



Arizona Lutheran Academy

6036 South 27th Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85041 • 602-268-8686 • ALAcoyotes.org

Coyotes,

Arizona Lutheran continues to experience blessing after blessing and our growing enrollment is evidence of how God is blessing our ministry. As we grow, the athletic leaders on staff and in the student body must remain committed to maintaining our Coyote Culture. This Coyote Culture has leaders who work to create a positive climate on each athletic team and foster team relationships full of love, forgiveness, empathy, and support. I am thankful that our athletic leaders are faithful, humble, forgiving, and poised.

I am sharing some information of note as we kick off our fall sports seasons. Please contact me or Mrs. Solofra (solofra@alacoyotes.org) with any questions or concerns.

God's blessings,

DAVID PETER, MCAA, CAA
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR | HEAD FOOTBALL COACH | INSTRUCTOR

Arizona Lutheran Academy

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1. Athletic Eligibility Policy Change

- a. At seven (7) checkpoints throughout the school year (approximately monthly), dividing the school year into eight (8) terms, students will be evaluated for eligibility. **All students eligible for extra-curricular activities exhibiting a 1.75 GPA or above in core courses (including Religion, Science, Math, Social Studies, English, and Foreign Language) and who are not failing any courses** at these checkpoints will continue to be eligible for participation.

2. Character Development:

- a. We believe that “*One coach of character can transform a kid; One athlete of character can change a team; One team of character can impact a school; One school of character can improve a community*” (Wade Salem, Character Matters)
- b. The theme for this year’s Character Matters Program is “Make It Count”. This program provides tools for our coaches to help build the culture of their program as part of this school. Each season has character qualities that will be focused on in each sport at the same time and each program will award a competitor of the week.
- c. At the end of each athletic season, head coaches will select a Coyote Character award winner from their teams. The athlete selected best exemplifies Christian character, servant-leadership, dedication to academic work, commitment to his/her faith, and commitment to the team.

3. Sportsmanship

- a. Do you want to be a good sports parent...or a great sports parent?
 - i. Teach and model great sportsmanship
 - ii. Trust that the coaches know what they're doing and it is in the best interests of your athlete AND the team.
 - iii. If questions or concerns arise, communicate with your coach directly.

4. Communication and School Attendance

- a. All team members are expected to be in school **for the entire day** on which there is a practice or game that their team is participating in. We understand that life does happen and sometimes things like doctor appointments are scheduled; this does not apply to doctor or dentist appointments. **PLEASE, have your student communicate with their coaches and the school office promptly and directly.**
- b. Students should not expect to practice or play if they choose to sleep in or miss part of the day for being sick.
- c. ALA's extra-curricular handbook is a wonderful reference tool for all of our athletic policies. Our website and calendar are updated regularly to reflect any schedule changes. Coaches will communicate regularly each week with any important reminders.

5. Athletic Registration

- a. All athletes need to be registered before participating in official practices. The athletic page of our website provides step-by-step instructions for this and a link to our registration site, www.familyid.com.

6. Athletic Trainer

- a. Many of you know our certified head athletic trainer, Mike McKenney. He is a professor at GCU and dad to an ALA student. Mike and I work together and he is willing to help diagnose a student's injury before you go to the doctor. Your student-athlete should speak with me so I can make the necessary arrangements.

7. Athletic Sponsorship & Thrivent

- a. Do you own a business or know someone that does? If so, would you consider partnering with us and being an athletic sponsor? If you donate to the athletic program, we support your business by providing a banner and listing your information in our athletic programs for home athletic events. Information can be found at the following link: [Athletic Sponsorship](#)
 - i. Please contact Doug Meyer, the Director of Mission Advancement for more information and to sign up to be an athletic sponsor.
- b. Are you a Thrivent member?
 - i. "Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money. Your team provides the passion that brings your project to life" (www.thrivent.com).
 - ii. Your Thrivent Action grant could be used to help in a variety of ways (team meals, team banquets, team snacks, campus clean-up etc...)

8. Team Parents

- a. We are looking for a "team parent" to help each team with planning home game meals, the season-end banquet, flowers for Senior Night, and coordination of the season-end coach recognition. This will not cost you anything—except time! Please contact your team's head coach if you're interested.