



2018-2019 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

WCS Athletics Contact Information

Athletic Director – Josh Johnson, josh.johnson@wichtachristian.com

Assistant AD – Kallye Johnson, kallye.johnson@wichtachristian.com

Secondary Principal – Julie Foster, julie.foster@wichtachristian.com

Superintendent – Karla Wallace, karla.wallace@wichtachristian.com

Vision, Mission, Statements of Faith and Philosophy:

WCS athletics supports and complies with Wichita Christian School's Vision, Mission Statement, Statement of Faith, and Statement of Educational Philosophy.

Purpose of the Athletic Handbook:

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 focus both on and off the athletic field/court. We seek 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 the mindset of Christ. 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 as a team. 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 will encourage our athletes, coaches, and parents to develop a reputation as those who pursue Christ-likeness. 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 to be.

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. Wichita Christian School expects its athletes to be leaders in a positive way, both spiritually and academically. Players, coaches, and fans 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.
- Players will come to practice in appropriate gear issued by WCS.
- Players are responsible for the cost of lost or damaged equipment.
- 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 behavior, etc.) will not be tolerated despite the actions of others on the opposing team. Negative behavior will be dealt with as the head coach deems appropriate.
- The AD and/or Coach will be responsible for handling negative behavior from opposing players and/or coaches, not the athlete or parent.
- 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 Athletic Director and coaches will work together with the teacher to discipline negative classroom behavior.
- Specific sports consequences (team punishment, missed practices, etc.) will be outlined in the sport specific contracts issued out by the head coach at the beginning of the season.
- **Off-season strength and cardiovascular conditioning are just as important as in-season practices to the success of any athletic team.** Off-season conditioning for high school students takes place during the athletic period, which is the last class period of the regular school day. High school student-

athletes who expect to participate in any future sport at WCS MUST participate in off-season workouts during this athletic period. This workout may consist of participation in one or more other sports. Athletes who miss off-season workouts will be subject to consequences set forth by the head coach.

- Transportation to games, practices and off-season workouts:
 - Athletes who do not drive will ride on school-provided transportation to and from their respective practice facilities. If a student drives, the coach may (but is not required to) give permission to the athlete to take his/her own car. Parents of students who wish to drive their own vehicles must sign a waiver to be kept on file by the Athletic Director.
 - Students will not be allowed to ride with other students or parents other than their own unless they have filled out the appropriate paperwork requesting that permission and received the necessary signatures.
- Any athlete removed by officials from an athletic contest is subject to the appropriate fines as described in Section 138 of the TAPPS by-laws. The student must reimburse Wichita Christian School the amount of this fine before he/she is allowed to participate in further contest(s). Furthermore, such a removal will result in a minimum of a one-game suspension and any other consequences deemed appropriate by the coach and school administration.
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal drugs will not be tolerated in the athletic program. Possession and/or use during participation at athletic practices or contests will result in the immediate removal from the Wichita Christian School athletic program.
- It is the policy of WCS that a student, when traveling to a school sponsored event, will not be transported by an individual adult staff member and/or will not be assigned individual accommodations when that travel requires an overnight stay.
- It is the policy of WCS that all secondary level athletic teams and cheer squads will be gender-specific and not open to participation by students of the opposite gender, except, in accordance with TAPPS regulations, as follows: if or when the school is unable, due to insufficient numbers of eligible or interested students, to have a girls' basketball team, one or more interested girls could try out for the boys' basketball team.
- Inclement Weather: In order to ensure safety during inclement weather, school may be opened on a delayed schedule in the morning. Whenever this occurs, all morning practices will be canceled. Because of the chance of improving weather conditions throughout the day, the cancellation of athletic contests and afternoon practices will be determined by the Athletic Director with the approval of the Superintendent in a timely manner.

Do Not Quit Policy

- It is the philosophy of the WCS Athletic Department that we should all finish what we start. After committing to a team/sport, student athletes will be expected to finish what he/she has begun. In situations with extenuating circumstances, students may be allowed to drop a sport with the approval of the athletic director and the coach for that particular sport. If students elect to drop a sport without prior approval, they will be advised of the following consequences of this action. The student will not be eligible to receive a participation award or any superlative award during the end-of-the year banquet. Students will retain any district or other TAPPS awards that they may earn. Re-entry into that sport will not be allowed until the following year and will require the permission of the coach and AD to do so.

Eligibility:

Student-athletes will lose eligibility to participate in athletics if any grade(s) on the quarterly (9-week) report card are below passing for that grading period. Once a student loses eligibility at the quarter, he/she may regain eligibility three Fridays after losing it when his/her teacher(s) provide a progress report showing that the student-athlete has achieved passing grade(s) on all courses that disqualified them at the time of the quarterly grade report.

Student-athletes may lose eligibility at times other than at quarterly grade reports for certain issues, including, but not limited to (1) significant decline in academic performance in one or more classes, (2) classroom behavior that results in multiple referrals, and (3) attitudes or actions that create a negative impact on the team.

The means for regaining eligibility after loss of eligibility for other than academic reasons will be determined by the Athletic Director and/or the Secondary Principal.

Dress Code:

School dress code, *as it applies on free-dress days*, will be enforced for all student-athletes at all WCS athletic functions, whether the athlete is a participant or a spectator. This also includes our annual athletic banquet.

School Attendance:

Players are required to be present in school for at least **half of the school day** in order to participate in school sponsored games and practices scheduled for that day. For events scheduled for Saturday, a player must be present for at least half of the school day on the Friday immediately preceding that Saturday. Players are also expected to be present in school on time the day after a school sponsored event, and absence from all or part of that day will be considered unexcused. **Exception:** If the TEAM arrives back at the Wichita Christian School campus after 11:30 PM following an out-of-town event, the Athletic Director will consult with the Principal who MAY choose to excuse the players from the first period class the following school day. If the principal authorizes this excused absence from a class, and instructs the Athletic Director to so notify the student-athletes of this permitted late arrival, players who arrive later than the end of first period will be considered unexcused from **all** classes they miss, and players who take advantage of this grace period and arrive by the end of the first period class are still required to complete ALL work they missed.

Athletic Shirts:

Athletes on WCS Sports teams that advance to post-season play will be provided at no charge a shirt commemorating that achievement. For sports in which athletes qualify individually, only those athletes that meet the school standard and/or the TAPPS standard for advancing will receive the commemorative shirt. The shirt will be selected by the Coach and/or Athletic Director.

24 Hour Rule:

Coaches will not discuss with parents or athletes any of their game-time decisions immediately after the game. This includes, among other things, a player's playing time. Parents or athletes may leave voice or email messages for the coach with their questions or concerns after 5:00 PM the day following the game. The coach will respond to your message within 24 hours of receipt of that message.

High School Sports Tryouts:

The Head Coach, with the approval of the Athletic Director, reserves the right to implement testing/conditioning exams or to hold tryouts, if necessary, for athletes to qualify for spots on the roster.

Qualifying for Post-Season Play:

For most sports, the standard for participation in post-season play is set by TAPPS. For team sports, that standard usually includes the win-loss record against district opponents. For sports such as Cross Country, Tennis, and Track, qualifying is based on performance at a district meet.

For golf, TAPPS has not established a district or regional qualifying meet. To qualify to represent WCS at the TAPPS 1A State Meet, the school standard is that an individual athlete must achieve a minimum score of 120 at some golf meet or other approved golf competition during the season.

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. We believe it is important for us to teach our athletes to fulfill roles they have been given without grumbling or complaining (Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without complaining or arguing."). Selections for playing time are made based on talent, attitude, hard work and team need. 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. Varsity playing time will be determined by the head coach.

WCS Athletic Fees:

All athletic fees must be paid by or before the first practice for each sport. The fee schedule is as follows:

High School Athletic Fees

- 1) Football – \$225
- 2) Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track – \$200 for any athlete who participates in a single sport
- 3) Golf and Tennis – Participants will not pay athletic fees for these sports but will instead pay the actual costs for their equipment and for participation in their practices and competition events for the sport. (The athlete will not pay any portion of the initial \$300 TAPPS participation fee that the school is required to pay to TAPPS for each sport the school offers.)
- 4) Athletic fees for a student who participates in multiple sports, excluding golf and/or tennis, will be capped at the total of the scheduled fees for the first two sports in which the athlete participates.
- 5) Total athletic fees, excluding golf and/or tennis, for a multi-athlete family will be capped at the scheduled fees for the first three sports in which the athletes participate.

Junior High Athletic Fees

- 1) For each individual sport if an athlete participates in a single sport – \$175
- 2) Athletic fees for a student who participates in multiple sports would be capped at the total of the scheduled fees for the first two sports in which the athlete participates.
- 3) Total athletic fees for a multi-athlete family would be capped at the scheduled fees for the first three sports in which the athletes participate.

Junior High Homeschool Athletic Fees

- 1) Fees for a homeschool athlete's participation in individual sports are as follows:
 - a) Football – \$300
 - b) Basketball and Volleyball – \$275
 - c) Cross Country and Track – \$175
- 2) Total fees for a homeschool athlete's participation in multiple sports – \$600.

Overnight trips:

- 1) All student-athletes must have an overnight trip form on file with our Director of Athletics.
- 2) Each student-athlete will be expected to pay \$10.00 for overnight trip(s) if the team needs to stay in a hotel. The school will cover the remaining cost of the hotel.

Volunteer Service:

The Athletic Fees charged for participation in the WCS athletic programs cover only about 15-20% of the costs for operation of the program. It is therefore important that the WCS athletics program be able to rely on parents of WCS athletes for to volunteer for many of the tasks that must be done to conduct the program. This enables us to avoid having to pay staff to carry out these tasks. The Assistant AD will ask and schedule parent volunteers to work our home athletic events. Parents will have three options for providing that volunteer service:

- 1) Work as scheduled on the assigned date; OR,
- 2) Find someone to work the assigned date and event in their place; OR,
- 3) Pay a \$20 fee and have the Assistant AD use that to find and compensate a WCS staff/faculty member to work as their replacement.

Prompt communication regarding any requested changes in the scheduled volunteer service will be important.

Conflict Resolution:

When a player, coach or parent perceives there to be conflict with another person in the athletic program of WCS, that player, coach, or parent should go directly to the one with whom they have the conflict and seek to resolve that conflict. If the attempt to resolve the conflict directly is not successful, the persons involved should seek the involvement of the Athletic Director in resolving the conflict.

Wichita Christian School Cheerleading Policies:

The Head Cheer Coach will provide the contract for the 2018-2019 School Year. Please contact that coach for information.

WCS Athletic Director and Coaches Request the Prayers of WCS Families

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

Wichita Christian School Athlete and Parent Pledge

Individual and team success in sports results from commitment. The extent to which young athlete are able to make such commitments reflects their maturity as well as their dedication to service, family, friends, school, and team. Parents and athletes are a team just like coach and players or the team itself. For these reasons, we ask that you read and agree to the following PLEDGE:

AS AN ATHLETE IN MY SCHOOL, I WILL:

1. Attend every practice unless excused by my coach.
2. Understand that my future as a responsible adult relates more to my academic success than my athletic activities.
3. Maintain my health and fitness levels by following the training rules as prescribed by the Athletic Department.
4. Reflect the knowledge that a commitment to victory is nothing without the commitment to hard work and practice.
5. Accept the responsibilities of team membership: cooperation, support of my teammates, shared responsibilities, positive interaction, and mutual respect.
6. Be a worthy representative of my teammates and coaches, abiding by school and community expectations and reflecting my team’s values of commitment and hard work.

AS AN ATHLETE’S PARENT, I WILL:

1. Positively support my son/daughter in whatever activity he/she is participating in.
2. Take a proactive role in my son’s/daughter’s life by helping him/her succeed in the classroom and on the field/court.
3. Support the coaching staff of each team my son/daughter is involved in. If there is a difference in opinion, coaching style, calls, etc., I will not voice it to others, including my child, until I have talked it over with the coach in question.
4. Support Wichita Christian’s Athletic Department through sharing in the responsibility of the team support staff.
5. Most importantly, show my child love whether he/she plays well or not, wins or not, or makes a mistake or not.

I have read the above handbook, pledge, and statements for the 2018-2019 School Year. By signing below, I express my commitment to comply with the requirements stated in these documents.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

6/15/18