



# Family Christian Academy

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A Ministry of Family Church PC

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**2024 - 2025**

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***1 Corinthians 10:31 – Therefore, whether we eat, or drink,  
or whatever we do, do it all to the glory of God.***

## Introduction

Here at Family Christian Academy, we strive to teach our athletes lessons that will translate into their daily lives. It is our goal at FCA to teach our athletes to glorify God in everything they do (1 Cor. 10:31). The purpose of this handbook is to provide necessary information to students, parents, and coaches to create consistency in the standards set forth by our athletic department. Athletes and parents need to take the time to read this manual and understand the guidelines set forth by the FCA athletics department.

Thank you for your support and cooperation,

Forest A. Wood, AD

## Mission Statement

FCA considers participation in athletics a privilege, not a right. Athletics are an integral part of a student's overall educational experience and provide essential social growth tools for our student-athletes. We want to give our student body a competitive interscholastic athletic program, build a strong spirit of excellence in our athletes, and help increase our athletes' physical abilities and Christian character. It is up to each student to take hold of the lessons they are taught in each sport offered.

The mission of our athletic department is to glorify God through the discipleship of student-athletes and to teach the pursuit of excellence in each sport.

## Values

We want to create a winning environment by displaying a positive attitude and providing daily encouragement to those under our leadership. Caring for our athletes on a personal level helps them understand that we have their best interests in mind and that we want what is genuinely best for their teams. **Good sportsmanship means respecting others at all times** and in every circumstance. This includes behavior toward our coaches, opposing teams, and fans at sporting events. Defiance and disrespect will not be tolerated in our program.

We want our athletes to promote and encourage **honesty, integrity, humility, loyalty**, and all-around character for their betterment. These traits are non-negotiable and are an essential part of building a **TEAM**. We want to foster a 'commitment to excellence in our student-athletes. Success in athletics is the result of coaches and athletes going the extra mile for their teams. Your best effort is always expected in everything you do for your coach and your team.

## Coaches

FCA coaches are an essential component of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants in our sports programs. Our coaches also have the responsibility to model Christ-like behavior and attitude at all times.

In order to be effective coaches and role models, our coaches must have a good knowledge of their respective sports, be capable of detailed preparation, motivate athletes, and work effectively under the authority of the school administration and the athletic director.

Our coaches take seriously their role in molding our young athletes into strong and competitive people. Coaches help our athletes understand how to win with humility and lose with dignity. Our coaches advocate for their sport and should be positive Christian role models.

## Parents

All parents of our student-athletes have an equal responsibility to their children and the team. With robust parental support, the student-athlete will be able to achieve their most significant potential for the team. The parents (legal Guardians) need to provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as team parents. Parents and players should support the coaches and other players at all times.

Parents are spectators, not coaches or referees. To create a stable sports environment, parents need to respect the coaches' and referees' authority. Parents also need to allow the Lord to guide their actions and attitudes during sporting events, at FCA, or abroad.

## Athletes

FCA athletes should strive to do their best and put 100% effort into all sports they choose to be involved in. Student-athletes must demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, retain humility, and pursue excellence in the score, the game, their opponent, the allotted time, the officials, or the situation. Responsibility ultimately rests on the shoulders of the athlete alone. The student-athlete is responsible for their attitude and their actions toward their parents, coaches, teammates, and opponents. The student-athlete is responsible for all communication from the team and coach to the parents, whether verbal or written.

## Fans and Spectators

FCA students and parents need to be aware of the standards set forth by the school, but they often need to be made aware of what we expect of them as spectators. Whenever you attend an FCA athletic event, we are a respectful crowd. Please follow the rules listed to make our sports experience a pleasant one: Please do not criticize. Fans sometimes think they **'know better'** and blame the officials and coaches. It is not your job as a spectator to criticize anything at our sporting events. Please support all who are involved and encourage them.

All comments to opposing teams, their members, and officials should be positive. Please realize that the word Christian means 'Christ-like'. We are a family here at FCA and should always strive to hold a testimony of Christ-likeness. Regardless of how the opposing team behaves, we must choose to rise above the norm and display the best attitude at sporting events to support our team. Long after the score is forgotten, our behavior and reputation will be remembered.

### **Athletic Requirements**

**ALL** students must complete **all required documents** before they are allowed to join our sports teams for the school year. **NO** students are allowed to practice or play until they have fulfilled this requirement. These clearances cover all school and SSAA requirements. Once a student has finished all of their clearances, they can be placed on the rosters of sports teams.

Once you have made the roster to play on a team, you are committed to that team until the last game of the season is completed. Athletes must be at all practices and games. Still, they may be excused for some of the following reasons: Family tragedy, unforeseen accidents, sickness (w/ doctor's note), or 'special' permission from the coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to contact the head coach (first option) or athletic director (second option) to let them know of any absence. Do not tell someone else to transfer the message to the coach for you.

Athletes must be on time for all practices and games. Being tardy can cost an athlete a starting position or playing time. Please try your best to attend all scheduled times for your team. Athletes are required to have a good Christian testimony on and off the field. Students can be disciplined or removed from the team for tardiness, profanity, fighting, excessive detentions, suspension, bad attitude, bad grades, or anything that the coaches or athletic director feel may be non-Christian.

If a student **quits** after the season has started or is **removed** from the team, they **WILL NOT** receive a refund. This student will also not be eligible for the following sports season on any FCA team. Character is never built by quitting, even when things seem harsh. Students who are habitual in quitting teams can be dismissed from sports permanently.

Athletes may not 'bully' or 'haze' any other student or athlete for any reason. This behavior will not be tolerated at FCA. Any athlete kicked out of a game will also be suspended from the next game. Depending on the level of the offense, they may also suffer additional repercussions.

Any athlete who leaves school early is not eligible for a game that same day. If you have to leave early for a physician's appointment, you must contact the athletic director to check for your eligibility on that day. Failure to do so will result in you not playing that day. Students must maintain a **2.0** grade point average to be student-athletes at FCA. Students cannot have an '**F**' in any subject. Students should have reasonably good grades.

God created each of us uniquely as male and female. So, with that in mind, we will follow the state law passed in July 2021, which states that girls will play girls' sports and boys will play boys' sports. There will be no exceptions to this law.

Athletes must remember they are playing their sport for their team and not for themselves. They are playing for FCA and not for themselves. They are here to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the best manner possible. They are not here representing themselves. ***Athletes can be removed from any team, without compensation, for violating any of the rules or philosophies in this handbook or for any reasons that the coaches or athletic director feel are inappropriate.***

### **Playing Levels**

All students who play at the high school level will be in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. All students who play at the middle school level will be in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Occasionally, a student might have the ability to play up a level ***IF*** they are an exceptional athlete. Most students will not be able to play up. A good example would be a fifth grader playing middle school sports or an eighth grader playing in high school sports. But this will only be the norm sometimes. Students who are at most one grade level away from participating will not be eligible to play up—for example, a fourth grader playing middle school sports or a seventh grader playing high school sports. We cannot make exceptions to this rule due to a number of mitigating factors.

### **Participation Requirements**

Participation fees are essential to help fund our athletic events. Fees include but are not limited to, athletic events, game officials, tournament fees, and transportation costs. The cost for one student to play is a **\$175** sports fee. This one-time fee will cover all sports for the whole year. Paying this one-time fee does not ensure a place on the team's rosters. Additional costs may occur if the teams want to get spirit shirts or warm-up clothes. If a sport can only handle 12 members of a team and 30 students try out, it's evident that some students will not make the team. A student will only be charged once they make the roster of their first sport. Sports fees will be charged through FACTS. For students to be eligible to play, they need to fulfill all athletic requirements and pay their **sports fee**.

### **Athletes Dress**

Athletes are expected to follow the dress codes that each coach in each sport sets forth. Whether an athlete is wearing clothes to a game, wearing warm-up garments, or in their uniform, they are expected to wear these clothes in modesty. All clothing must be worn correctly. All clothing must fit properly. All athletes may not wear fingernails, jewelry, hair ties, or anything that might cause harm to them or others during practice or games. As part of the team, athletes should wear their game shirts to school on game days, which shows school spirit and support for their fellow teammates.

## Transportation

Athletes will be required to ride the bus or van to all away games together as a team. While riding the bus, students are required to be calm and quiet so they can focus on the task ahead of them. If there is tension during the ride, it can carry over into the game once students leave the bus or van. While traveling on the bus, athletes can have earphones or earbuds but cannot play any music out loud. All devices must be silent. Students are not allowed to play video games while on the bus on the way to a game. Students are allowed to do homework as long as they are quiet and do their work. When adequate transportation is unavailable, a team member may be allowed to ride with a parent as long as their parent gives verbal or written permission to the coach or athletic director. After the game has ended, students can ride home with their parents as long as they let the coach know they are leaving. ***Only leave after you let your coach know that you are going.***

## Uniforms and Equipment

Any uniform or equipment that is issued to an athlete is the property of FCA. Students must turn in their 'borrowed' items within one week after their season has ended. Athletes may not be allowed to enter another sport until their uniform from the previous sport has been turned in. Lost or damaged equipment **will be charged** to the student. Athletic uniforms are only to be worn for games or to school on game day. Students **cannot** wear their uniforms at any other time without special permission.

## Home School Umbrella Program Students

Homeschool students who would like to play sports at FCA must fulfill the requirements set forth by our ***Homeschool Umbrella Program***. The parents must visit the office and inquire about the process of becoming an athlete at FCA. Once this is done, they may then begin the **Home Campus** process.

## Awards

Athletes should be awarded for their efforts during each season (Proverbs 3:27). Only athletes who finish the season with their team will be eligible for awards. The school will have an athletic ceremony at the end of the year to hand out awards to all of the athletes who earned them. All teammates will receive a participation certificate, but not all athletes will earn an award. All athletes are expected to attend the awards ceremony to receive their rewards. The awards ceremony is a formal affair, and students are expected to dress nicely for that event.

If you have any questions about our athletic program, please contact the athletic director. I will do my best to help. Thank you, and God bless.

## 2024-25 Athletic Handbook Agreement

We have read and agree to support, abide by, and follow the procedures and policies of Family Christian Academy as set forth in this *Athletic Handbook*. This includes but is not limited to, the policies for attendance, behavior, transportation, and other such policies and all other policies that may be adopted or amended from time to time during the school year, as may be distributed in writing or emailed directly to the parent/guardian.

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Student Name (print)

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

### Sport(s) Student is Planning on Joining

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Volleyball | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ed Soccer       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys Football    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball (HS only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys Basketball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball (HS only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis           | <input type="checkbox"/> Track              |

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