

Faith Christian Academy Athletic Handbook

Introduction

We at Faith Christian Academy would like to thank you for being a part of interscholastic sports. We are committed to you learning more than just sports, but life concepts on how you can glorify God. Athletics are trivial unless they are used as 'instruments' to teach lasting eternal values. The pressure, frustration, disappointment, excitement, and achievement experienced in athletics are experiences that can prepare students to handle them beyond the athletic realm.

Let's please God in all that we do, and never quit!

In His Service,
Coach Hobbs
Athletic Director

Philosophy

- All that we have is a gift from God, including physical abilities. We should use them for God's glory.
- Use the athletic realm as a 'laboratory' to cultivate character qualities that last far longer than an athletic career.
- Excellence
- To teach respect for authority.
- To be a witness in our community for Jesus Christ in how we play.
- Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Athletes are servants, not lords. Servant leadership (Lk. 9:48)

Guidelines for Sportsmanship

- Please respect officials. Most are not Christians. This is our greatest opportunity to be a witness.
- Spectators are there for encouragement. This is the greatest effect you can have on a contest. Let the players play, let the coaches coach, and let the spectators encourage them both.
- Players should remember who they represent. Themselves, their families, their team, their school, their church, and most importantly, their God!

Description of Program

Varsity Teams

This is the most highly organized and intense level of high school sport. It is made up of high school students. Occasionally an exceptional eighth grader may be used to fill out the team. Players are placed on varsity teams based on merit, not age. The goals of varsity teams are (1) To glorify God, (2) win games, (3) develop skills. At this level players will learn what it means to fill a role, and sacrifice themselves to make the team better. Individual skill development will be sacrificed at times for the good of the team.

Junior Varsity Teams

Junior varsity teams are made up of high school athletes. Typically the team is 9th and 10th graders, with possibly a few juniors. Seniors will only play JV in rare situations. JV goals are (1) glorify God, (2) develop skills for the varsity team, (3) win, (4) have fun. Again, goal 1 will not be sacrificed to achieve goal 2, etc...

Middle School Teams

This is the youngest level of team at our school. It is comprised of 6th through 8th graders. Goals for middle school teams are (1) glorify God, (2) develop skills and learn the game, (3) win. Middle school athletes are commonly interested in having fun as well, and accomplishing these three goals will result in having fun. Middle school players are not guaranteed playing time. It is important to remember that practices are just as instrumental in accomplishing these goals as games.

Club Teams

Occasionally, we will have a club team. A club team is done to determine interest level of students and feasibility for the school to be able to have a team in that particular area. Club teams are separated from the other teams in that they are not recognized at athletic banquets and athletes are not charged a sports fee.

Athletic Department Policies – School and Class

You will not use athletics as an excuse to get out of academics. Athletics are extra-curricular which means in addition to the curriculum. If you cannot keep up with the curriculum, or academics, then athletics must suffer, not academics.

I. Attendance

A. You must be in school the day of a game or practice to participate. Any exceptions to this rule must have approval from the Athletic Director.

B. You must attend school the day following a game. Any absences will result in missing time from the next game. Any exceptions must have approval from the Athletic Director.

C. In the event of an absence not approved by the Athletic Director, the athlete will miss time in their game/meet/match proportionate to the academic class time missed.

II. Eligibility

***A. Academic Ineligibility**

Any student in grades 6-12 with an F in any subject or a D in any two subjects shall be ineligible to play inter-scholastic sports for 2 weeks following the issuance of a mid-term progress report or a 9-week report card. Ineligibility begins at 3:30 p.m. on the school day after the issuance of a mid-term progress report or a 9-week report card.

B. Eligibility Reinstatement

In order to be reinstated to a team a player must have a written note from the teacher of the subject in which they were ineligible. The note must have their current grade and the teacher's signature and must be brought to the athletic director prior to participating in any practice or game.

C. The athletic director and administration also reserve the right to enforce 'behavioral ineligibility' based on demerit accumulation or other disciplinary situations.

** the following section is the same as the Academic Eligibility section of the Parent-Student Handbook*

Miscellaneous Information

Physical Exams

All athletes must be examined by a certified physician and have a copy of the doctors permission for them to participate with their coach before the first practice session.

Physical examinations are good for one year. No physical exam will be valid for more than one year.

Uniforms and Equipment

If the school has purchased the uniform and/or equipment you are using it on a loan basis. It must be returned in as good of condition as you received it. If a piece of a uniform is damaged, it will be replaced and you will be billed for it.

Uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach who handed them out. If you hand it in to someone other than your coach you take the risk of not receiving credit for it. Leaving it in an office does not qualify as handing it in.

Uniforms must be returned within 10 schooldays of the final game. After this a late fee may be charged.

Awards

At the conclusion of the school year, the athletic department hosts an awards night. Coaches are encouraged to have a get together with their own team prior to the season to recognize achievement within their own teams.

The athletic department sponsors the following awards:

- Participation certificate: awarded to anyone who the coach feels met the requirements of participation through practice and game attendance. Awarded to all levels of teams recognized.
- Varsity letter: a letter is awarded to any player on a varsity who the coach feels made a strong contribution to a team. Ideally, a letter winner is anyone who attends all practices and games. You can make a large contribution to a team without playing in the games through hard work in practice, and encouragement. Therefore, playing in the games is not a prerequisite for receiving a varsity letter. The first year an athlete receives a letter they will receive a chenille letter “F” (for Faith) with a pin representing the sport they lettered in. Each successive year they will receive another pin representing the sport they lettered in.
- Most Improved Player: Can be a player who showed the most improvement from last year to this year or someone who demonstrated considerable improvement from the beginning of the year to end of the year. Simply someone who has demonstrated work ethic and made definite strides of improvement.
- Team Award: This is an award for someone who demonstrates the characteristics it takes to build a team – hard work, commitment, faithfulness, unselfishness – somebody who gives up what they want for the good of the team as a unit.
- Most Outstanding Player: all around the most important player to your team in skill, character, testimony, leadership, etc... Without them your chances of winning are greatly diminished.
- Scholar Athlete Award: awarded to any player receiving a participation certificate who has achieved a 3.2 GPA by the time of the awards night.
- Senior Athlete of the Year: Given to outstanding male and female athletes who have shown excellence in academics, spiritual growth, athletic ability, and sportsmanship. Each athlete must have participated in at least two varsity sports during his/her senior year.

Conclusion

The duration of an athletic contest is only a few minutes, while the training for it may take many weeks of arduous work and continuous exercise of self-effort. The real value of sport is not the actual game played in the limelight of applause but the hours of dogged determination and self-discipline carried out alone, imposed and supervised by an exacting conscience. The applause soon dies away, the prize is left behind, but the character you build up is yours forever.

– Anonymous

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24

Glorify God, and never, ever quit.

FAITH ATHLETICS