

Southern California A.C.E.S Basketball Academy

"Athletes Changing their Environment Successfully"



2023-2024 Parent Handbook

WELCOME TO A.C.E.S. !!!

The *Southern California A.C.E.S. Basketball Academy* would like to welcome all parents/guardians as well as new and returning members to the organization. This booklet has been written to provide you with information about our organization. Enclosed you will find the updated policies and procedures for the organization with a Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Page for the upcoming season. All players and parents or guardians must sign, and turn it in to their Team Administrator. Once again welcome to the A.C.E.S., and we look forward to working with you and making this year a very successful year.

Executive Staff:

President & Founder..... Prince Cassell
VP Program.....Kofi Bass
VP Operations David Williams
Director Youth Program..... Adrian Royal
Brand Ambassador..... Gary Scott
Executive Program Administrators.....Kela Taylor & Crystal Espinosa
Logistics & Social Media.....Dylan Stewart

Teams/Coaches

8u 2nd Grade.....
9u 3rd Grade.....
10u 4th Grade.....
11u 5th Grade.....
12u 6th Grade.....
13u 7th Grade.....
14u 2027.....
14u 8th Grade.....
HIGH SCHOOL.....
Girls.....

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Mission

Seek – young men and women who have a hunger and desire to excel in the sport of basketball and life.

Teach – use basketball as a vehicle to teach life lessons, while incorporating the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Send - prepare them to go into the world and make a difference in their communities

Power of Prayer

Our goal is to end each day with prayer and Give Thanks to our Lord and Savior. Prayers will be led by coaches and Directors.

We will also ask our players, who are comfortable, to lead us from time to time. Parents are always welcome to join us in Prayer.

Travel Teams

Teams will play in high-profile exposure events, both locally and nationally. A.C.E.S. is based on several notions and ideas that we believe makeup quality players and teams.

Each team will have from 8-10 players. There may also be more than one team in an age category. The coaches and directors will decide how the teams will be divided. Some individuals may move around during the season at various times for different reasons.

Playing on the A.C.E.S. teams may not be for everyone. We need quality and committed players and parents throughout our program. This is a high level of competitive basketball. Thus, players and parents should treat it this way, with a high commitment. Any player who does not make one of our travel teams can participate as a practice player in order to develop their skills before the next tryout.

Tournament & League Play

We will attempt to play tournament games at least every other weekend. The A.C.E.S. teams primarily play in tournaments but also have the option to play in leagues, one-day shootouts, and individual games. Tournaments are not only located in Southern California but are also regional and national in order to get the most exposure and play against the best competition.

League play is important because it allows players to compete on a weekly basis. League allows further development of the team between tournament play. Teams can't grow and improve by only playing every two to three weeks and most players don't always get the type of real game development they need to compete during tournament competition. Also, league play is another avenue for exposure for players.

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Team Reps

In order for each team to function at the highest level of organization, we need to fill the following volunteer positions:

- Team Administrator
- Fundraising Rep.
- Photographer/Videographer

Tryouts

We will have open team tryouts for each club team twice a year, Spring and Fall. A.C.E.S. reserves the right to cancel annual tryouts if the Coach deems tryouts unnecessary. The open tryout evaluation will last from one to four tryout sessions. At that time, we will select players based on:

- The player's current talent and ability
- Character and Dedication of parents
- How the player makes individuals around him better
- Attitude of player
- Commitment by player and parent.

At times we do invite players to be on a team. This can occur when an exceptionally talented player is asked to join a team after tryouts and teams have been formed. Also, there are cases where a team may lose players during the season and the coach has to recruit players to fill certain needs.

The Player

We hope that players and parents understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program, taking in consideration that your future off the court is more important than your time on the court. Once you have committed to join the A.C.E.S., you agree to abide by the policies of the program and your team. It is mandatory that each player give their best effort in practice and in games. Our commitment is to players who are serious and are willing to work hard to be better individuals and players. Players who are insincere and don't come to practice will limit their playing time and/or be released from the team.

Players are not allowed to play on any other travel or Club team while playing with the A.C.E.S. program. Being on the A.C.E.S. travel team is a major commitment and requires a high level of loyalty and responsibility. The A.C.E.S. basketball team is a high priority, and players and parents should understand the importance of commitment and loyalty.

This commitment is a year-long commitment. For youth teams, the basketball season is typically from September through mid-July. The high school travel basketball season begins in February or March and continues through September - depending on when the high school season ends. If you have committed to the program, the Club will honor its commitment to you. No player will be cut from a team during a basketball season unless it is for disciplinary reasons or for failure to maintain the required grade point average.

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Academics

A.C.E.S. will uphold its policy of academics. Student-athletes must uphold a minimum GPA of 2.5 to participate in game situations. If a student-athlete falls below the 2.5 GPA they will be relegated to tutoring, designated either by A.C.E.S. or the parents. Parents are still held accountable for dues during the suspension of a student-athlete. Athletes must still attend all practices and games. Progress reports and or report cards must be turned in by the 15th of each month to the coach/ Team rep. Any athlete who is not on the GPA system must be in a satisfactory standing with the school.

Insurance

All players and coaches will be covered by secondary liability insurance through A.C.E.S.. They cover practice or any tournaments. Secondary coverage applies to costs that the parent's private insurance does not cover. If parents do not have insurance, A.C.E.S. insurance becomes primary if the player gets hurt at practice or a tournament, but there is a limit and deductible. A.C.E.S. will also carry secondary insurance, to cover team functions and travel with the TEAM to and from games.

The Parents

Enthusiastic parental support and involvement is a MUST. If your child is selected and chooses to commit to the A.C.E.S. Basketball Program, the program cannot be successful unless parents show their support and participation. If players are to make a quality commitment to the program and their team, parents must see to it players attend all possible programs and team functions (practices, meetings, games, etc.). When parents or players have an unavoidable conflict, the program expects timely communication to see if the Club or team can make any necessary adjustments. All parents should communicate with the Coach first if a conflict or problem arises. If a problem or conflict cannot be resolved between the Coach and the parents, then the parent or parents may discuss the problem with either the Director or President.

The Parents (cont'd)

Club and travel basketball is very competitive and is played at a higher level than any other youth basketball program. At the same time players who made the A.C.E.S. travel team commit themselves to a long process. Each player is talented, and as a result, desires to play as many minutes as possible. Our program management certainly understands that. Our coaches and directors are making decisions all the time about playing time, team strategy, and the development of the A.C.E.S. program. The A.C.E.S. Program has a general policy about not discussing the number of minutes a player gets publicly with any parent. That should be a private conversation. Game time minutes are determined by how hard a player works, the situation of the game, the judgment of the coach, and talent.

Your child will not be able to play with other club programs while enrolled with A.C.E.S

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As a result, **parents** will not be allowed to engage in the following:

- Criticize any players, coaches, or staff members in any fashion to hinder the philosophy of the program.
- **Please do not post any negative comments/pictures about the program on Social Media**
- **Coaching your son from the sidelines, continually try to get his attention during play.**
- Engage in the topic of playing time with the coaching staff publicly.
- Verbally attack any coaching members game referees or officials.
- Display a negative behavior, which interferes with the positive and professionalism of the A.C.E.S. Program.
- **Uphold the 48-hour Rule. (If you have anything negative to discuss with the Coach after a game, please wait 48 hours before approaching, however, positive feedback is welcomed at any time)**

The A.C.E.S. program will adhere to a no-tolerance policy on the above issues. Players and parents may be removed from participation in the program. As parents, we must be cognizant of our responsibility as role models for our young men and must handle every situation tactfully and appropriately.

Sideline Coaching

No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your son or yelling (complaining) to the coach during practice or games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play. It is important players are not distracted at practices and during games, and that players are given only one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after practices and games. For this reason, the program insists the team coach be the only voice at all games and practices. (Your child will be pulled out of a game or practice if you cannot adhere to this rule).

Our coaches understand to keep the team in mind first and foremost. There will be times coaches make decisions and players are instructed to do something parents will not understand. Players must follow the rules and be responsible for their actions. Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy team environment. Also, since players are at different talent levels some players may get more playing time than others. It is very important that players and parents understand this.

The Coach

All of our coaches are committed and qualified. They have various experiences either at the high school level or in coaching travel basketball. The coaches for A.C.E.S. are instructed to conduct themselves first as mentors and teachers and then second as basketball coaches. In this regard, you can expect coaches to conduct themselves as role models and display appropriate behavior. Our coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on players' lives.

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Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team - on and off the court - when the team is together and part of an event. We insist our players are polite, well-behaved, respectful, but competitive and passionate. Players and parents can expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from the coach. Coaches will attend coaching clinics as the opportunities arise. Each coach throughout the entire program will be running the same coaching philosophy and system. Head coaches do receive a monthly stipend, and are reimbursed for expenses incurred including travel expenses, food, and lodging at tournaments.

Practice

All practices will be inside facilities unless it is unavoidable. All teams will practice twice a week. Practice times can range from 90 minutes to 3 hours. Practice is mandatory for every player. If a player cannot make practice, the coach **MUST** be contacted in advance. Not calling the coach may result in disciplinary action. Valid excuses for any absences would be medical or family emergencies. Players who get injured are still required to attend all practices although they may not be able to play due to their injury. Practice times are sacred. There should be no disruption and silence is golden when the Coach is teaching. If younger siblings are in attendance, parents must supervise them. It is also important to understand that development and competitiveness is an important team goal and **PLAYING TIME IS NOT GIVEN, IT'S EARNED. WE DO NOT GUARANTEE PLAYING TIME TO ANYONE.** Some players will play more than others. We hope that each parent sees the value of making the sacrifice for their child by getting them to practice on time. It should be noted that one of the hardest parts of running the A.C.E.S. Program is finding vacant gym time. We would love to lock down gym times every week throughout the year. Unfortunately, it is not always that easy. We will try to keep practices at the same gym sites on a regular basis, however, please understand that everyone needs to be flexible.

Individual Training

Individual and group training is also available through our staff. We have established Sunday evenings during non-tournament weekend for our Academy nights. The Academy will focus on fundamentals and techniques for all age groups. Every participant must have certain equipment to participate (i.e. jump ropes). The schedule for the Academy will be posted for each month on our website. Fees are \$25 for A.C.E.S. players per visit and \$40 for non-A.C.E.S. members. Individual training is also available at rates from \$40 to \$55 for 9U through 12U per hour, \$40 to \$55 for 13U through high school. Rates depend on the coach and his availability. There is also small group training for \$45 an hour. Updated Schedule of Training TBD

Before and After the Game

Each player is expected to arrive at the gym at the designated time set by the coach (usually an hour prior to the game). Players need to check in with their coach, sit with their team, and mentally focus on basketball when they arrive at the gym. Players should also be prepared with the required equipment (shoes, uniform, water, etc.) and be ready to play. Since playing requires undivided attention each player needs to be with their team at games until the coach has dismissed them. This includes half-time and the conclusion of games.

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At the conclusion of games, players are expected to shake hands with the other team and thank the referees for a great game, then immediately join the team and coach for post-game discussion.

When team responsibilities are over, players are free to join family and friends. Rest periods between games may be spent with family members or friends if time and the coach permit. However, the period between games is not to be seen as family time, vacation time, or time to go sightseeing. There will be times when the coach will require the team to stay together while waiting for the next game. At other times, the coach may allow players to go with family or friends. This decision will be left entirely up to the coach and he is free to reverse any decision at any time if it is in the best interest of the team. Individual exceptions may be made if the situation warrants but that decision, as well, will be left entirely up to the coach, whose decision will be final.

Fundraisers

Participating in fundraisers is MANDATORY! In order to sustain the program, it is important that we develop revenue in order to be a quality program. Participating in fundraisers also allows us to reduce the cost for out-of-town tournaments and travel. Each player **MUST** participate in all fundraising activities or parents have the option of making a personal donation for the minimum amount each player has to raise. Our goal is three major fundraisers a year in addition to our tournaments. If you have additional ideas for us to raise money, please share your ideas with your team's fundraising representative. To minimize the cost of tournaments and practice gym facilities, we will ask each family to

Tournaments

- Every scholarship player's family can Volunteer TO WORK 6 HOURS at each tournament.
- For Any events we collaborate with other Organizations, we will charge tourney fees, parents do not have to work
- Any profits from raffles or other fundraising ideas during the tourney go directly to that team.
- We will host 3 – 5 tournaments annually.

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Sponsorships

- If possible, we ask each family to solicit sponsorships that can be restricted to their particular team or to the General Operating Funds.
- 100% of all sponsorships will go directly into the club scholarship fund or General Operating Funds.

Scholarships

- Financial hardships will be examined on a case-by-case basis.
- Players on scholarships are **REQUIRED** to pay a percentage of the dues and raise at least 20% above the required minimum in every fundraiser and donate their time as needed.
- In some circumstances financial statements may be necessary to prove a financial need.

Club Fees

Club fees are \$170/month + \$90/month (Two Tournaments) ((Total of \$260)) per person if paid via automatic payment on the first of each month. Any non-automatic payment will be required to pay a three-month downpayment at a rate of \$295/month. It includes administration, gym fees, coaching, insurance, and website administration. **Any player who gets a short-term injury will still be responsible for the monthly club fee of \$170/month in order to reserve their spot on the team. Any injury longer than 8 weeks will not require club fees to be paid and does not guarantee a spot on the team.**

If there is a third tournament, agreed upon by the team and coach, an additional fee of \$450/team will be assigned. The fee is to be collected by the team paid per player to add up to the \$450 total. This fee is to cover tournament fees and additional time of the coach.

Uniforms/ Spirit Packs

In most cases, parents will purchase spirit packs (\$225). This includes two shirts, and a travel bag and socks, and a practice jersey. Players are also responsible for items such as shoes and. If the uniform is purchased, it's yours to keep. If the uniform was acquired through a sponsorship or fundraiser, then it must be returned at the end of the season.

Travel/Accommodations

Parents are responsible for getting their kids to all local tournaments. In the event of an out-of-town tournament, **the team discusses travel arrangements, via carpool, van, bus, plane, etc.** When traveling, we are on business, not a vacation. Please respect that and adhere to the itinerary. There will be strict bed curfews (min. 8 hours sleep) that the athletes will have to adhere to. If your child is traveling with the coach or another parent, in your absence, please provide them with enough money for any additional expenses. Also, inform the Coach and parent of any medical and or emergency procedures. The expenses of the coach shall be divided equally amongst all players. We will conduct fundraisers to help alleviate and offset the cost of traveling.

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Community Service

All students and Athletes must donate 4 -8 hours in a season for community service. We will have designated events that everyone must participate in. There will be an opportunity during the holiday season to obtain community service hours. It's very important our athletes understand that giving back to people less fortunate will build a well-rounded individual.

After-School Programs (coming soon)

We hope to begin our after-school program in a facility in the Anaheim/Orange community ASAP. The programs will service all cities within a 15-mile radius. We want to create an environment that will serve all of the needs of our student-athletes. "It takes a village to raise a child" and we are building that village soon. Please stay tuned for more information. Programs that will be offered: We need any assistance or experience you have to get this off the ground.

- **Tutoring**
- **SAT prep classes**
- **Computer lab**
- **Game Room**
- **Life skills classes (i.e. how to apply for a job, college)**
- **Cafeteria (for after-school meals)**
- **Vans to Bus in kids**

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Players Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Player's Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will encourage good sportsmanship from my fellow players, coaches, and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.

I understand that I represent the A.C.E.S. at all times, and accept the responsibility of displaying a positive behavior at all times.

I will not post any negative comments about the program or Teammates on Social Media

I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot make them.

I understand that my playing time will be based on my ability and practice with my team.

During a game, if I am not on the floor, I will stay engaged and cheer on my teammates. I will adhere to the policy of **"No backs against the seats."**

I will treat my coaches, other players, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.

I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.

I will do my very best in school. I understand that I must retain at least a 2.5 GPA to continue to participate with the A.C.E.S. I will turn in my progress report on a monthly basis. If at any time I fall below a 2.5, then I will not be able to participate in games until I achieve a 2.5 or better.

I take full responsibility for all uniforms assigned to me and within my possession. Should any of the uniforms assigned to me become lost and/or damaged, my parents or guardian will be financially responsible for replacing all items.

I understand that I must be well-groomed at all times. A well-groomed appearance shall be defined as the shaving of facial hair, clean clothing, and overall decent personal hygiene.

I understand that I must treat the opponents with respect at all times, and shake hands after every game (including the officials).

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I will respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the game.

I will be early to practice (at least 15 minutes). If running late or sick, all calls must be phoned in prior to practice. If you're early, then you're on time; if you're on time you're late; if you're late, you're in trouble.

I will BE RESPECTFUL of my coaches and teammates.

I will not kneel, lean against a wall, or sit during practice.

In the unlikely case of a fight or disagreement on the floor, I will stay on the bench. However, it is important that I protect myself and my teammates, if necessary.

I will not talk to anyone in the stands during the game.

I will win with character and IF we lose... lose with character! We WIN as a TEAM and we LOSE as a TEAM!

Players will be required to contact the coach prior to any practice or game they may miss or be late to. Unexcused absences from practice will result in reduced playing time, not playing a particular game, or not playing in a tournament. If you miss a practice, you must miss one game for every practice you miss in a given week. You must still attend the game. If you miss two practices in a row, you must miss an entire tournament, but you must attend the tournament and each game. Excused absences will be at the discretion of the coach.

Players are not allowed to play on any other travel basketball team. In consultation with your Coach, players may play on local recreational teams or NJB teams, (only to enhance skill sets) with the understanding that A.C.E.S. is their priority team and they are not allowed to miss any practices or games due to recreational or NJB basketball practices or games.

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Parents Code of Ethics

I and my friends and family will remain in the stands at all times during practices and games, unless a coach from my child's team ask or beckons for me to come out of the stands.

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Code of Ethics.

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.

I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.

I will not post any negative comments about the program or Teammates on Social Media

I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sport environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth events.

I will remember that the game is for the children, and NOT the adults.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by supporting the coaches, being a respectful fan, providing transportation, or whatever else I am capable of doing.

I understand that if I, any of my friends, or relatives threaten any player, coach, or representative of the A.C.E.S. Organization, I will be asked to return everything that belongs to the A.C.E.S., and my child's membership with the A.C.E.S. will be terminated.

I will promise that my child will adhere to all of the team rules set forth by their coach, as well as all Organizational rules.

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I will promise to have a positive and cooperative relationship with the coaches, parents, and team reps of my child's team.

I will promise not to make any derogatory remarks or gestures to players, coaches, officials, league administrators, or parents of the opposing team.

I will promise not to use excessive profanity in or around the presence of the kids.

I will not represent A.C.E.S. in any matters at any time without the permission from one of the Executive Staff members.

I will not shout instructions or coach my son/daughter during the games or practices.

I will emphasize good sportsmanship and good academics.

I will support the A.C.E.S. program at home. Your child's attitude many times will be an exact reflection of your own.

I understand that there is not guaranteed playing time for any player.

I will pay my monthly dues on time.

I will sit down and go over the rules with my child.

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Parent/Guardian and Player Acknowledgement

(YOUR COPY)

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and accept the information in the A.C.E.S. Basketball Parent/Player Handbook. I recognize that my eligibility for participation in the club is contingent upon my following the spirit of its contents. I agree to the following rules that have been set forth for the A.C.E.S. Basketball program. I understand that not following any or all of these rules will result in suspension, or even revoked from the A.C.E.S. program. I understand that I also have the right to have any grievances heard by the A.C.E.S. staff, after presenting them with a written complaint, which has also been given to the team's coach as well.

Parent or Guardian Name (please print)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Player's Name (please print)

Player's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian and Player Acknowledgement

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Player's Name (please print)

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