

WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT/ATHLETE MANUAL

Updated July 18, 2016

View of Christian Athletics at WCS

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. 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 life, careers, and in their Christian walk.

Sportsmanship

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

**No Tolerance for the following:*

- 1. Vulgar or inappropriate language from players/spectators/coaches*
- 2. Taunting or trash- talking about anyone*
- 3. 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.*

Board of Directors’ Policy for Sportsmanship

Interscholastic Athletics are a vital part of the student’s education at The 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.

To the Parent

Parenting is often challenging. This effort and responsibility is frequently complicated by being a parent of an athlete. This handbook, with its guidelines and suggestions, will give you some insights into this responsibility. There are many relationships that are involved in being the parent of an athlete. WCS will serve the parents by being mindful that the school and athletics are an extension of the God-given authority of the home and exists to assist parents in carrying out their Scriptural mandate to be their children’s educators.

WCS Coaches will assist parents by helping their children walk:

- With God – Micah 6:8*
- In peace with their peers/opponents/officials.*
- In the world but not of the world.*

Athletic 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. In numerous national studies, it has been determined that most athletes participate for enjoyment or fun. Excessive pressure or expectations can alter this most fundamental reason for playing.

*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? **You need to be their biggest fan!***

The Parent – Official Relationship

Officials are an important part of the game. Officials agree to and follow code of ethics. They really do not care or have a vested interest in which team emerges as the victor. It is also important to understand that they are a very necessary part of the game. A contest cannot be played without them.

The home schools do not choose the officials. The sports assignor assigns all officials and neither team has control of which officials are assigned. So 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

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

Responsibilities of an Athlete (see Code of Conduct)

Display Christian Character by doing the following:

1. The team's goals, welfare and success must come before any individual.
2. Consistently attend practices/games. This also includes weekend and vacation times.
3. Be receptive of coaching.
4. Responsible for maintaining all issued equipment/uniforms.
5. Report all injuries at the time of being injured.
6. Take responsibility and work to enhance the image of athletics not only as a team member, but also as a school.
7. Show respect and be courteous to opponents.
8. Play hard and to the limit's of one's ability.
9. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat. Don't offer excuses.
10. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions, learn to adapt to their calls.
11. Respect the facilities of the host schools.
12. Follow all team/school rules and be a role model for Christ.

Participation on an Athletic Team

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.

Practice/Game Attendance Policies

1. Practice sessions should be well planned, well structured, and should not exceed two hours. No practices on Sundays.
2. In sports where it is necessary to separate back-to-back practices due to lack of facilities, the last practice session must be completed by 9:00 PM.
3. 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 ON SCHOOL GROUNDS UNSUPERVISED. COACHES MUST REMAIN WITH STUDENTS UNTIL THE STUDENTS HAVE A RIDE HOME.**
4. **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 to the main office (legal excuse due to weather, funeral, legal obligations in court)
 - c. Granted permission by the administration.
 - d. Field trips are excused because of academic classes.
 - 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.
5. **Practice/Game Attendance**
 - a. Unexcused absences will follow the same definition as defined in school policy above.
 - b. **Practices** -In terms of unexcused absences from practices coaches will determine how to handle infractions.
 - c. **Missed Games** due to unexcused absence – for every game missed a one game suspension will be administered.
 - d. If an athlete misses two consecutive games unexcused they will be dismissed from the team – or -once an athlete attains three cumulative unexcused absences they will be dismissed from the team.

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 MP in any subject will not be eligible to compete for a minimum of the first two weeks of the MP. 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.*

Making the Team

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 squad.

Parents should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every consideration. Coaches are sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible, and be available to answer athletes' questions. While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many athletes and even for their parents, we unfortunately cannot always keep everyone. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to try out again next season or try another sport. When parents and athletes understand and support the coaches, this difficult process becomes a less painful experience for all.

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.

Policy for Athletes Changing Teams

Whether by being cut, by quitting, or by being dismissed, an athlete's membership on 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:

1. *Any player cut from a squad during tryouts is free to try out for another team, with that coach's approval.*
2. *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.*

3. 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.

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:

- *Supervising their respected area while athletes are present.
- *Securing all equipment, locker rooms, fields, and gyms.

The Athlete is responsible for:

- *For the arrangement of transportation after practices and games in advance.
- *Leaving the building and grounds within 15 minutes after the conclusion of a contest or practice session.
- *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. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.

At WCS, practice sessions, when school is in session:

1. Normally last no longer than 2 hours.
2. 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.
3. Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.
4. 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.
5. May be held on Saturdays and over holiday vacations.
6. 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

- WCS will provide transportation to all away games during the school day, except for local evening games.
- 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, 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

- DIAA Scholar Athlete - 3.5 weighted GPA while earning a varsity letter
- Tri – Athlete Award – participates in all three season during high school
- Kelly Marston Memorial Award – Junior student athlete who demonstrates Christian Character, Scholarship, and Athleticism
- Chris Landa Memorial Award – presented to a senior athlete who best represents Leadership, Commitment and Christian Character.
- Outstanding Senior Male/Female Athletes
- David Wilson Memorial – eighth grade athlete who best represents leadership, commitment, and Christian Character.

Locker Room Procedures

- Roughhousing and throwing towels or other objects are not allowed in the locker room. Hazing of players is not allowed.
- All showers must be turned off after showering. The last person to leave the shower room is expected to check all showers.
- 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 must be put on and taken off outside of the building at all times.
- Athletes may use the office phones if a change has occurred from the school about a game or practice. All athletes must make prior arrangements for transportation home the evening before. Pay phones are to be used for all other calls.

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, they will be immediately removed from the team and forfeit all privileges that accompany being a member of that team (in addition to other school discipline

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 ...

