



2011-2012

Athletic Handbook

Purpose:

Athletics play an important role in the lives of many students while attending Wichita Christian School. As Christian coaches and athletes, we desire to place Christ as the center of our attention both on and off the athletic field. We are to have His attitudes, His actions, and His mindset in every endeavor.

The arena of competitive sports can be an excellent place to learn and practice this mindset. The athletic program is a tool to teach Godly character that will prevail in circumstances that are sometimes challenging or difficult. The court and the field are great classrooms to teach hard work, discipline, and the importance of working together. Athletes must learn to maintain self-control in the heat of competition, humility in victory, and self-respect in defeat. Our desire is to help our athletes deal with each situation in a manner that would bring glory to God and would instill in them a confidence that God will strengthen us in any temptation or struggle faced in the future.

We, as a Christian school, should be obviously different from the world in our attitudes and actions. We need to encourage our athletes, coaches, and parents to pursue the elevation of Christ's reputation. We must learn to determine our success not from the final score or the record, but in the process of becoming all God would have us become.

Goals:

It is vital that each Christian athlete, coach, and spectator be willing to grow and mature so that God will be pleased. As such, we have listed below some goals of our athletic program. We desire to:

- Teach each player to conform to the image of Christ

- Teach players to work together with Christ-like attitudes and actions, sportsmanship, and cooperation
- Teach submission to authority on and off the field or court
- Teach diligence – to give all your ability and strength to complete a task
- Teach intensity – to give 100% to the task at hand
- Teach dependability – to do what is expected in all situations, to be faithful to attend practices and games
- Teach humility – to demonstrate that God is the source of your abilities, talents, and successes
- Teach endurance – to handle stress, hard work, and problems with God’s strength
- Teach self-control – to not let a situation control you, but control yourself in the situation
- Teach responsibility – to do all that is expected, with or without direct supervision
- Teach love – to be self-sacrificing and show real concern for team members, coaches, and opponents
- Teach a Christian perspective of winning – making God-honoring choices, giving your best, and having purpose beyond self

Policies and Guidelines:

These policies and guidelines have been developed as a tool to help keep athletics in its proper place. Athletics, coaches, and parents must remember that participation in athletics is an extra-curricular privilege that must be earned and maintained. Athletes are leaders. Therefore, Wichita Christian School expects it athletes to be leaders in a positive way, both spiritually and academically. Players are expected to show good conduct, sportsmanship, and attitude on and off the field or court.

- Athletes must agree to represent, with integrity, the name of our Lord, our families, and our school
- Athletes must provide a medical exam every calendar year before being allowed to participate in the athletic program. The forms will be provided by the school and are the financial responsibility of the student
- The following policy regarding failing grades will apply:
 - If an athlete is failing ANY class at the time progress reports come out, the athlete will have a one-week grace period to get ALL grades to passing. After the one week grace period, the athlete will be ineligible until he/she is passing ALL classes.
 - If an athlete fails ANY class for the 9-week grading period, he/she will be ineligible for three weeks. At the end of the three weeks, if the athlete is passing ALL classes, he/she will become eligible again. If the athlete is failing ANY class at the end of the three week period, he/she will remain ineligible until he/she is passing ALL classes.
- All starting positions will be earned and not given. Practices determine who starts
- All players will be at practice dressed for workout, and ready to practice when the coach is ready
- Players will come to practice in appropriate gear, issued by WCS

- Players will not talk while the coaches are talking
- Coaches will display fairness to all athletes
- Questions should be directed to the coaches
- No cell phones at practice or the games – they will not be allowed until practice is over. If found, the coach will confiscate it and turn it in to the principal to be picked up by the parent in the principal’s office – per school handbook policy
- During the games, players will sit next to the coaches when substituting and not at the end of the bench
- All athletes will be expected to play as a team at all times
- All athletes will agree to the terms and conditions regarding practice policies set forth by the head coach of the sport in which they are participating
- Athletes will display a positive Christian attitude at all times understanding that they represent Christ through Wichita Christian School
- At games, respect will be shown to the other team. Our goal is to lift our team up, not to bring the other team down. Negative behavior (i.e. ill looks, slurs, gestures, body language, unsportsmanlike conduct calls, etc.) will not be tolerated despite the actions of others on the opposing team. Negative behavior will be dealt with consistently as the head coach deems appropriate.
- The coach will be responsible for handling negative behavior from opposing players and/or coaches, not the athlete or parent
- Athletes will give support for each other at all times – not only for their team but other WCS teams
- Respect for other’s property will be given at all times. This includes on and off the playing field
- Respect for coaches, officials, parents and teachers is just as important as team respect and personal respect. Therefore, disobedience will not be tolerated (Titus 3:1-2 “Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. To slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate and show true humility toward all men.”)
- The principal and coach will work together to discipline negative classroom behavior
- All athletes should leave an arena and vehicle in better shape than when they found it. This includes picking up belongings, litter, loading equipment for coaches, replacing any moved items, etc.
- All athletes will leave athletic contests outside of Wichita Falls with the team. Exceptions are as follows:
 - Parents who are not present for the contest who give their child permission to ride home with someone else must provide written consent to the head coach PRIOR TO departure for the contest
 - Parents in attendance of the contest may take their own child by giving written consent to the head coach after the contest.
- Game day attire will be as follows:
 - All athletes will wear school uniform as usual to school. Coaches may allow jerseys to be worn over this uniform if it is deemed appropriate by the administration. All athletes will wear travel and pre-game attire as deemed appropriate by the head coach of their sport.

- Off-season conditioning/workouts are just as important as in-season practices to the success of any athletic team. Off-season will begin at 2:30 and is part of the regular school day, and therefore, attendance to off-season workouts is MANDATORY, except for graduating seniors. Athletes who miss off-season workouts will be subject to consequences set forth by the head coach.
- Transportation to practices/off-season workouts:
 - Athletes who do not drive will ride with the head or assistant coach to and from their respective facilities. If a student drives, the coach may (but is not required) give permission to the athlete to take his own car. All athletes who wish to drive their own vehicles must sign a waiver to be kept on file by the athletic director.
- If there are questions or concerns about anything scripture tells us to go directly to that person. Therefore, problems should be taken to the coach. If the problem is still not resolved, then it should be discussed with the athletic director. If the problem is still not resolved, refer to the following WCS policy:
 - If the situation cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, discuss it with the principal.
 - The next step would be to discuss the situation with the superintendent of WCS.
 - Finally, if all the above steps have not proven satisfactory, ask the superintendent to set up an appeals review with the Board of Trustees.

Playing Time:

Each student will have a different role in sports and in life and must learn that God desires for us to live righteously in the role we are given. Our desire is to teach each student to participate from a Christian perspective with righteous attitudes and actions regardless of ability. Selections for playing time are made based on talent, attitude, hard work and team need. Every member participates equally in practice. All varsity players are guaranteed some playing time during the season, but not in every game. Coaches must subjectively evaluate all the factors and make the choices for the best combination to fulfill the responsibility that he or she has to the team, not to just one individual. All junior high athletes will get playing time, although not equally, in all athletic contests. We should teach our athletes to fulfill their role they have been given without grumbling or complaining (Philippians 2:14 “Do all things without complaining or arguing.”).

The athletic director and coaches ask for your prayers and support as we strive to develop a physically disciplined, intellectually alert and spiritually alive athlete. We need your encouragement and cooperation as we work together for the benefit of our children and our school.

Detach and return form to athletic director

Contract

As an athlete at Wichita Christian, I agree to and understand the Athletic Handbook Policy. I understand that there will be consequences if I do not follow these policies and I understand this is a binding agreement between player and coach and I will be held accountable for my actions. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Athletic Handbook policy.

Student signature: _____ **Date**_____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date**_____