

Faith Christian Academy Athletics Handbook



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Faith Christian Academy- SAINTS ATHLETICS

LIVE.PLAY.COMPETE...WITH PURPOSE

Purpose of Faith Christian Academy Athletics Program:

Faith Christian Academy seeks to use; “competition as a tool to drive us to excellence.” (Wes Stafford, Too Small Too Ignore). Our desire in our athletic program is to work to the cause of doing everything ‘to the glory of God’ (1 Corinthians 10:31 & Colossians 3:17). We desire to accomplish this goal through challenging our students to represent the Lord in a distinctive way while being pushed, stretched, and challenged by means of the sport(s) they participate in.

Through the SAINTS Athletics program, we hope to develop students whose desires are to pursue Christ-likeness in every area of life. This can be seen in a pursuit of humility, selflessness, leadership, diligence, faithfulness, commitment to integrity, and joy in playing with excellence. Through competition, we believe that students will encounter many opportunities to grow in these areas and develop a Christian testimony that reveals Christ to officials, opponents, and spectators.

Our desire is for our athletes to glorify and honor God with the talents and abilities they have been given, and for them to be developed through Christian character, discipline, facing adversity, and challenges with a steady eye, and reliance upon our ultimate authority; Jesus Christ.

Keys to Successful Athletics at FCA:

Success-

“...is a peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.” John Wooden

Enthusiasm & Hard Work-

Enthusiasm & passion are contagious and is essential to success! Get excited about your activity--your specific joy--your faith--your school. “There is no substitute for work.” Get out there and challenge yourself!” *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Colossians 3:23*

Sportsmanship-

Promoting and encouraging good sportsmanship by coaches, athletes, fans and parents is very important to the Faith Christian Academy Athletic program. We believe, as a Christian school,

we must hold ourselves to the highest level of sportsmanship and behavior on and off the playing field. The school's administration, athletic department and coaching staff are committed to encourage an environment of enthusiasm and school spirit consistent with high standards of sportsmanship and respect for opposing teams and game officials. (Taunting, negative cheering or any verbal abuse by fans directed towards opponents or an official is incompatible with good sportsmanship and will not be tolerated.)

Faith Christian Academy athletic events should be fun and positively supported. The school and our athletic teams are best served by fan support that is directed enthusiastically toward our athletes.

The Athletes:

- Play hard within the rules of the game.
- Win with humility, lose graciously, and congratulate opposing players and coaches.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions
- Never attempt to injure an opponent
- Remember that you represent Christ, your school, your coaches, and your families, as well as yourself
- Remain positive toward your own coaches and teammates
- Respect the property and facilities of their opponents

The Spectators:

- Treat officials, opposing players, coaches, and fans with respect and courtesy

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:6

Expectations of Athletes:

In order for students to participate in interscholastic athletics there are certain rules and regulations that must be followed. Each coach is responsible for establishing guidelines and expectations for his or her team in regards to practice, travel, etc. Expectations may vary from coach to coach or sport to sport, but FCA has general expectations for all athletes at all levels (see the following):

- Punctuality and preparedness for all practices and games
- Ongoing responsibility for academic work, particularly in cases where classes are missed for game participation
- Dedication to their team and teammates
- A desire to improve skills and knowledge of their sport
- Self-discipline -- athlete will have to sacrifice time and energy for team goals.
- A willingness to work hard and be attentive in practices
- On-going responsibility to represent FCA at all times in a dignified and positive way
- Sportsmanship before, during and after games -- win with class, lose with class

MS/HS Academic Expectations and Eligibility:

Participation in Faith Christian Academy athletics is encouraged at all levels, eligibility is required at the middle and high school levels. Student-athletes are to set the example of modeling the desired characteristics academically to ensure success on and off the field of play.

Academic requirements:

- To be eligible, the student is required to maintain a GPA 2.0 or higher and have no grade lower than a “D-” or 2 “D’s.”
- Grades that determine eligibility are first date of practice or meeting, mid-term and quarter grades.
- If a student becomes ineligible after joining the team, they will have two weeks to improve their grade and during that time they are not allowed to participate in any games/competitions or practices. Instead are encouraged to use that time to work on their course work. If grade requirements are not met after the initial two weeks an additional two weeks will be added to the ineligibility timeline. After the second two weeks, however the student is removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Eligibility can also be removed for school disciplinary reasons (refer to handbook guidelines) as well as any sort of legal issues facing the student-athlete
- In rare instances, if the issue is in regards to discipline, may the Administrator, after conferring with the student, his/her teachers, parents, coach, and Athletic Director, grant special exemptions for ineligibility.

Chain of Command:

If a problem exists for a player in our program, we encourage that player to discuss the concern with their respective coach FIRST.

For Varsity players, this is required before a parent/guardian can contact the coach.

For Junior High players, the player is encouraged to discuss the concern with coach but communication from the parent is also welcomed. If the concern isn't fully resolved at the respective level following a discussion/meeting, the A.D. will be next in line.

We welcome all questions & concerns, but please follow proper channels.