

# WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## **PARENT/ATHLETE MANUAL**

**Updated for 2019/2020**

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At WCS, our athletic purpose is 1) **glorify God**, and 2) **further develop our Christian character** in connection with WCS's overall vision, mission, and core values.

Our competitive philosophy is known as **TO.BY.FOR**. At WCS we compete:

- According **TO** God's Word
- **BY** God's power
- **FOR** God's glory

**Athletes are expected to memorize our purpose, and competitive philosophy.**

## **Sportsmanship**

Since athletics should be educational in nature, it is important that all parents demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as role models. Sportsmanship is an overt display of respect for the rules of sport and for all players, coaches, officials, and fans. It also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

At WCS we have no Tolerance for the following:

- Vulgar or inappropriate language from players/spectators/coaches
- Taunting or trash- talking about anyone
- Spectators may not enter the playing field or court at any time.

Fans will be supportive and positive. Cheering should be done for our team and not against our opponents.

### **WCS Board of Directors' Policy for Sportsmanship**

Interscholastic Athletics are a vital part of the student's education at Wilmington Christian School. Participation in athletics develops values which carryover into the student being a productive adult citizen. The recognition and practice of sportsmanship is an application of the Biblical principle of loving ones neighbors as ones self. Therefore, procedures shall be developed to ensure that the athletic program promotes standards of sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity which are consistent with this principle.

## **Relationships**

### **The Player – Coach Relationship**

The player-coach relationship is perhaps the most critical relationship in athletics. This relationship is one that is both educational and nurturing. This relationship is based on trust and respect.

It is the coach's goal to develop technical skill and individual leadership in his or her players. Coach to player communication should be initiated before communication with parents. Player needs to show true interest in their involvement on the team before a parent should get involved in the situation.

### **The Parent – Coach Relationship**

In your role as a parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for them, but an athlete can have only one coach. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.

A parent can have a pronounced effect on this very important relationship. While you may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when you express your feelings can have a decided effect upon your child. Please help your child have a positive experience by only using positive opinions in front of them about their coach. Should you have any questions or concerns, do not

approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest or practice. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous, and logical manner.

### **The Parent – Player Relationship**

Being positive and supportive is important, but adding pressure and unrealistic expectations can be extremely harmful. Allow your son/daughter to enjoy and grow from this valuable experience.

When you do speak with your child after a contest, don't dwell on his/her play, how many points/goals they scored, or if they started. Instead, first ask how the team did? Did your son/daughter play hard and did they have fun? Be their biggest fan.

### **The Parent – Official Relationship**

Officials are an important part of the game. Officials follow code of ethics. It is also important to understand that they are a necessary part of the game. A contest cannot be played without them. Home schools do not choose the officials. The sports assignor assigns all officials and neither team has control of which officials are assigned. While you may not agree with all their calls, please do not harass and taunt them. It is also important to remember that they are in charge of the contest and complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators, and schools work hard to establish a rapport and good-working relationships that can easily be damaged by spectators.

WCS will not accept any negative talk towards officials. We will show respect at all times.

### **Athletic Chain of Command for Dispute Resolution**

If there are any questions or concerns, the athlete, or parent, should first contact the appropriate coach. If no resolution occurs at that level the parent should contact the head coach. If resolution is still not reached, the athletic director needs to be contacted and a meeting will occur with all involved.

### **Playing time, participation, tryouts and cuts**

It is important to understand that participation on an athletic team at WCS is a privilege and not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership on the team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete. However, unlike recreation or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to excel as a team and as players, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the sport at that time.

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible, it may be necessary in some sports to cut players from a team. This may occur due to limitations of our facilities, regulations specific to some sports, and other factors. Each coach has the responsibility and authority for selecting his/her team. The criteria for selecting the team are developed by the coach.

It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year's JV team, for example, do not automatically make either the JV or Varsity squad the following year. Having been a member of a team during the previous year or even being a senior does not ensure that an athlete will make the varsity team.

Parents should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every consideration.

## **Scheduling and Attendance Policies for Practice and Games**

- Practice sessions should not exceed two hours.
- No practices on Sundays.
- In sports where it is necessary to conduct back-to-back practices due to lack of facilities, the last practice session must be completed by 9:00 PM.
- Varsity coaches are the first to arrive, remain with the athletes, and be the last to leave the practice/game session. At no time are athletes to practice by themselves or be left unsupervised. Coaches remain with students until everyone has a ride home.
  
- School Attendance – a student who has an early dismissal/ late arrival from school may not practice or play on that day unless
  - a) He/she completes 4 periods of class time
  - b) The athlete submits an acceptable parent's or doctor excuse as determined by Principal or Athletic Director
  - c) Granted permission by the administration
  - d) School field trips are the reason for missing school
  - e) If a student misses school, is suspended, has detention or has an unexcused absence, then he/she is not permitted to practice or play that day.
  
- Practice/Game Attendance
  - a) The discipline for unexcused absences from practice will be determined by the head coach.
  - b) A one game suspension will be applied for an unexcused absence from a game.
  - c) If an athlete misses two consecutive games for unexcused reasons, they will be dismissed from the team – or -once an athlete attains three cumulative unexcused absences they will be dismissed from the team.
  
- Policy for Athletes Changing Teams
  - a) Whether by being cut, by quitting, or by being dismissed, an athlete's membership on a team may be altered. Although we want to promote participation, we also want to safeguard fairness and an ethical approach with regard to all coaches and teams. In order to achieve all of the above objectives, the following guidelines will be used:
  - b) Any player cut from a team during tryouts is free to try out for another team, with that coach's approval.
  - c) Any player quitting a team must get the approval of the first and second coach before joining a second team. All obligations such as returning equipment must be completed prior to joining a second team. Once Eligibility sheets have been turned in no one may join a new team.
  - d) Any player dismissed from a squad must get the approval of the athletic director before joining another team. The athletic director will mediate all problems when an athlete changes teams; their decision will be final.

## **Academic Eligibility Requirements**

- Students will have to attain a 2.0 GPA to be eligible to participate in Athletics. All grades and courses taken will be counted towards the GPA.
- Student receiving an "F" for the marking period in any subject will not be eligible to compete for a minimum of the first two weeks of the next marking period. Participation can resume anytime after the two-week period once the teacher, AD, and coach determines that the student is doing passing work.
- Students receiving a failing grade in two (2) successive marking periods will not be eligible to participate, regardless of GPA.

## **The Purpose of JV and Middle School Teams**

Junior Varsity and Middle School teams exist to provide athletes an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the athlete's age, size, or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on JV or MS team may enhance the athlete's potential to make the varsity squad in the future. Striving to win is important in athletics; however, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of JV, or MS teams. The development of athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a JV or MS squad while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning, and enjoying being a member of a team.

## **Post/Game Practice Responsibilities**

Student-athletes waiting and/or loitering in the lobby or outside pose potential problems. Risk of injury and property damage can possibly result from unsupervised gatherings. In part to address this issue, the following guidelines will be used:

- The Coach will be responsible for:
  - a) Supervising their respected area while athletes are present.
  - b) Securing all equipment, locker rooms, fields, and gyms.
  
- The Athlete is responsible for:
  - a) For the arrangement of transportation after practices and games in advance.
  - b) Leaving the building and grounds within 15 minutes after the conclusion of a contest or practice session.
  - c) If an athlete is late being picked up from away games consistently, the athlete will not be allowed to go to away contests.

## **Practice Sessions and Games**

Practice sessions are normally closed to spectators. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction taking place. Interruptions and interference to an athlete's concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in a classroom setting.

- At WCS, practice sessions, when school is in session:
  - a) Normally last no longer than 2 hours.
  - b) May start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or facilities. Check with the coach for specific times or practice calendar.
  - c) Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.
  - d) May or may not be held when school is not in session due to inclement weather – phone chain would be put in place if they have practice.
  - e) May be held on Saturdays and over holiday vacations.
  - f) No practice on Sundays.

## **Athletic Insurance**

If you need Health Insurance for your athlete, you should contact the business office and they will provide you with the appropriate forms you will need.

## **Physicals**

An athlete must have an annual sports physical dated **after April 1** for the up coming school year. **Your doctor must complete a DIAA physical form** to be eligible to play in compliance with our state organization. All forms must be on file with the AD before an athlete may participate in any way on a sports team, this includes practice. Forms are available on the Athletic Department Website or go to the Board of Education for Delaware Website, then on go to DIAA, then Forms.

## **Travel Policy**

On school days, the school will provide transportation to all away athletic contests unless the contest is an evening event locally

- For any Middle School athletic event with a travel time greater than 15 minutes, we will provide a two-way bus with at least one coach on the bus.
- For games with a travel time of 15 minutes or less, a one-way bus will be scheduled. The coach will review the details of the trip with the bus driver to assure that he/she has all necessary information, including directions.
- The coach will also provide his/her cell phone number to the bus driver and travel with (following or leading) the bus to the game.
- In the event of a health, safety or emergency situation during the trip, the driver is to immediately pull over in a safe location and notify the coach of the issue.
- Student drivers may drive to one-way contest, but they are not permitted to drive another athlete unless it is a sibling. Even if you carpool to school, you may not drive that athlete to away contest.

## **Guidelines for Athletic Awards**

To receive athletic awards an athlete must participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total games/matches or  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total quarters. Cross Country and Track have point requirements for receiving awards. There are some additional Coach's recognitions:

- Any senior who has participated with a sport without meeting the awards requirements may receive their varsity letter.
- An athlete who was injured playing the sport may also receive awards
- If a student quits or a parent has pulled their child from the team the athlete will not receive any awards or honors.
- Additional Athletic Honors
  - a) DIAA Scholar Athlete - 3.5 weighted GPA while earning a varsity letter
  - b) Tri – Athlete Award – participates in all three season during high school
  - c) Kelly Marston Memorial Award – Junior student athlete who demonstrates Christian Character, Scholarship, and Athleticism
  - d) Chris Landa Memorial Award – presented to a senior athlete who best represents Leadership, Commitment and Christian Character.
  - e) Outstanding Senior Male/Female Athletes
  - f) David Wilson Memorial – eighth grade athlete who best represents leadership, commitment, and Christian Character.

## **Locker Room Procedures**

- Roughhousing is not allowed.
- Hazing of players is not allowed.
- All showers must be turned off after showering.
- No female managers are allowed in the boy's locker room. No male managers are allowed in the girl's locker room.

- All spiked or cleated shoes are not allowed in the locker rooms or any part of the building.
- It is expected that each locker room is left clean and neat at the end of every day. Coaches are expected to address their athletes if this is not the case.

### **Illegal Drug/Substance Abuse/Tobacco/Alcohol Use**

If a student on a WCS athletic team purchases, possesses, distributes, and/or uses alcohol, tobacco products, and/or illegal drugs, on or off campus, they will be immediately suspended from participation in the sport until appropriate discipline is determined. Discipline could include suspension from practices and games or removal from the team and forfeiture of all privileges that accompany being a member of that team, in addition to other school discipline.

### **Social media**

If a student on a WCS athletic team inappropriately uses social media, they have the potential to be suspended from participation in the sport until appropriate discipline is determined. Discipline could include suspension from practices and games or removal from the team and forfeiture of all privileges that accompany being a member of that team, in addition to other school discipline. Parents and athletes should always remember that our social media presence must appropriately reflect the WCS and athletic department mission, vision, core values, athletic purpose and competitive philosophy. Many future employers and colleges also will investigate potential athletes by searching easily accessible platforms like Facebook, Instagram, etc.

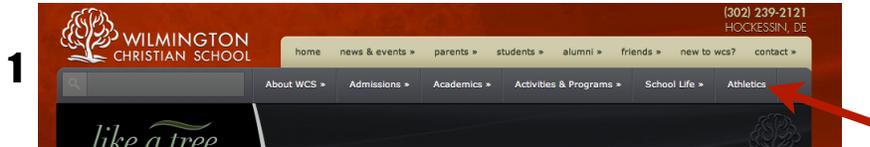
## **Wilmington Christian School Website**

**<http://www.wcswarriorssports.com>**

The parent, athlete, and visitors to keep you updated to all sporting events can use this site regularly. This is the most accurate and up to date site to get changes that occur during the season when events change. This site is updated immediately with the Athletic Director when changes happen. The site gives you dismissal times, transportation times, game time, locations and directions. Please make good use of this information tool.

# Wilmington Christian Athletics

## USING OUR ATHLETIC WEBSITE IN 3 EASY STEPS ...



2

**Athletics**

The goal at Wilmington Christian School is to create a "Higher Standard for Athletics" and to establish a program that will develop young Christian men and women athletically, academically, and in Christian character that will last a lifetime. To do that as coaches, we have to set the standard. Our philosophy of athletics is God, family, school and athletics, in that order. The fulfillment of this will be in the joy of seeing these athletes succeed in their post-graduate lives, careers, and in their Christian journey. This "Journey" is not just based on winning but more on the "5 Key Values" gained through sports and the challenges and rewards that it brings daily.

To achieve this goal all of the coaches on our staff are trained to be "3 Dimensional Coaches" which means that we help our athletes to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. We hope you get a chance to see our "Warriors" in action and enjoy the fun and excitement of scholastic sports!

As we tell all of our Coaches & Athletes: "Make It a Great Day!"

To find out more about how we develop "3 Dimensional Coaches and Athletes" please feel free to contact Joe Thomson, Athletic Director or Pam Love, Assistant Athletic Director

**A**  **WCSWarriorsSports.com**  
Sports Schedules, Results, Rosters & Photos  
Wilmington Christian School  
CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

**B**   
FOR PARENTS

  
FOR COACHES



3

**Athletic Information For Parents**

-  1 DIAA Physical Form
-  1B DIAA Physical Instructions
-  2 Parents Athletes Athletics Manual ←
-  3 WCS Team Rules
-  4 Coach - Parent - Athlete Communication Guide ←
-  A Checklist for College Preparation
-  NCAA Eligibility Center Information
-  The % of Athletes Who Play in College and Pros
-  Parents Guide to Understanding Concussions
-  FREE ONLINE NFHS COURSE - "Concussions in Sports"
-  FREE ONLINE NFHS COURSE - "The Role of Parents in Sports"
-  FREE ONLINE NFHS COURSE - "Sportsmanship"

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