



Coach's Handbook

Your success as a coach will be seen somewhat this year but more so years from now in the lives of your athletes.

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The Coach's Mandate

**Pray as though nothing of eternal value is going to happen
in my athletes' lives unless God does it.**

**Prepare each practice and game as giving my
utmost for His highest.**

**Seek not to be served by my athletes for personal gain but
seek to serve them as Christ served the church.**

**Be satisfied not with producing a good record,
but with producing good athletes.**

**Attend carefully to my private and public walk with God,
knowing that the athlete will never rise to a standard
higher than that being lived by the coach.**

**Exalt Christ in my coaching,
trusting The Lord will then draw athletes to Himself.**

**Desire to have a growing hunger for God's Word, for
personal obedience,
for fruit of the spirit and for saltiness in competition.**

**Depend solely upon God for transformation - one
athlete at a time.**

**Preach Christ's word in a Christ-like demeanor, on
and off the field of competition.**

Recognize that it is impossible to bring glory to both myself and Christ, at the same time.

**Allow my coaching to exude the fruit of the Spirit, thus
producing Christ-like athletes.**

**Trust God to produce in my athletes His chosen purposes,
regardless of whether the wins are readily visible.**

**Coach with humble gratitude, as
one privileged to be God's coach.**

MASTER'S ACADEMY COACHING PHILOSOPHY

Coaching is both a privilege and a responsibility, and coaching athletes at Master's Academy should be viewed as a ministry and an extension of the mission of Master's Academy as a whole, *"Spiritually developing and academically challenging each student to impact the world for Jesus Christ."*

God brings together a unique combination of athletes and coaches for each sport each season and places coaches in the unique leadership position to invest in young people's lives. With proper godly training and living example, we want to teach our young athletes to impact the world for Jesus Christ and to exhibit His qualities in competition being "all they can be" for Christ!! Billy Graham has said, "One coach will impact more young people in one year than the average person does in a lifetime." 3-Dimensional Coaching tweeted, "Perhaps the best view of our athletic programs' true success won't be seen for at least a decade when our athletes are grown and on their own."

The Christian coach focuses on the example we have in Jesus Christ, and lives striving to glorify God in everything: "...whatever you do...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..." "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ...You are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:17, 2324). A coach is an extremely important role-model for athletes and has great impact on their lives, as stated in Luke 6:4: "...everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." It is expected that there will be some form of intentional spiritual formation/discipleship included in the coaching philosophy.

The coach develops a team that displays Christian self-government, unity, hard work, setting and pursuing goals, and self-discipline. Coaches help athletes understand the difference between Christ-like and worldly behavior, learn how to achieve a goal, and benefit from positive discipline.

The coach assists the student-athlete both in the development of skills necessary to contribute to the success of the team and skills which are age- and ability- appropriate to the teams. The coaching staff is responsible to bring these skills together to compete at a level in line with the team's developmental level (middle school or high school) and ability. It is important for the coach to stress the importance of athletes giving their very best; "...whatever you do...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Colossians 3:17). Winning shall never be as important as the student-athlete's efforts to win, the process is more important than the result.

Characteristics of a Master's Academy Volunteer Coach

- Be a professing Christian and is strongly encouraged to be in regular attendance at a home church.
- View coaching as an opportunity for ministry; recognizing the platform to model Christian life principles along with athletic strategies and the tremendous influence they will have on the student athlete.
- Provide overall leadership for the program, establishing direction and goals for their specific sport.

- Work positively in all interactions and relationships within the athletic department, coaching team, school staff, families and students
- Remember they are part of the Master's "team" and are critical components to promoting the vision and mission of Master's. Their sport is no more important or less important than any other sport teams.
- Model and teach appropriate behavior and correct inappropriate behaviors – expect and accept only good sportsmanship and behavior during all practices, games, on buses and while visiting other schools.
- Respect and support the contest officials who govern the sport. If a coach is ejected from a game, they will meet with the Athletic Director in the week following.
- Prepare for practice every day in order to maximize learning and commit to a regular practice routine that will help athletes improve
- Communicate openly and honestly with athletes and parents

Responsibilities of a Master's Academy Volunteer Coach

Coaches are bound by the rules and regulations as set forth by the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSA), by the Sunshine State Athletic Association (SSAA), by the Florida Atlantic Middle School League (FAMSL) and by the rules and regulations governing each sport.

General Responsibilities:

- 1) All Head Coaches need to be fingerprinted for a background check. An appointment will need to be made with Cynthia Nixon to start the process. (Any full time MAVB staff are already covered for this.) After this year, returning Head Coaches will be monitored and every 5 years have their fingerprints run again.
- 2) All Head Coaches need to have a completed MAVB Athletic Department Coach's Application on file in the Athletic Department Office.
- 3) Each Head Coach will meet with the Athletic Director 2-4 weeks before the first day of practice to talk about any issues or plans for the upcoming season.
- 4) Each Head Coach will meet with the Athletic Director 2 weeks after the last competition to evaluate the season and any issues.
- 5) All Head Coaches need to have some sort of assistant with them. This can be a parent, but ideally this is a true Assistant Coach. This will help with actual coaching, but in addition to that it helps protect the coach and the athletes.
- 6) Before anybody can be brought on as an assistant coach, they do need to meet with the Athletic Director and receive his approval too. They also should fill in an application to be held on file in the Athletic Department office.
- 7) An adult who has been background checked should always be with the athletes, this could include a full time MAVB staff member too.
- 8) When you are on campus for practices and games you will undoubtedly cross paths with other students, not on your team. For example, elementary students in after care. Be friendly to these students but please refrain from extra interaction with them. If you have any items for your team,

like snacks, unique drinks, or whatever, please do not share with kids or students not on your team, and especially not with younger children.

- 9) Know the Athletic Handbook and reinforce its rules and policies. Each coach is encouraged to develop their own Standard of Excellence for their team that is in line with the Athletic Handbook but specific to their team. A copy of this should be given to each athlete and to the Athletic Director to have on file.
- 10) Honor Master's Academy's order of priorities: 1.) God and family, 2.) School, 3.) Current athletic event.
- 11) Always encourage scholarship. Communicate with the Athletic Assistant regarding athletes that are struggling. Make note of when Progress Reports and Report Cards are due, as these are when athletes could be placed on academic probation or become ineligible.
- 12) The actions of a coach should be consistent with Master's Academy's philosophy of Christian self-government and Christlikeness. Coaches should ensure that there are times of prayer and devotion in practices and competitions. Coaches need to be intentional to include spiritual formation in their program.
- 13) Never allow a student-athlete to practice or participate in a contest if there is any doubt as to his physical condition or eligibility. Any head injury needs to be carefully evaluated according to FHSAA or SSAA concussion protocol. "When in doubt sit them out."
- 14) The language of a coach should be proper and in good taste. Never use profanity or allow it to be used, even among the coaches.
- 15) Never use alcoholic or tobacco products while on duty as a coach or on school grounds.
- 16) The use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited and will result in the immediate removal from all coaching duties.
- 17) Each coach is responsible for developing and maintaining a consistent practice schedule.
- 18) Students are encouraged to attend help-class on Wednesday afternoons, as needed. Because of our association with Pathway Church and connection with various other churches that have youth activities on Wednesday nights, practices should be shortened on Wednesdays to allow athletes to attend those church events.
Because of the high value of these 2 events on Wednesdays, athletes should not be punished nor feel negative pressure should they miss practice for either of these events.
- 19) All competitions and facilities involving Master's Academy student-athletes and/or teams must be approved by the Athletic Director. Any changes or additions to the schedule must be done through the athletic office.
- 20) Coaches are responsible for all the equipment to be used in their sport.
- 21) Coaches are responsible for issuing and maintaining proper care for all practice and game uniforms.
- 22) Coaches are responsible to help maintain the athletic inventory. Coaches must see that all equipment is properly returned to storage after practices and games. Any loss or damage of equipment or tearing of uniforms must be reported and replacement or maintenance requested.
- 23) Purchasing of athletic equipment and uniforms is the responsibility of the Athletic Director in conjunction with the athletic budget. The purchase of new uniforms will be considered after 4 years and then for sure after 5 years. If a coach orders equipment without first obtaining appropriate permission from the Athletic Director, the coach may be personally liable for payment of that order.

- 24) Every coach is asked to help throughout the year in promotion of all activities and events of Master's Academy. We are a team attempting to help everyone achieve success.
- 25) Coaches are responsible to help inform families of the online registration process and have turned in to the athletic office all necessary athletic forms and parental consent forms. All registration is done online and fees paid online or by check/cash
- 26) The head coach is responsible for keeping accurate and complete statistics and records and must give them to the Athletic Director as requested.
- 27) A coach is expected to stay after practices and games until every player has been picked up. Student athletes or the team should never be left alone or unsupervised. Parents should be given notification of an expected time to pick up their student-athletes. Encouragement should be given to parents and players to be prompt with rides home.
- 28) Be sure student-athletes look neat and are always dressed as they represent Master's Academy.
- 29) Report all game scores and other pertinent information to all media outlets if that option is available, as soon as possible after home and away games.
- 30) Follow the established fundraising protocol as necessary to assist in funding for your sport (with prior approval of the Athletic Director).
- 31) All coaches should communicate openly with the Athletic Director, Headmaster, parents, and athletes.
- 32) Middle School coaches are asked to do their best to give playing time to every athlete at least once every two games. In other words, if an athlete did not play at all in a game, try to get them in the next game.
- 33) Middle School coaches are also encouraged to limit Wednesday practices as much as possible to allow the student-athletes to keep up with their other responsibilities. Exceptions can be made but it should not be a regular occurrence.

ATHLETIC TEAM CLOTHING

- All team clothing articles, styles and imprinting must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.
- All team uniforms must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP

Using the Pathway Church Worship Center for practices or competitions

- Make sure everyone stays off the stage and away from the equipment
- No students are to be in tech booth, even to lower or raise basketball hoops
- Ensure athletes leave no garbage, clothing, water bottles, etc., after practice sessions
- Remember there is expensive sound and lighting equipment and somewhat delicate walls, so encourage appropriate activities in accordance with this
- Remind athletes to not run in hallways, even if very thirsty.
- Do not permit activities on the stage

Using outdoor Master's Academy Facilities

- Require athletes to pick up after practices and competitions, including athletic tape and wrap, general garbage, clothing, etc.
- Require athletes to help pick up equipment; cones, flags, balls, etc., and help return them to where they belong – PE shed, your vehicle, other storage locations, water jugs, etc.
- Ensure all outdoor sport athletes know to remove cleats before entering the main church building or stomp their feet to remove grass, mud or clay outside if not wearing cleats
- Place any large equipment back where they were before practice, like benches, goals, or bleachers.

Using any other facility

- Ensure all agreements, forms, certificates of insurance, etc., are completed, in conjunction with athletic office
- Ensure good communication for scheduling, which should also include the Athletic Director, for his awareness, keep in mind some locations only want to deal with the Athletic Director.
- Ensure athletes follow any rules of the facility
- Ensure the facility is clean or better than the way it was found.

Inclement Weather

The safety of athletes, coaches and spectators is always the most important issue when inclement weather develops. Typically speaking our biggest issue is lightning, but consideration should also be given to excessive rainfall, high winds and in rare situations, extreme cold. Playability of the field and protection of all individuals needs to be considered before, or for a suspension of, a practice or game in these types of weather situations.

Lightning

There are various forms of lightening detection. The Weather Bug app on a Smart Phone is a good one. The Athletic Department has some pocket size Strike Alert pagers. Whatever app or device that is used should be monitored when inclement weather is approaching. A specific person should be assigned the duty of monitoring the approaching weather and then letting the other coaches know the progress.

When lightning strikes are 10 miles out, coaches and officials should be put on alert that the storm is getting close. When lightning strikes are at 6 miles, all outdoor activities should cease immediately, and everybody should take cover in a well-protected facility, or they should take cover in vehicles.

Practice or games may resume after 30 minutes from the last strike within the 6-mile range.

Excessive Heat

Please be aware of what the FHSAA policy 41 says about Heat Acclimatization and please take extra water breaks and rest times when the Heat Index is at 90 degrees F or above. High humidity and high temperatures can be dangerous so please operate on the side of extra precaution, rest and water. Have athletes bring water bottles to practices and games.

**COACH'S
AGREEMENT**

As a volunteer coach for Master's Academy, I have read and agree to abide by the Coach's Handbook, and I also agree to abide by policies of Master's Academy and the Athletic Handbook for the 2024-2025 academic-athletic year.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____