



Family Christian Academy

A Ministry of Family Church PC

FCA Athletic Handbook

2023-2024



FCA ATHLETICS

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

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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 to be a privilege, not a right. Athletics are an integral part of a student's overall educational experience. Athletics provide important social growth tools for our student athletes.

We want to provide a competitive interscholastic athletic program for our student body. We want to build a strong spirit of excellence in our athletes. We strive to help increase our athletes' physical abilities and Christian character. It is up to each individual 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, to opposing teams, and to 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 important 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

Coaches at FCA are a very important component to the athletic program. Coaches 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 an effective coach and role model, 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 the role of molding our young athletes into strong and competitive young people. Coaches will help our athletes understand how to win with humility and lose with dignity. Our coaches are an advocate for their sport and should be a positive Christian role model.

Parents

All parents of our student athletes have an equal responsibility to their children and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve their greatest potential for the team. It is very important for the parents (legal guardian) to provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as a team parent. Parents and players should support the coaches and other players at all times.

Parents are spectators. Parents are not the coach or the referee. Parents need to respect the position of authority of the coaches and referees to create for a stable sports environment. It is very important for the parent to allow the Lord to guide their actions and attitude during sporting events, at FCA or abroad.

Athletes

FCA athletes should strive to do their best and give 100% effort in 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 are often unaware of what we expect of them as spectators. Whenever you attend an FCA athletic event we want 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 criticize 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

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 but may be excused for some of the following reasons: Family tragedy, sickness (w/ doctor's note), physicians' appointment (try to schedule at a different time), or 'special' permission from the coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to contact the head coach (first

option) or athletic director to let them know of an 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. Student 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 for that sport. This student will also not be eligible for the next sports season on any FCA team. Character is never built by quitting, even when things seem tough.

Athletes may not 'bully' or 'haze' any other student or athlete for any reason. This behavior will not be tolerated at FCA.

Any athlete that is kicked out of a game will also be suspended from the next game. They may also suffer additional repercussions depending on the level of the offence.

Any athlete that 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 an athlete at FCA. Student cannot have a '**F**' in any class. Students cannot have more than two '**D**' grades. Students should not receive more than **2 detentions** in any season.

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 there to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the best manner possible.

Athletes can be removed from any team, without compensation, for violating any of the rules or philosophies in this handbook, or for any reason that the coaches or athletic director feel are inappropriate.

Participation Forms and Fees

Participation fees are essential to help fund our athletic events. This includes, but is not limited to, athletic events, game officials, tournament fees, and transportation costs. The cost for one student to play one sport is \$100. After a student plays in one sport, they can do any other additional sport for \$50. Additional cost may occur if the teams want to get spirit shirts or warm up clothes. If a student does not make the team, they will not be charged the sport fee.

For students to be eligible to play they need to have a current sport physical evaluation completed by their doctor, a signed *Hold Harmless Agreement / Release of Liability Form*, and a signed *Handbook Agreement*, in the school office. Athletic forms are always available in the athletic office at the school and online.

Athletes Dress

Athletes are expected to follow the dress codes that are set forth by each coach in each sport. Whether an athlete is wearing clothes to a game, wearing warmup clothes, or in their uniform, they are expected to wear these clothes in modesty. All clothing must be worn properly. All clothing must fit properly. All athletes may not wear fingernails, jewelry, some 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 shirt to school on game days. This is to show 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 earphone or earbuds but cannot play any music out loud. All devices must be on silent. Students are not allowed to play video games on the way to a game while on the bus. Students are allowed to do homework as long as they are quiet and do their own work. When adequate transportation is unavailable, a team member may be allowed to ride with a parent as long as their own parent gives verbal or written permission to the coach or athletic director. After the game has ended students can ride home with parents as long as they let the coach know they are leaving. ***Never leave without letting your coach know you are leaving.***

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.
- Student **cannot** wear their uniforms at any other time without special permission.

Awards

- We believe that 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 nice for that event.

If you have any questions about our athletic program, please contact the Athletic Director or the Dean of Students so we can try our best to help you. Please sign the handbook agreement on the next page and submit the form to your child's coach. Thank you and God bless.



FCA ATHLETICS

FAMILY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2023-24 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*, which include but are not limited to the policies for attendance, behavior, transportation, and etc. 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.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Sport(s) Student is Planning on Joining

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Football
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- _____

- Co-ed Soccer
- Cross Country
- Softball (HS only)
- Baseball (HS only)
- _____

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