

CALVARY CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

“HOME OF THE CONQUERORS”



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared for the purpose of making clear all the policies of the Calvary Christian Academy athletic program. When policies are clearly stated, it prevents misunderstandings that might detract from the achievement of the goals of CCA athletics.

We would ask those athletes and their parents take the necessary few minutes to read this handbook in its entirety to familiarize themselves with the specific policies of the CCA athletic program. If there is any confusion or specific questions about any information in this handbook, please contact your coach or the Athletic Director.

It is our greatest desire that the athletic program at CCA always honors and brings glory to the Lord. We appreciate your decision to participate and thank the parents in advance for their support. As we work together and seek God's blessing, we can anticipate success in developing and maintaining an athletic program that glorifies His name.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,
and not unto men.”

Colossians 3:23

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I. PHILOSOPHY

1. It is the philosophy of the Calvary Christian Academy athletic program that such a program's existence has validity as an extension of the goals and purposes of the school in general. Even as the Christian school has a distinct nature, our athletic program must mirror that same Christian nature.
2. We accept the Biblical truth that the Lord has blessed mankind with abilities that vary. Among those abilities may be athletic skills. Thus, our interscholastic athletic program is provided as an opportunity to exercise athletic gifts in a God-honoring manner.
3. Athletic competition, and the preparation for it, can serve as a challenging opportunity for a young person to evaluate his/her Christian maturity. The demonstration of a testimony that brings glory to Christ's name is the ultimate goal of the CCA athletic program.

II. ELIGIBILITY

1. All students in grades 7-12 have the potential for eligibility in the CCA athletic program. On specific occasions, when the number of team members is deemed inadequate, or as junior varsity opportunities present themselves, 5th - 6th grade students may be granted permission

II. ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

to participate, pending administrative approval. Specific age-appropriate limitations may be imposed relative to traveling to away contests. It should be understood that ACAA and KCEA regulations limit post season tournament play in those organizations to students in grades 7-12 and at least 12 years of age.

2. Eligibility must also meet the following requirements:
 - a. The student has not reached their 19th birthday prior to July 1 of the summer before the existing school year. Students who will reach their twentieth birthday before January 1 of any given school year are not eligible for competition during that year.
 - b. No more than four years of competition have transpired since the student entered ninth grade.
 - c. For the protection and safety of the athlete, a physical examination is required each year before athletic activity may be undertaken. A report must be on file with the Athletic Director. This physical examination may not be authorized earlier than June 1st

II. ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year,

until the latter of the next May 31st or the conclusion of the spring sports season.

- d. The student has a Permission for Athletic Participation form on file with the Athletic Director.
 - e. The student has a Permission for Emergency Medical Treatment form on file with the Athletic Director.
3. Academic Eligibility has been verified.
- a. Eligibility reports occur in three-week intervals with soccer to start 3 weeks from the 1st day of school and every 3 weeks thereafter. The first basketball and track report check will be on the 1st day that practice occurs for that sport, then 3 weeks thereafter.
 - b. Athletes, student managers, etc., must maintain an academic average of no less than 70% or C- and must have no "F's" in all subject areas during the active marking period.

II. ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

- c. An ineligible athlete remains so until a grade report is showing academic eligibility. That athlete is to continue attending team practices and sit with the team (in school clothes) during home competitions while ineligible. Ineligible athletes are not permitted to travel to away contests.
 - d. Academic eligibility rules are applicable to all students involved with a particular team including those serving in support roles (one example is a team manager).
- 4. The student maintains a standard of conduct in accord with that described in the CCA Parent-Student Handbook as well as specific expectations of conduct expressed by the coaches. Any student reaching a total of 25 demerits in a semester will be disqualified for interscholastic team membership for the remainder of that semester.
- 5. Home school athlete participation is governed by ACAA league requirements. Additionally, the administration must establish a mechanism to verify home school student athletes meet the same academic eligibility requirements as an enrolled student. The administration must also

II. ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

establish administrative fee requirements for home schooled athletes. Enrolled students will take preference over homeschooled athletes regardless of athletic ability. For example, should the presence of a senior starter home school student create a roster limitation that would limit a 7th grade enrolled player from participating, the home school student is not permitted for that school year. Thus, as a home school student that has been granted permission to play during any given season does not have any extra priority for future seasons of play. The next season will be evaluated on the above criteria. In the event of a roster limitation, try-outs and cuts would only apply to home school students and be determined by the coaching staff. In other words, a CCA student may not be cut to make room for a homeschool student. Though, in general, tryouts and cuts are at the discretion of the coach to set their desired roster size; for the purpose of our home school policy, cuts may not be used to create a roster position for a home school student at the expense of a CCA enrolled student. The point of allowing homeschoolers to participate is to provide enough students to fill a team during lean years; it is not to add a competitive advantage. Home school criteria applies

II. ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

only to 9th – 12th grade students. Should a cut occur, coaches will follow-up with each cut athlete and provide feedback as to where improvement is needed.

III. SPORTS SEASONS

The school year shall consist of three sports seasons. Mandatory practice for the FALL sports season may begin no sooner than August 1. Mandatory practice for the WINTER & SPRING sports season may begin no sooner than 1 week following the ACAA tournament.

IV. INSURANCE

Calvary Christian Academy **does not** provide health/accident insurance to participants in its interscholastic athletic program. Therefore, student athletes must provide health insurance policy information/proof of insurance on the “Permission for Emergency Medical Treatment” form, prior to participation.

V. **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Students returning from away contests in a vehicle other than the CCA vehicle may do so only as noted below:
 - a. The student is returning with his/her parents; students/parents **MUST** give verbal confirmation, to the coach, prior to leaving the venue.
 - b. The student is returning with the parents of another member of the team **AND A WRITTEN REQUEST** from the parent/guardian has been received and acknowledged prior to departure for that specific contest. Email or text may count as a written request, provided the request is acknowledged by the coach.
2. Male and female athletes shall not share a seat on a transportation vehicle and the coaches shall make specific seating and/or vehicle assignments determined to be most appropriate.
3. Use of any type of electronic items including cell phones, tablets, earbuds, cameras, etc. while traveling is prohibited. Use of cell phones may be granted when the coach determines a need exists for the athlete to communicate with the parents.

4. When students are remaining after school prior to departure for an away contest, arrangements are to be made with the coach as to the location of a supervised area in which to remain until departure. Please be prompt in picking your child up.
5. We will use the “Remind” app to text travel time information. Contact the office to sign-up on “Remind”.
6. If students who are transporting other students except siblings, written permission is required for each specific day that transportation is requested. One-on-one, co-ed transportation (couples) is prohibited, except for siblings.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR GENERAL CONDUCT

1. It is the desire of the CCA athletic department that those students participating in our program will be exemplary examples in the student body both in and out of the arena of athletic competition and whether at or away from school.
2. It is expected that all involved in the CCA athletic program will make every effort to abide by all expectations expressed in all applicable CCA Handbooks.

3. Students found to be involved in the use of tobacco products, vaping, alcohol or illegal drugs will be dismissed from the program.
4. Coaches are to be recognized as the God-placed authority over the athletes and at no time will defiance of that authority be allowed. It is hoped that player will be comfortable in respectfully talking with the coach when troubled, but able to recognize a responsibility of accepting decisions made by the coach relative to their sport.
5. Each athlete is expected to demonstrate an attitude which is positive and of an encouraging nature toward their coach and teammates. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the team.
6. Special care is to be given in maintaining the gym floor as well as a clean and neat dressing rooms. Only proper gym shoes are to be worn on the gym floor. Shoes made for outside sports activities (e.g. soccer cleats) are not to be worn inside any school building. We hope that our athletes will act as good stewards of the athletic facility and make every effort to care for it properly.
7. All areas of equipment storage, as well as the concession stand, are off limits to students unless permission to enter is granted by the coach.

VII. UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE POLICIES

1. Uniforms that are issued for wearing during practice or competition are to be worn only during practice or competition for which they were issued. **They may not be worn for Physical Education purposes.**
2. All uniforms are to be returned complete and clean at the coach's final practice. If the uniform is not returned within 2 weeks of the uniform hand-in practice, parent's accounts will be billed for the unreturned uniform.
3. Athletes are financially responsible for unreturned, damaged or unapproved alterations to uniforms.
4. Athletes may wear loose fitting, to the top of the knee, shorts or full length warm-up pants to practices.
5. All athletes are to wear shirts at all times and these shirts should not be those specifically designed as undergarments. Athletes may not wear tank tops.

6. The following standards of dress shall apply during the day of the contest:

When we travel, the usual travel attire is "in uniform" or normal school dress, as a minimum. Coaches have discretion to ask their teams to dress more formally, providing changing areas are known to be available.

Following the contest students may wear any CCA shirt or warm-up, PE shorts or black, modest athletic pants.

In the event that the venue doesn't have proper changing facilities (i.e. during soccer season), students will change at Calvary. If, following a contest, a student chooses to change in an appropriate facility, the above dress code will apply.

Students may not change in the bus.

****NOTE:** As in the wearing of CCA uniforms, CCA issued warm-ups shall be limited to travel to and from games, including meal stops, and at game sites. They should never be worn for personal, non-CCA athletics use.

7. Facial hair shall be prohibited on students participating in the CCA athletic program. Additionally, standards relative to hair length or style defined by the CCA Parent-

Student Handbook or an athletic organization to which CCA belongs shall apply.

8. All prohibitions listed in sport specific rulebooks, as well as those of an athletic organization to which CCA belongs, relative to wearing of jewelry/headbands, etc., shall also apply at team practices. If you are in doubt, ask a coach if a piece of attire is acceptable.

VIII. PRACTICE AND GAME EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

1. It is the responsibility of athletes to be present, whenever physically able, at all practices and games. The coach will establish his/her own guidelines regarding specific penalties for the missing of practice and/or games up to and including, at his/her discretion, dismissal from the team. Practices should never be viewed as less important as games.
2. Although, we in no way, wish to encroach upon family discipline decisions, it should be understood that if parents determine that their child has been guilty of misconduct to the degree that their punishment results in the missing of games and practices, it is at the coach's discretion to remove them from the team for the remainder of the season. Students have a responsibility to their families AND their team, as well.

VIII. PRACTICE AND GAME EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES (CONT'D)

3. If practice(s) and/or game(s) are missed due to a student athlete receiving after school detention or school suspension, the same penalty for missing any practice(s) and/or game(s) shall be applied by the coach.
4. Athletic participation is never to be construed as an acceptable reason for failure to complete homework assignments.
5. Athletes attending school, but unable to practice because of injury or illness are expected to attend practice as an observer and listener.
6. It is expected that athletes will be completely dressed and ready to begin practice promptly at the scheduled time. If the practice site is being used by another team, athletes are to take care not to disturb that practice.
7. If a practice session (or game) is unavoidably going to be missed, or the athlete knows in advance that he/she will be late for practice, it is the responsibility of the athlete involved to personally communicate with the coach relative to this matter.
8. Athletes must be in school by **the conclusion of 3rd period or 10:30 am** to be allowed to participate in that day's practice session or

VIII. PRACTICE AND GAME EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES (CONT'D)

game. A printed doctor's excuse is acceptable for unavoidable medical appointments.

9. Athletes remaining on campus after school for a practice or game not starting immediately after school shall report to an assigned area to be under the supervision of his/her coach or designated school official. Coaches are responsible to find coverage during these times. In the event that coverage cannot be found, students may have to leave the premises until practice or game begins.
10. Athletes leaving campus after school and prior to their practice session or game to a location other than their home should submit a parental permission request stating those particulars to their coach. Permission is not granted until a coach responds to that request. Text or email is acceptable.
11. As always, it is expected that all CCA athletes will demonstrate conduct during practice sessions and games consistent with the policies of CCA and recognizable of one seeking to exhibit a Christian testimony. We shall give special emphasis to the following:
 - a. Refraining from all use of foul language.

VIII. PRACTICE AND GAME EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

- b. Encouraging, never criticizing a teammate.
 - c. Exhibiting respect toward coaches and officials.
 - d. Respecting the play of an opponent even as you wish to be respected.
 - e. Cheering for our team, but never against the opponent.
 - f. Developing a spirit of competition that results in graciousness when winning and “no excuses” when losing.
 - g. Recognizing that it is “your own best self,” not the opponent, that is your actual competition.
 - h. Rejoicing over developing friendships through competition with other young people.
12. Parent and Fan Expectations: Spectators should be mindful that their privilege and responsibility is to be encouraging and uplifting during attendance at athletic competitions. Athletics are a way for student-athletes to learn and develop, therefore spectators should do their best to encourage these individuals/teams and to assist in the development of young men and women. Our fans are a vital part of the success of Calvary Christian Academy athletics, and we encourage vigorous positive participation by our fans. CCA fans are also ambassadors of Christ

VIII. PRACTICE AND GAME EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES (CONT'D)

and of our school and should cheer our teams in an appropriate manner. Our cheering should build up and encourage (Ephesians 4:29). Our emphasis on sportsmanship and character amongst our student athletes and student body begins with the example set by our parents. Derogatory cheers, comments, "booing", taunting, or disputing directed at any participant (players, coaches, officials, and fellow fans) will not be tolerated and will be considered grounds for removal from CCA sporting events. Spectators should **NEVER** approach an official before, during, or after a sporting event. Never ridicule or shout criticism toward officials and referees. Spectators should respect the judgments and decisions of contest officials, recognizing the fact that they are human and admiring their willingness to assist in the development of student-athletes. Conducting ourselves in this manner should be done for one reason above all; we are not our own. Our old self has been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20), and we now have our minds set on higher things (Colossians 3:2). "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:2).

13. **Sportsmanship:** Coaches and student-athletes must always conduct themselves in a manner that represents Calvary Christian Academy and Jesus Christ in a positive way. Sports are intended to be competitive, but that should never extend past the field of play. All student-athletes, coaches, and fans should behave properly on the sidelines at all times. Coaches and players shall comply fully with the rulings of the officials. In no way - by voice, action, or gesture - shall they demonstrate in an unsportsmanlike manner their dissatisfaction with the decisions made. Obscene language or gestures, inciting violence, and general inappropriate behavior is unacceptable at any time and is unbecoming of a student-athlete, coach, or fan of Calvary Christian Academy.

IX. COMMITMENT

1. The CCA athletic department views participation in interscholastic athletics to be a privilege granted to those willing and able to make the commitment it demands.
2. It is expected that the commitment to athletic participation at CCA will be evidenced by adherence to the policies in this handbook.
3. Coaches are permitted to use a written letter of commitment for their teams and make those commitment letters a condition for participation.

X. AWARDS

1. An annual athletic banquet is held to recognize the athletes who have participated in the interscholastic athletic program.
2. Athletes in their first year of participation in any sport, upon the recommendation of their coach, will receive a varsity letter. They will also receive a pin representative of the sport(s) in which they participate. Only one varsity letter may be awarded to an athlete.
3. When an athlete qualifies for a letter/pin award in subsequent years following the first awarding, a bar shall be the award.
4. Team captains shall receive a star signifying having served in that role for his/her team.
5. Managers who attend practices on a daily basis shall be eligible for the same awards as players.
6. Additional team support personnel, who are not required to attend practice on a daily basis, shall be eligible for the receipt of certificate recognizing contribution to the team.
7. Specific trophy awards to be determined by the administration and coaches shall be presented to individuals chosen by their coach for outstanding contribution to their team.

8. Any individual who does not remain a member of the team throughout the season, shall be disqualified from the receipt of any award for that sport.