problems are ineligible to play any sport the following semester. This also applies to spring sports and next fall participation.

Academic Requirements

Aldersgate Christian Academy believes that participation in extracurricular activities is part of the student's educational experience. However, when involvement in an extracurricular activity interferes with his/her academic performance, in the best interest of the student, he/she must set aside the extracurricular activity to concentrate on their academic studies.

Eligibility Requirements

- Ineligibility requires a student to be absent from all practices and games until eligibility is restored.
- Eligibility runs weekly, Monday-Sunday.
- Grades are checked on Friday afternoon.
- Students with 2 or more failing grades are ineligible for the next week. (starting Monday)
- Students with 1 failing grade, by the end of the day Friday, are placed on a one-week probation. If the student maintains a failing grade for 2 consecutive weeks, the student is ineligible the following week.
- Athletes will remain ineligible the entire week, regardless of raised grades throughout the week.
- An athlete who repeatedly does not meet these eligibility requirements may be placed on probation or be suspended from athletic participation for a period of time as a means to encourage greater academic success. Any decision involving a suspension will be made jointly by the athletic department and school administration.

Athletic consequences for student disciplinary issues:

A detention for behavioral issues will constitute missing the first quarter in basketball or the first ten points in volleyball of the next game after the detention.

A one-day suspension will result in the following consequences:

The student shall not participate in any athletic events on the day suspended and may not attend an activity without administrative permission. The final decision on when and how long the suspension from athletic activities will last will be determined by the school administration and athletic staff.

A two-day suspension will result in the following consequences:

Automatic suspension from participation in sports for a probationary period to be determined by the administration.

Sportsmanship Standards

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Athletics can be used to develop many positive qualities in student-athletes, parents, and spectators. We must maintain a Christ-like testimony while in the midst of competition. **Note:** Conduct detrimental to the testimony of the school will result in removal from the athletic arena. For more information, see attached code of conduct.

Disciplines for Technical Fouls/Cautions/Ejections

Student-athletes who receive a conduct technical foul in basketball, a caution in volleyball (yellow card), will be removed from the contest for a period deemed necessary by the head coach. Any student-athlete receiving a caution or conduct technical in two consecutive contests will be removed for the remainder of the contest and be suspended the next contest. A student-athlete who is ejected from a contest will be suspended for the next two scheduled contests. These suspensions are carried to the next year if ejection takes place during the last contest of the current season.

Travel

All athletic team members are required to travel to and from athletic contests in the school provided transportation. They are under the authority of Aldersgate Christian Academy and should conduct themselves accordingly. Student-athletes, who need to take alternate transportation home from a game, must have written permission from a parent prior to the event. Permission is granted to travel home with a parent who attends the game. In the absence of school-sponsored transportation to and from games and practices, parents are responsible for student's transportation.

Coaches are responsible to stay with student-athletes returning from off campus events at night until all students have been picked up.

Student athletes should keep in mind that the use of school vehicles includes the responsibility of keeping them clean. Food and drink in the vehicles are at the discretion of the driver. Boys and Girls will not sit side-by-side on bus or van trips.

Travel Dress Code

While traveling to and from and throughout the duration of events, student-athletes are representatives of Aldersgate Christian Academy. School dress code applies at all times that a student is representing ACA. On game days, student-athletes are to wear to school and the event either the coach designated apparel or the Aldersgate Christian Academy uniform. Any exception to this policy must be granted through the Athletic Director and/or school administration.

Uniforms

Student-athletes are responsible for cleaning and care of all practice and game uniforms. Care will be taken when laundering the uniforms. Wash in cold water and hang to dry. Do not put uniforms in the dryer. Uniforms that are lost, stolen, damaged, or have unusual wear need to be replaced by the student-athlete. Cost will be determined by the age of the article and will be billed to your account. Student-athletes will wear only those practice and game uniforms designated by their coach. Uniforms are to be turned in to the head coach at the end of each season.

Insurance

ACA carries a secondary accident insurance policy on all student-athletes. Parents or individuals must submit a written request within 30 days of the Flames related accident to be eligible to file a claim.

Athletic Awards

There will be an awards dinner at the end of the season where various athletes will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the season.

In addition two athletic awards are given each year as part of the Awards Chapel by the Athletic Department. These awards are given to an athlete who represents the mission statement of ACA, both in and out of school.

- The **Flames Christian Character Award** is given to the athlete who best exemplifies the character of Christ while competing in athletics.
- The Flames Scholar Athlete Award is given to the athlete with the highest overall grade average among those who qualify as determined by the administration.

Facilities/Equipment/Field Care

Student-athletes will not be allowed in athletic offices, gymnasium, athletic fields, equipment storage areas, and concession areas without the approval and supervision of a coach/Athletic Director.

All facilities/equipment should be limited to the use for which it was intended, handled with proper respect, and returned to the proper storage area after each use. Any damage to facilities/equipment should be reported to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

Athletic Department Chain of Command

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The Athletic Director works with the Head of School and the Principal to provide a quality program. Each Assistant Coach or JV Coach reports to the Head Coach of their sport, and all Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to your son/daughter's coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment with the Head Coach of that sport, and then the Athletic Director. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach. While you may not agree with every decision of a coach, how and when you express your feelings may have a negative effect on your child and on the team. The time immediately following a contest is an emotional time, so please refrain from approaching a coach with issues at that time. A good standard to follow is "right time, right place, and right spirit."

Athletic Theme Verses

- "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24
- "And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable." I Corinthians 9:25
- "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

Athletic ACA Creed

I am an ACA Flame I am a member of a team I serve others and live the ACA values I will choose to honor Christ I am disciplined; physically, mentally and spiritually I will always work hard I will always give my best I will always give my best I will always put my teammates first I will always have a good attitude I am an ACA Flame!!

ACA Athletics Code of Conduct

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and coaches must have an understanding of the expectations and philosophies of one another. Clear communication is important.

Communication you will expect from the coach:

- 1. Philosophy of the coach
- 2. Expectations the coach has for the team members
- 3. Locations and times of all games and practices
- 4. Approximate return times for all away games
- 5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- 6. Procedure to follow for injuries
- 7. Discipline that would affect playing time

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- 1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- 2. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

- 1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- 2. Ways to help your child improve
- 3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:

- 1. Playing time
- 2. Team strategy
- 3. Play calling
- 4. Other student-athletes

For the Coach...

- 1. Exemplify godly character, behavior and leadership at all times.
- 2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual student-athlete.
- 3. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- 4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- 5. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials. Show respect to the officials.

For the Student-Athlete...

- 1. Accept the responsibility of Aldersgate Christian Academy.
- 2. Treat opponents and teammates with self-control and respect.
- 3. Avoid actions and words that demean or taunt opponents.

- 4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- 5. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- 6. Shake hands with opponents after the game. Treat the competition as a game, not a battle.

For the Spectators...

- 1. Remember that you are at an athletic contest involving school students. They are not adults or professionals.
- 2. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and cheerleaders.
- 3. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials.
- 4. Avoid booing, taunting, and sarcastic and personal comments directed at opposing players and referees. Do not use noise makers.
- 5. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Speech:

Proverbs 16:23 "A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction."

1. Choose your words and your timing wisely. Questionable language or "slang" words will not be tolerated. The student-athlete will never engage in any language that can be termed "trash talking" or profanity.

2. The student-athlete will address the coaches and officials with respect. The student-athlete will address the coach as "Coach" or "Mr., Miss or Mrs." and will take concerns or complaints directly to him/her. Insubordination and divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. The student-athlete will address officials as "Sir" or "Ma'am".

3. Never criticize the officials or coaches. Coaches and officials represent the authority figure. Obedience to authority is not optional and is not predicated on whether or not you agree with it. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God.

Unity:

I Corinthians 12:12 "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

1. Develop unity within your team. "It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit." -John Wooden

2. Develop unity with our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different responsibilities, abilities and roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Be busy fulfilling your role.

3. Develop unity within the Kingdom. We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for Aldersgate Christian Academy.

Motives:

I Corinthians 10:31 "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1. Be motivated by the love of God. Live for Him because He gave His life for us.

2. Strive for victory in order to glorify God. Athletics is just a means to an end and not the end itself. "Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility." John Wooden

3. Demonstrating Christ in our lives by abiding by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" will not be tolerated.

4. Committed to excellence. Be committed to excellence in all areas: faith, practice, academics and game preparation. "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established." Proverbs 16:3

5. Play and act like a CHAMPION!

Behavior:

I John 2:6 "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

1. The student-athlete will maintain a good reputation. The student-athlete's character will be in good standing with the administration, faculty and staff. The student-athlete will refrain from the use of profanity, suggestive or threatening language, or innuendos. The student-athlete will not be under the influence of, possess, or sell alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. Any student who is suspended for illegal use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco will be ineligible for the next two scheduled athletic contests. The student-athlete will not be involved in any immoral sexual activity or be in possession of any pornography or illicit pictures or literature.

2. The student-athlete will meet all eligibility requirements.

3. The student-athlete will know and understand all requirements. The student-athlete will know all of the expectations of their team and will follow them both in action and in spirit.

4. The student-athlete will show respect for all coaches, trainers and all staff personnel. This includes the game plans, methods, and philosophies.

5. The student-athlete will show respect for their teammates. The student-athlete will respect the seriousness of their commitment by attending all practices, meetings and games as prescribed at the beginning of the season and by working together to accomplish a common goal. Help to hold your teammates accountable for their actions.

6. The student-athlete will maintain a high standard of appearance. He/she will adhere to the strictest interpretations of the school dress code and the team dress and uniform code while at school and on any school trip.

7. The student-athlete will demonstrate Christ-like character. Both in and out of the arena showing respect in speech and in actions for game officials, opponents, and all those associated with our opponents.

8. The student-athlete will never engage in fighting. The student-athlete will maintain selfcontrol at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct, penalties and technical fouls will not be tolerated and will be penalized. Penalties include, but are not limited to, suspension or dismissal from the team.

9. The student-athlete will know and understand our philosophy. The student-athlete will respect

the eternal effects of their speech and actions as they represent themselves, their families, their school, their church and ultimately their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Parent Code of Conduct

Speech:

Proverbs 16:23 "A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction."

1. Choose your words and your timing wisely. Questionable language or "slang" words will not be tolerated. Anything negative or insulting must be avoided.

2. Be positive and encouraging. Lift your student and others up. Let them know they are important. Let them know the importance of being a member of a team.

3. Never criticize the officials or coaches. They are representatives of authority. This is a great opportunity to teach your child how to respect a person in authority. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God. Insist that your child address the coaches and officials with respect.

4. Never be involved in negative cheering. Cheer positively for your team. Avoid addressing the other team's players by name in negative type cheers.

5. Never speak negatively around the students or other parents about:

a. The School. Negativity can be contagious. Instead, create an atmosphere of gratitude.

b. Other students or parents. Speak to parents only about your students and their students. Speak to other students only in an encouraging manner. The only time another student or parent's name will be mentioned is in a genuine complementary fashion.

6. Never criticize your child's teammates. Remember to teach your child team attitude.

7. Always resolve differences with your coaches out of sight and earshot of students and other parents. Call to set an appointment to speak with the coach privately. Pray about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.

Relationships:

John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

1. Develop relationships and a good rapport with the team and coaches. God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to minister and be an encouragement to others. If sports becomes all about you and your student, you need not participate.

2. Develop relationships and a good rapport with other parents. You will need their prayers and support as much as they will need yours.

3. Develop relationships and a good rapport with parents from other schools. Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. Promote your school and your students. The relationships you develop are a reflection of our entire ministry.

4. Develop relationships with the coaches. Get to know the coaches. Pray for them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Be open, honest, and use gentle words. Unity:

1. Develop unity within our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different roles and abilities. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Be busy fulfilling your role. Your example of being a unified school body is a valuable lesson for your students to learn.

2. Develop unity within the Kingdom. We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met - to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for Aldersgate Christian Academy. I Corinthians 12:12 "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

Behavior:

I John 2:6 "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

1. Maintain class and character. You are setting the example for your children. Realize that your every action reflects upon you, your family, Aldersgate Christian Academy, and ultimately your Lord.

2. Always insist that your children follow instructions. Coaches must depend on a player's ability to follow orders immediately and without question. Questions will be raised at the appropriate time, such as at practice or after a game.

3. Always dress appropriately. Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your child will be worn. Even in warm weather events a Christ-like appearance must be maintained.

4. Be an example and a guard. Set the standard high for behavior and appearance and do not be afraid to speak to those who are indifferent to our ultimate purpose.

5. Working with the officials...not working the officials.

Motives:

I Corinthians 10:31 "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1. Be motivated by the love of God. Live for Him because He gave His life for us.

Strive for victory as a tool to teach your students. Teach them that athletics is just a means to an end and not an end unto itself. "Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility." John Wooden
 Teach your students to abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" will not be tolerated.

4. Use your child's experience as a chance to be involved in his or her life. Your relationship with your child as an adult will last longer than your relationship with them while they are in your home. If you want a relationship with them as adults, you need to begin building that relationship now. Athletics affords you that opportunity.

5. Badgering an official to persuade a call our way comes with too high a price, our testimony and our ability to influence those others for Jesus Christ. There is never a time at any contest where a parent is afforded an opportunity to say anything to an official other than "Thank You." Without these men and women, and their willingness to officiate, no one is playing ball.
6. Remain in the stands. Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench area, press box, score

table or the officials before, during or after a ballgame. Socially visiting with the coach briefly after a game is encouraged. Game officials are off-limits.

7. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Coaches, students, parents and spectators will need to be strong in this area. Shake hands with our visitors before and after the game.

8. Recognize the success of your opponent. Compliment the good play of students from the other school. Congratulate their coaches on a well coached game.

9. Teach your children that they have a special purpose from God. It is their responsibility to accept God's purpose for them. Do not compare or contrast them to others. This limits their ability to fulfill their own unique potential and purpose.

10. Have fun, touch lives and be yourself. You have the opportunity to be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives of your children and their peers. Games, plays and officials will be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your child forever.