

## Core Team and Core Team Meetings

### THE STARTING POINT

The primary purpose of all Athletes IV student ministries or chapters is mission— i.e. to reach “every team, every teammate.” Therefore, the primary need in starting and carrying out Athletes IV ministries is to find and invite student athletes into partnership with us in this mission. And although any given ministry may start with only a few (maybe even only one!), the number of “core” students should grow into a “team” of ministry partners with us.

### THE CORE TEAM

The “Core Team” of an Athletes IV ministry is made up of student athletes who are partnered together with us (and with one another) in our mission of reaching “every team, every teammate.” Like a sports team, an Athletes IV “Core Team” will be made up of members who have different roles on the team (e.g. some are leaders; some aren’t)—but all are engaged in mission. And, like a sports team, there are certain commitments that “Core Team” members make to us (things we can expect from them), and certain commitments that we make to them (things they can expect from us).

Personal outreach to teammates and student-led, team-based, outreach-focused ministries (with Team Outreach Bible Studies being a key strategy for these ministries) are the “Core Team” members’ primary commitment to us and primary means of partnership with us in our mission.

Our primary commitment and means of partnership with them is to give them what they need to carry out these ministries well, to give them what they need as student athletes to live and grow as disciples of Christ in the environments they currently live in, and to give them what they need to be equipped and developed as whole-life disciples and world changers for Jesus for the rest of their lives. This means giving them things like personal encouragement and pastoral care, providing opportunities for spiritual formation and leadership development, and equipping them with skills for outreach and discipleship ministries. Although these things can be given and accomplished through a variety of means, a primary means of giving Core Team members what they need is through regular “Core Team Meetings.”

### CORE TEAM MEETINGS

Core Team Meetings are not just for leaders; nor are they like typical IV Large Group Meetings or even inter-team athlete Bible studies. Core Team Meetings are open for any athlete to attend, however, the primary purpose of the Core Team Meetings is to intentionally build into our Core Team members and the focus of the content in these meetings is to give them what they need.

The best way to describe how a healthy Core Team Meeting works is through the sports analogy of an “open practice.” The meeting is focused on the “Core Team” and giving to the team what it needs—but there are others in the room as well—watching, listening and sometimes (different from the analogy) even participating in what is going on. Therefore, each week non-core member Christians (and even not-yet and not-now followers of Jesus) may be coming to the Core Team Meetings—but that doesn’t change the purpose of the meeting or the focus of the content of those meetings. We do hope, however, that these non-Core Team people will be influenced towards Jesus and our mission by what we’re doing with our Core Team members.

A typical weekly Core Team Meeting will only be an hour long (because of the time limitations of student

athletes), and most likely will not include musical worship. However, it will include a variety of pedagogy in the delivery of the content (e.g. large group teaching and sharing, small group discussions, etc.). Topics covered in Core Team Meetings may include (but aren't limited to) evangelism/witness to Christ, ministry skills and leadership development, personal spiritual growth, and following Christ/discipleship issues.