

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

HOME OF THE CONQUERORS



INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared for the purpose of making clear all the policies of the Calvary Christian Academy athletic program. Clearly-stated policies prevent misunderstandings that might detract from achieving the goals of CCA athletics.

We ask our athletes, and their parents to read this handbook in its entirety to familiarize themselves with our athletic policies. If you have any 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. The Calvary Christian Academy athletic program serves as an extension of the goals and purposes of the school. 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, including athletic skills. 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 or her Christian maturity. The ultimate goal of the Calvary Christian Academy athletic program is that our athletes demonstrate a testimony that brings glory to Christ's name.

Objectives:

The following represent the objectives of the Athletic Department at Calvary Christian School. The objectives involve all athletes, coaches, and staff members of the program:

- To model Christ both in actions and words.
- To grow in our relationship with Christ through times of devotion and prayer.
- To use the God-given talents and abilities, solely for His glory and not for our own.
- To develop and nurture the God-given talents and abilities.
- To develop socially as we interact with both our team and other teams.
- To take seriously the life lessons found in athletics, such as responsibility, commitment, dedication, adversity, and honest play.
- To strive for excellence in our playing.
- To recognize and seize the opportunities to share Christ by word and example.



Super Seven Principles Our athletic program should be an offering to the Lord and offer us life skills for our future. All Calvary Christian Academy athletes will be responsible for knowing and, to the best of their ability, demonstrating these characteristics:

1. Be Fully Present: Colossians 3:23
 - a. Offering our full attention
 - b. Life Skill: Learn to give full attention and benefit to the matter at hand.
2. Be Coachable: Hebrews 12:11
 - a. Offering due respect to those in authority
 - b. Life Skill: Learn not to mistake criticism and evaluation as dislike or personal failure.
3. Learn to be a Great Communicator: Colossians 4:6
 - a. Offering the truth in love
 - b. Life Skill: Learn how to lead others through direction and encouragement, how to effectively hold one another accountable, and how to resolve conflict in a biblical manner.
4. Make Hard Work Your Passion: Galatians 6:9
 - a. Offering our “all in” effort
 - b. Life Skill: Learn to make the most of every opportunity, giving the best you have and leaving no regrets.
5. Develop and Demonstrate Loyalty: Romans 14:19
 - a. Offering up our own agenda
 - b. Life Skill: Learn to work together without concern over who gets the credit. Point the spotlight to others.
6. Make Winning an Attitude: Romans 12:2
 - a. Offering our confidence in Christ
 - b. Life Skill: A winning attitude is a **faith-driven mindset** determined to be faithful, focused on God’s purpose, and committed to excellence that honors Him in every area of life.
7. Handle Success Like You Handle Failure: Philippians 4:11-13
 - a. Offering a consistent testimony
 - b. Life Skill: One display of poor testimony can erase years of positive testimony.



II. ELIGIBILITY

For a 7-12th grade CCA student to participate in any athletic program at CCA, they must be compliant with all eligibility and participation bylaws and policies set forth by the ACAA and CCA. Eligibility requirements include the items below completed (annually) and on file in the main school office:

- Registration Form
- Health History Form
- Emergency Treatment Form
- Physical Form
- Waiver and Release Form

In addition to these forms, a student is eligible to participate in Interscholastic events when they meet requirements as outlined in the following ACAA & CCA policies:

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 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 who are 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. A student, upon graduation, is ineligible to participate in any League activities, even if the student has graduated before using up his/her four years of high school eligibility.
 - d. Junior High students (7th – 8th) are eligible to compete on a varsity level without affecting their high school eligibility. Students in grade six and below are not permitted to compete on the varsity level.
3. Academic Eligibility has been verified.
- a. Eligibility reports occur in three-week intervals, with soccer eligibility to start 3 weeks from the 1st day of school and continue every 3 weeks thereafter. One final grade check will occur during the week of season ending tournaments. The first basketball and track eligibility 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% (C-) and must have no F's in all academic subject areas during the active marking period.
 - c. An ineligible athlete remains so until a grade report shows 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 (for example, 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 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, 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 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 & ATHLETIC FEES

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

Fees:

Athletic Fees are due by the 5th of the month or the next business day if the 5th falls on a weekend of the next payment period following the start of the season (soccer = September, basketball = December, track = April). If they are not paid, your athlete will not be allowed to participate. If you have any questions about fees, please talk to the Athletic Director. The fees are as follows:

CCA Student	\$45/sport
Non-CCA Student	\$100 for the first sport/\$45 thereafter
Track	\$35



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 or 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 serve 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. We will use the Band app to text travel time information. Contact the coach, Athletic Director or school office to sign-up on Band.
5. 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 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. In-Game Discipline - Our student-athletes, coaches and faculty should not be receiving technical fouls, red cards, or ejections during athletic contests. If a CCA athlete is charged with an unsportsmanlike penalty resulting in a yellow card or technical foul or ejected from a contest, the Athletic Director and Principal will meet with the coach and player on the following school day to discuss the penalty and the ramifications thereafter.
 - a. First violation: suspension for portion of the next game (amount will be determined by the Athletic Director and Principal based on seriousness of the offence).
 - b. Subsequent violations: suspension for an amount of games (amount will be determined by the Athletic Director and Principal based on the case against the player). An ejection is a definite call; therefore, there are no appeals.
3. 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.
4. Students found to be involved in the use of tobacco products, vaping, alcohol or illegal drugs will be dismissed from the program.
5. 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 a 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.
6. 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.



7. Special care is to be given in maintaining the gym floor as well as 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 facility and make every effort to care for it properly.
8. 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 at the coach's final practice a late fee of \$5 per day (up to the cost of a replacement uniform) will be assessed to the student's FACTS account beginning 1 week after that final practice and each week thereafter. With Track and Field ending so close to the end of the school year, uniform **MUST BE** turned in by the last full school of the year or a full replacement cost will be charged to the student's FACTS account.
3. Athletes are financially responsible for unreturned, damaged (beyond normal wear and tear, or unapproved alterations to uniforms).
4. Athletes may wear loose-fitting shorts. Shorts must be longer than fingertips when shoulders are relaxed and arms are straight. Athletes may also wear full length, loose-fitting warm-up pants to practices. Compression shorts, spandex pants, etc. may be worn, but are considered undergarments and must be worn under clothing that meets the above requirements.
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:
 - a. 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, provided changing areas are known to be available.
 - b. 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 or 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 than 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 teams as well.

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 or 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 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 the 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.
 - 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 is 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 and of our school and should cheer for 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.
14. It is important that our attitude and behavior is always under control. The team suffers when an individual loses control. Respect toward officials, players, and coaches is expected. *“A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.” (Proverbs 29:11)*

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.
4. It is expected that student-athletes will commit to the soccer season by the Wednesday of soccer camp; for the basketball season, by the third week of practice.



X. AWARDS

1. An end-of-season sports celebration is held to honor the athletes who have taken part 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 their 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.



XI. POLICY FOR NON-CCA EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS (PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE)

Students of Calvary Christian Academy are neither encouraged or discouraged from participating in extracurricular programs that are not sponsored by CCA. By enrolling children in CCA, administration holds the belief that families choose to be part of our school and prioritize our programs, which are intentionally planned to further our mission. For a student of CCA to participate in a non-CCA extracurricular program, the following expectations and requirements must be met:

- Students may only participate in extracurriculars that are not already offered by CCA.
- CCA events and programs must be attended even if they conflict with practice or a game.
- Early dismissals will not be approved for practices but will be considered for games. Students should minimize the number of early dismissals. A game schedule must be provided and approved by administration at the beginning of the season indicating each early dismissal.
- Students will not be dismissed from class early to change for practices.
- Students must be in CCA dress code when leaving school (dress length shorts, no sleeveless shirts, etc.)
- Students must comply with CCA academic eligibility standards, regardless of the academic eligibility standards of any other program (no failing grades, academic average of at least 70%).
- Students must comply with their school district's policy for reporting eligibility.

