



# **Student Athletic Handbook**

**“...whatever you do, do it all for  
the glory of God.”**    *1 Corinthians 10:31*

Revised 9/7/2016

## FAIRFIELD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### VISION /PURPOSE

*FAIRFIELD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY* seeks to help children grow as Jesus grew-“in wisdom and stature, and in favor with GOD and men.” Every child is encouraged to reach their God-given potential spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

#### OUR PRAYERS AND EXPECTATIONS ARE FOR:

*ATHLETES* who genuinely have a love for God, have a conviction to represent Him on the field/court, have a teachable, humble, attitude, and have a selfless “team before me” approach.

*COACHES* who love their athletes and work hard for them in preparation, strategic improvement, and college recruiting exposure; who respect and speak well of peers, parents, staff, administration and who represent Christ’s character and humility to opposing coaches, officials, and athletes.

*PARENTS* who support and pray for all of their coaches, who respect coach’s decisions even if they don’t agree, who are more concerned about their athlete’s character on/off the field than their playing time or potential for a scholarship, and who are giving their valuable time to serve God in any way they can without concern for which sport, or student(s), will benefit the most by their serving.

*ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETES AND THE SCHOOL* that is organized and enthusiastic about the success and efforts of its teams giving due adulation for accomplishment, that is properly and fairly enforcing all regulations and guidelines, that is keeping parents informed and involved in a structured and productive manner always aware of the value of their time, and that is keeping this vision ever before them in their efforts to bring glory to God in the Fairfield Christian Academy Athletic Department.

We want an athletic program that is distinctive in its commitment to represent Christ. We are asking God to give us courage to be different. We are not to be superior in attitude, but distinctive in our desire to follow Him wholeheartedly, as we participate in this program.

### FAIRFIELD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

#### 1. What We Believe

We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom, at home, and through the local church, can be put into practice through athletics. A microcosm of society, athletics allows the student to develop and use his or her God given ability to glorify God. Because the arena of competition is usually surrounded with pressure, the athlete is tested and the true character revealed. Consequently, the opportunity for character growth readily presents itself through athletic competition. Therefore, athletics at Fairfield Christian Academy is considered an integral part of a student athlete's high school curriculum.

## **2. Our Commitment to Excellence**

Our philosophy can best be summed up by the phrase "doing our best as we strive to be the best." We believe as Christians we are commanded by Scripture always to do *our* best. As believers we are not to waste the talent God has given us by giving anything less than total commitment, thorough preparation, and maximum effort. We also believe we should *strive* to be *the* best at what we do. Being the best at anything is a worthy and admirable goal of any Christian.

## **3. Our Programs**

We believe each individual sport at FCA should be developed into "a program." The program should build pride among the participants and support among the student body. Parents should be valued as partners in this process of athletic education. Off-season conditioning, camps, etc, should be promoted for serious athletes. College bound athletes and their parents should receive sound counsel on their potential. All activities within an individual sports program should exemplify the school's commitment to a Christ-like witness, and reflect the school's athletic department policies, procedures and philosophy.

## **4. The Fairfield Christian Academy Athlete**

It is our goal that FCA athletes should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence, without regard to the score, opponent, time, referee, etc. As Christian athletes display these characteristics, good things usually happen: teams are successful; players are motivated; fans are supportive and enthusiastic; parents are proud; prospective athletes want to participate, and very often nonbelievers are drawn to Christ.

Adapted with permission from Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

## **5. Student Athletic Handbook**

The Student Athletic Handbook is the first source for clarity about our Athletic programs. However, the FCA Student/Parent Handbook will supersede the Student Athletic Handbook when determined by the Administrator.

## **Membership and Affiliation**

Fairfield Christian Academy is currently a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Mid-State League (MSL), and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

## **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Student-athletes must be attending FCA as a student full or part-time.
2. High school athletes must meet the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) requirement of passing courses totaling five (5) credit hours contributing toward graduation in the grading period immediately preceding the beginning of the season. A student-athlete not meeting the OHSAA standard will be ineligible for the entire grading period.
3. Junior high athletes must meet the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) requirement of passing five (5) classes taken in the preceding grading period to be eligible. A student-athlete not meeting the OHSAA standard will be ineligible for the entire grading period.
4. All student-athletes must meet additional FCA standards of achieving a 2.0 GPA or better in the prior quarter to maintain their eligibility. Student-athletes not meeting these FCA standards will be ineligible for the entire grading period.

5. Academic status for all student-athletes will be reviewed on a periodic basis (quarterly and mid-terms). Based on information gathered during these reviews, FCA Administration (High School Principal, Superintendent, and Athletic Director) will have the discretion to adjust athletic eligibility status for any student-athlete. This discretion gives the Administration the latitude to take actions that include, but are not limited to, restoring athletic eligibility, restricting athletic participation, and withdrawing athletic privileges. Any action taken by FCA Administration will be reviewed with the student-athlete and his/her parents.
6. Eligibility for activities in the first quarter shall be based upon the previous year's fourth quarter grades
7. All Athletic forms must be turned in to be eligible to participate in the first practice. This includes the athletic contract, liability form, drug agreement and the physical form. Physical forms signed by physicians are valid for one calendar year.

### **Rules Governing All Athletes**

The following team rules are to be observed by all Fairfield Christian Academy teams. Coaches may add additional rules that will enhance their particular sport.

1. All players are required to attend all practices and games unless given prior permission to miss by the coach.
2. Missing a practice or game without prior permission may result in suspension or removal from the game, unless due to sudden illness or other circumstances beyond their control.
3. Players will make up excused missed practices or game in a way determined by the coach. (An example would be running laps for missing practice or being benched at the start of the next game.)
4. Players are to be on time for team practices and games and meetings. Players are expected to attend end-of-the season team activities.
5. Players must maintain academic eligibility as outlined in this handbook and if academically ineligible must follow school guidelines for attendance at practices and games. Classroom misconduct may result in immediate suspension from the team.
6. Players are responsible for proper care and return of uniforms. Players will be charged for damaged or lost uniforms.

### **School Attendance and Sports Participation Guidelines**

All students must be in attendance one half a school day to participate in practices and games. The only excused late arrival or early dismissal will be for a doctor's appointment, a funeral, or a personal appointment scheduled with the approval of the Academy Administration. A written doctor's excuse will be needed to participate in the days practice or game. If the extra-curricular activity is scheduled for a weekend, the student must be present on the Friday preceding the events.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

1. Facilities - Coaches and team members are to always leave facilities clean and properly secured. Facilities are not to be used without a coach's supervision
2. Equipment - Equipment is to be properly cared for and stored in order to maintain its condition and extend its use. Athletic equipment should not be loaned out for use.

## **Concessions**

The Athletic Director/Booster Club will coordinate concessions for home games. This is for the benefit of all of our guests. Parent participation is encouraged. Proceeds will benefit the athletic department.

## **Funding for Athletics**

The athletic program at Fairfield Christian Academy is funded by the participation fees, gate fees and concessions. These funds are provided to meet the day to day operational cost of the athletic program. The Administration and the Athletic Director will monitor all expenditures. The fee for the student to play the sport they choose must be paid in full before the first contest or the student is benched until paid in full.

## **Uniforms, Supplies, and Materials**

All Fairfield Christian Academy team uniforms will be purchased through the Athletic Department. The Athletic Director will work with individual team coaches in the selection of uniforms. Athletes will be required to pay costs of all other items, which they will keep at the end of the seasons (socks, hats, etc.). The athlete will also purchase personal items such as jackets, shoes and gym bag as needed or required.

All uniforms must be turned in to the assigned place within 7 school days of season's end, or by the announced deadline by the Athletic Director.

## **Transportation**

Transportation to and from athletic events is the sole responsibility of the parent. Each player must have a transportation form signed and on file before they are permitted to ride with any Fairfield Christian Academy parent or coach to practices or games.

## **Pre-Season Policies**

1. **Physical Exams** - Each athlete must have on file the signed Hold Harmless Agreement with FCA and a Physical Exam
2. **Parent Meetings** - The Athletic Director will hold a mandatory meeting with the parents and players for their team prior to the start of the season. This will afford the players and parents the opportunity to get to know each other, the coach, and the support staff. This will also provide the Athletic Director and the coach an opportunity to communicate any special rules he/she may have for their team and to announce anticipated expenses for the parents in that sport season.

## **Quitting a Team**

No athlete will be allowed to quit any team once he/she has been selected and the regular season has begun. If an athlete does quit a team in a hostile or unapproved manner, they cannot play another sport for one calendar year without the approval of the Athletic Director.

\*\*\*The Athletic Director will allow a player to drop from the team if serious injury dictates, or if it is in the best interest of his/her academics, following a meeting with the parents and approval. This, however, will put in question the student's ability to play a sport at FCA for the calendar year.

No athlete who quits a team under circumstances of conflict will be allowed to rejoin. The athlete will forfeit all awards for that sport.

## **Disciplinary Guidelines**

Disrespect by a player toward any coach, official, teammate, opposing player, teacher, or parent during, before or after a game or practice or in the classroom setting needs to be dealt with by the coach. Continual or severe disrespect should result in disciplinary action or suspension from the team. Reinstatement from suspension can only occur after a conference and proper steps laid out by the coach, parents, and player.

Suspension may be permitted. Examples of disrespect:

1. Crude joking
2. Insulting
3. Not paying attention
4. Profanity
5. Destruction of property or equipment
6. Negative attitude
7. Intentionally disregarding coaches' or captains' request
8. Displays of anger in games or practices
9. Cards or Technical Fouls
10. Fighting or using intentional physical force not required in competition
11. Obvious lack of support from the parents or household towards FCA policies or coaches

## **Conflict Resolution**

If at any time, a parent or student athlete has a concern regarding the athletic program, the course of action should be as follows:

1. Express concern to coach in a private conference.
2. If problem remains unresolved, meet with the Athletic Director and Coach.
3. If problems continue to persist, meet with the Athletic Director and Administration.
4. If no resolution is possible, please present your concern in writing to the Fairfield Christian Administrative Team.

**At no time should any parent or student athlete discuss problems or individual concerns with others in such a manner as to generate conflict. Please follow the conflict resolution guidelines above to avoid gossip.**

## **A NOTE FROM OHSAA ABOUT SPORTSMANSHIP**

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the OHSAA wants to emphasize to each coach, school administrator, parent/spectator and contest official the importance of your leadership role in sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which you conduct yourself prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of everyone involved. The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that.

### **BE A SPORT!**

#### **Players Fair Play Code**

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given their time to be with me.

#### **Coaches Fair Play Code**

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young people have other interests and obligations.
2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
3. I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and opportunities.
4. I will not ridicule my athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly. I will remember that young people play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
5. I will remember that young people need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
6. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

#### **Fans Fair Play Code**

1. I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
4. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
5. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
7. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
8. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

## Parents Role in Interscholastic Athletics

- Communicating with your child
- Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. You were frightened, backed off at times and were not always heroic. Athletic children need their parents, so do not withdraw. There is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach (es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
- Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some of us climb mountains and are afraid to fly. Some of us will fly but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

## Communication with the coach

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach
  - Philosophy of the coach
  - Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
  - Locations and times of all practices and contests
  - Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
  - Procedure should your child be injured
  - Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
2. Communication Coaches expect from parents
  - Concerns expressed directly to the coach
  - Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
  - Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
3. Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches
  - The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
  - Ways to help your child improve
  - Concerns about your child's behavior



4. Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches
  - Playing time
  - Team strategy
  - Play calling
  - Other student-athletes
5. Appropriate Procedures for Discussing Concerns with Coaches
  - Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
  - Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
6. If The Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution
  - Call to set up an appointment with the athletic administrator or activities director
  - Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting