



FCA MASSACHUSETTS

POD CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PLAYBOOK

How the Local Church Supports the POD Coach Who Serves the Mission Field

THE CENTRAL IDEA

The church does not adopt the Huddle. The church adopts the POD Coach who serves the POD.

Pray for them. Care for them. Resource them. Build a team around them. Help them multiply.

THE MINISTRY CHAIN

Area Rep

POD Coach / Huddle Coach

Huddle Leaders

Coaches & Student-Athletes

The church stands behind the POD Coach so the POD Coach can faithfully engage, equip, and empower Huddle Leaders for the long haul.

ENGAGE | EQUIP | EMPOWER

Putting the Heart and Soul Back into Sports ...Together

1

PLAY 1

THE MINISTRY ARCHITECTURE

Clarity protects the mission and keeps every partner in the right role.

— THE POD COACH IS THE MISSIONARY ON THE FIELD

The POD Coach is the primary relational ministry leader serving the schools in the POD. The Area Rep recruits, trains, and coaches that POD Coach. The POD Coach then builds relationships with Huddle Leaders and helps them grow into disciples who make disciples.

ROLE	PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT
Area Representative	Recruit, train, coach, and support the POD Coach.
POD Coach	Own relational oversight of the POD and disciple the Huddle Leaders.
Huddle Leaders	Lead the campus Huddle and disciple peers.
Local Church	Pray for, care for, resource, encourage, and recruit around the POD Coach.

THE CHURCH STANDS BESIDE THE MINISTRY CHAIN

THE CHURCH SUPPORTS THE MISSION BY SUPPORTING THE MISSIONARY

The church should not create a parallel leadership structure around the Huddle. It strengthens the POD Coach Coach) who has already been entrusted with the POD.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- ◆ The Huddle remains appropriately student-led on campus.
- ◆ The POD Coach retains clear responsibility for coaching Huddle Leaders.
- ◆ The Area Rep retains clear responsibility for coaching the POD Coach.
- ◆ The church adds strength without adding confusion or competing ministry expectations.
- ◆ The entire model becomes more sustainable and reproducible.

2

PLAY 2

THE CHURCH HAS FIVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Keep the partnership focused on strengthening the POD Coach.

The church does not need to create another program. It needs to become a dependable home team behind the person serving the local mission field.

RESPONSIBILITY	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
PRAY	Provide spiritual covering for the POD Coach, their family, the schools, and the Huddle Leaders.
CARE	Protect the POD Coach's spiritual health, family health, and long-term ministry sustainability.
RESOURCE	Respond to real needs identified through the POD Coach and FCA staff.
BUILD THE TEAM	Surround the POD Coach with prayer, hospitality, practical help, and additional people.
MULTIPLY	Help identify and recruit future FCA POD Coaches from the congregation.

THE CHURCH'S PRIMARY WIN

THE WIN

The church wins when the POD Coach has what they need to faithfully serve the mission field for the long haul.

THE GUIDING QUESTION

Instead of asking, "How are we going to run ministry at the schools?" ask:

ASK THE POD COACH

What can our church carry so you can focus on relationships, discipleship, and developing Huddle Leaders?

3

PLAY 3

PRAY FOR AND CARE FOR THE POD COACH

A supported POD Coach is more likely to remain healthy, faithful, and effective.

— PRAY FOR THE POD COACH BY NAME

Know the POD Coach. Know their family. Know the schools they serve. Know the Huddle Leaders they are carrying. Make the POD part of the church's regular prayer life.

Pray specifically for:

- ◆ Their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Their family and work responsibilities.
- ◆ Wisdom and discernment.
- ◆ Favor with school personnel.
- ◆ Relationships with Huddle Leaders.
- ◆ Gospel opportunities.
- ◆ Endurance and protection from burnout.
- ◆ Emerging leaders and future POD Coaches.

— CARE FOR THE PERSON, NOT JUST THE MINISTRY

Sometimes the best support is not another assignment. It is pastoral care, friendship, encouragement, and permission to serve at a sustainable pace.

Church leaders or the Church POD Champion should periodically ask:

- ◆ How are you doing spiritually?
- ◆ How is your family doing?
- ◆ Is FCA ministry fitting into a healthy rhythm?
- ◆ Where are you encouraged?
- ◆ Where are you tired or discouraged?
- ◆ Are you carrying something alone that we could help carry?
- ◆ How can we pray for you this week?

MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

We do not want a heroic POD Coach for six months. We want a healthy POD Coach who can serve faithfully for years.

4

PLAY 4

RESOURCE THE POD COACH AND BUILD A SUPPORT TEAM

Let the POD Coach identify needs. The church responds with people, prayer, hospitality, and resources.

— RESOURCE THROUGH THE MINISTRY STRATEGY

The church should not invent projects for the POD. The POD Coach and FCA staff should identify the real ministry needs, and the church can then respond.

Potential needs may include:

- ◆ Bibles and FCA resources.
- ◆ Meals or snacks for approved ministry gatherings.
- ◆ Off-campus meeting space.
- ◆ Printing or communication support.
- ◆ Leadership meals or training support.
- ◆ Camp scholarships or event assistance.
- ◆ Prayer gatherings.
- ◆ Financial partnership with local FCA ministry.
- ◆ Transportation support when appropriate, authorized, and handled through FCA requirements.

— BUILD A CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

CHURCH SUPPORT ROLE	PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT
Church POD Champion	Primary relationship with the POD Coach and FCA Area Rep.
Prayer Captain	Mobilizes prayer for the POD Coach, schools, and ministry needs.

POD Coach Care Partner	Checks on spiritual, family, and personal sustainability.
Hospitality Lead	Coordinates meals, spaces, and approved gatherings when requested.
Resource Coordinator	Helps meet needs identified by the POD Coach.
POD Coach Recruiter	Helps identify future FCA POD Coaches within the church.

IMPORTANT

There is intentionally no "Campus Huddle Director" role for the church. The Huddle Leaders lead the Huddle; the POD Coach coaches the Huddle Leaders.

5

PLAY 5

HELP THE POD COACH MULTIPLY

One of the church's greatest gifts to the mission field is people.

BUILD THE BENCH

The POD Coach should not become the entire ministry. Over time, the church can help the Area Rep and POD Coach identify people who can join the team and share the mission.

Potential POD Coaches may already be sitting in the congregation:

- ◆ Parents.
- ◆ Coaches.
- ◆ Teachers and school staff.
- ◆ Former athletes.
- ◆ College students and young adults.
- ◆ Retirees.
- ◆ Business leaders.
- ◆ Youth leaders and small-group leaders.
- ◆ People with relational credibility in local sports communities.

— THE POD COACH PIPELINE

MULTIPLICATION PIPELINE

Church Member

Recruiting Conversation

FCA Application & Training

POD Team Member

Huddle Coach

Future POD Leader

RECRUITING QUESTION

ASK TOGETHER

Who in our church has God already prepared for this mission field?

THE GOAL

The POD Coach should become less alone over time. A healthy partnership increases prayer, people, shared responsibility, and multiplication without increasing confusion.

6

PLAY 6

SUPPORT HUDDLE LEADERS THROUGH THE POD COACH

The church cares deeply about student leaders without bypassing the POD Coach who is coaching them.

— THE POD COACH REMAINS THE MINISTRY QUARTERBACK

The church certainly cares about Huddle Leaders and student-athletes. But the normal pattern is to support them through the POD Coach rather than around the POD Coach.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTHY SUPPORT

POD COACH IDENTIFIES THE NEED

CHURCH RESPONDS

"Our Huddle Leaders need a leadership night."

"We can provide the space, meal, and hospitality. What do you need?"

"One of our students is looking for a church."

"We will make sure someone is ready to welcome them."

"Our leaders need help learning to pray and study Scripture."

"We can help host an off-campus training that you and FCA lead."

"We need more adults praying for these schools."

"We will build a prayer team around the POD."

DO NOT CREATE A PARALLEL MINISTRY

- ◆ Do not independently take over communication with Huddle Leaders without coordination.
- ◆ Do not turn the campus Huddle into an extension of a church youth program.
- ◆ Do not ask the POD Coach to carry extra church-created programs.
- ◆ Do not replace FCA training, policies, or leadership structure with a separate church process.

THE OPERATING PRINCIPLE

Ask the POD Coach what will help.

7

PLAY 7

CREATE A SIMPLE COMMUNICATION RHYTHM

Strong partnerships are consistent without becoming complicated.

MONTHLY POD COACH CHECK-IN

The primary recurring church meeting should be with the POD Coach, not a separate ministry-planning meeting with student leaders.

QUESTION

WHY IT MATTERS

1. How are you doing?

Start with the person, not the ministry.

2. How is your family?

Protect longevity and healthy priorities.

3. Where is God moving in the POD?

Celebrate and recognize God's work.

4. Where are you stuck?

Surface barriers before they become discouragement.

5. What do your Huddle Leaders need?

Let the POD Coach identify ministry needs.

6. What can our church help carry?

Move from listening to practical support.

7. Who else should we recruit?	Keep multiplication in view.
8. How can we pray?	Return the partnership to dependence on God.

RECOMMENDED RHYTHM

FREQUENCY	CHURCH ACTION
Weekly	Pray for the POD Coach and the schools.
Monthly	Church POD Champion checks in with the POD Coach.
Quarterly	Celebrate stories, review needs, and identify new people who can serve.
Annually	Commission POD Coaches, celebrate fruit, and renew the partnership for the next season.

8

PLAY 8

A 90-DAY CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Start small. Build trust. Add support only where it strengthens the POD Coach.

DAYS 1-30: LEARN THE FIELD

- ◆ Meet the FCA Area Representative.
- ◆ Meet the POD Coach and hear their story.
- ◆ Learn the schools and existing Huddles in the POD.
- ◆ Begin praying for the POD Coach and schools by name.
- ◆ Identify one Church POD Champion.
- ◆ Ask what the POD Coach currently needs most.

DAYS 31-60: BUILD THE SUPPORT TEAM

- ◆ Identify prayer partners.
- ◆ Identify one POD Coach care partner.
- ◆ Identify hospitality and resource support.

- ◆ Introduce potential future FCA POD Coaches to the Area Rep.
- ◆ Create a simple monthly check-in rhythm.

— DAYS 61-90: BEGIN SERVING

- ◆ Meet one practical need identified by the POD Coach.
- ◆ Host an off-campus POD Coach or leader gathering if requested.
- ◆ Establish regular prayer communication.
- ◆ Help the Area Rep and POD Coach recruit one or more additional POD Coaches.
- ◆ Create a clear pathway for students or families to connect with the church when the POD Coach identifies that need.

90-DAY WIN

The POD Coach should feel more supported, more connected, and less alone - without having more meetings or more programs to manage.

9

PLAY 9

MEASURE THE PARTNERSHIP AND PROTECT THE ROLES

The scoreboard is not how much church activity was created. It is whether the POD Coach and mission are stronger.

— THE CHURCH SCOREBOARD

QUESTION	WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
Does the POD Coach know the church is praying?	Spiritual covering
Is the POD Coach healthy and encouraged?	Sustainability
Does the POD Coach have people helping carry the mission?	Teamwork
Are practical needs being met?	Service

Are Huddle Leaders being disciplined by the POD Coach?	Ministry effectiveness
Are students connected to church when appropriate?	Church connection
Are new POD Coaches emerging from the church?	Multiplication
Is the POD Coach becoming less alone over time?	Healthy partnership

— BOUNDARIES THAT PROTECT THE MISSION

- ◆ Coordinate church involvement with the FCA Area Rep and POD Coach.
- ◆ Respect school access policies and the student-led nature of campus Huddles.
- ◆ Follow FCA student-safety and POD Coach requirements.
- ◆ Do not create independent ministry activity that causes confusion about school or FCA sponsorship.
- ◆ Protect student privacy and appropriate adult-student boundaries.
- ◆ Do not use FCA primarily as a church attendance-recruitment strategy.

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Boundaries do not weaken ministry. They protect trust, clarity, and long-term effectiveness.

10

PLAY 10

THE CHURCH COVENANT AND SIDELINE CARD

A simple commitment for churches that want to stand behind the local mission field.

— THE POD CHURCH COVENANT

- ◆ We will pray for our POD Coach.
- ◆ We will care for the POD Coach and their family.
- ◆ We will protect sustainable ministry rhythms.
- ◆ We will listen before deciding what the ministry needs.
- ◆ We will provide people and resources where genuine needs are identified.

- ◆ We will help recruit additional FCA POD Coaches.
- ◆ We will provide hospitality and off-campus ministry space when helpful.
- ◆ We will welcome Huddle Leaders, student-athletes, and families into our church when invited.
- ◆ We will respect the leadership structure of FCA and the student-led nature of campus Huddles.
- ◆ We will help the POD Coach make disciples who make disciples.

— THE CHURCH SIDELINE CARD

MOVEMENT	QUESTION
PRAY	Who are we praying for?
CARE	How is the POD Coach doing?
RESOURCE	What genuine need can we help carry?
RECRUIT	Who else could join the mission?
MULTIPLY	Is the POD Coach becoming less alone and more effective?

THE DEFINING STATEMENT

The church does not adopt the Huddle. The church adopts the POD Coach who serves the POD.

ONE CHURCH. ONE POD. MULTIPLE CAMPUSES. ONE MISSION.

Pray. Care. Resource. Recruit. Multiply.

For His glory. For a greater tomorrow.