

# **2023-2024 Athletic Handbook**



## **Philosophy Statement**

The athletic program is an integral part of the education at Columbus Christian School. The purpose of the athletic program is to build character and to develop qualities necessary for Christian leadership in young men and women. This is accomplished through hard work, discipline in facing challenges, and being forced to the limit of one's physical ability. The athletic program affords students the opportunity to see themselves, as they are, each with their own unique abilities and limitations.

This approach to athletics flows from our mission. The purpose and intent of the athletic program at CCS is to bring glory to God through participation and involvement in individual and team sports and to develop the character of Jesus Christ within those who participate. We desire our athletes to grow spiritually by teaching them to think and act like Christ in the competitive arena as well as to model Godly character through their words, attitudes, and actions.

Developing each student athlete spiritually, so that the Holy Spirit controls and directs his or her mind and body in every athletic endeavor is the key objective of the CCS athletic program (1Thessalonians 5:23). Within that philosophical framework, our coaches desire to train, disciple, and encourage student athletes to perform to the best of their physical potential in order to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Athletic competition can serve as a microcosm of life providing perfect learning situations for teaching God's principles. Using the many problems and situations that can occur in athletic competition, coaches attempt to build within each student athlete eternal biblical principles and values, so that he or she might conform to Christ's image and demonstrate His character.

Consequently, the primary goal of the athletic program at CCS is to use athletic competition in the lives of student athletes to bring glory to God through participation and to develop within those who participate the character traits of Christ.

### **Columbus Christian Athletic Program Purpose**

This athletic handbook outlines for the faculty and staff, students, coaches, and parents important information concerning the athletic program at Columbus Christian School. It is comprehensive, yet not exhaustive. Any comments or additions should be directed to the Athletic Director and/or Administrator.

The athletic program is an important part of the overall educational experience at CCS and must conform to the school's philosophy of Christian Education. Athletic competition must never be permitted to damage the testimony of Christ or the philosophy and ministry of the school.

Through the athletic program at CCS, we aim to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To develop within each student the positive character qualities of Jesus Christ, conforming them to His image, and openly expressing those characteristics to others through athletic competition.
2. To learn to give maximum effort for the glory of God in every aspect of the athletic program.
3. To glorify God in word and deed by presenting a positive witness and testimony for Jesus Christ to the lost.
4. To teach the Biblical principles of respect for authority: players' respect for coaches; coaches', players' and fans' respect for the officials; and all respect and reverence for God.
5. To instill within every player the principle of setting aside our individual desires and goals for the good of the team.
6. To provide opportunities within athletic competition to learn self-discipline and self-control, because true individual character traits are often revealed in the heat of competition.
7. To encourage and provide opportunities for student athletes to produce a healthy body, ("temple of the Holy Spirit").
8. To do everything with a "total release," in order to play with complete concentration, and then release the results to God.
9. To live in word and deed as ambassadors for Jesus Christ, for His glory.

Columbus Christian School offers students a variety of sports in which to participate. The sports are offered during three distinct seasons: fall, winter and spring.

Girl sports offered are volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball and cheerleading.

Boy sports offered are soccer, basketball and baseball.

With sufficient participation, sports are offered at the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

1. The primary goal at the elementary level is to teach game fundamentals, teamwork, sportsmanship, the concept of commitment, respect for authority and most importantly, development of the athlete spiritually.
2. The primary goal at the middle school level is to refine the concepts learned in the elementary program, with a greater emphasis on teamwork; the concept of 100% effort mentally, physically, emotionally in order to play with complete concentration and the release of the results to God; and skill improvement and greater depth of spiritual growth.
3. At the high school level, competition is more intense and requires an increased level of commitment from each individual athlete. Many biblical principles, character qualities, and life lessons can be learned through competition at this level.

Columbus Christian School competes in the Southern Roads conference and follows the conference's rules, as well as IHSA rules and regulations.

### **Statement of Faith**

Columbus Christian School is an interdenominational school whose students represent numerous churches in Bartholomew and surrounding counties. CCS holds these truths to be foundational to its education:

- We believe that all scripture is the inspired Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- We believe God created the Heavens and the Earth. (Genesis 1:1)
- Our creed is Jesus Christ. We accept His Word, as stated in the New Testament, as our rule of faith and practice. Nothing can be added to or taken from it. (John 1:1; Matthew 16:16, 18; Revelation 22:18-19)
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, our perfect example, who was crucified and rose on the third day to provide forgiveness for our sins. (Matthew 1:23; I Corinthians 15:4)
- We believe that Christ established His Kingdom, the Church, on the Day of Pentecost after His resurrection. (Acts 2)
- We believe that Christ's Church is made up of all those who:
  - a. Have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. (Romans 1:16)
  - b. Repent of their sins, which means turning away from sin and walking in righteousness. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38)
  - c. Confess this faith and repentance with their mouths and by their lives. (Romans 10:9-10)
  - d. Are immersed in Christ for the remission of their sins. We do not believe infant baptizing is necessary. (Romans 6:4)
  - e. Continue to follow Christ's teachings and are faithful to His commands. (Romans 12:10-11)
- We believe in observing the Lord's Supper (communion) on the first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord's Day. (Luke 22:19; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:28)
- We believe in the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Godhead, our Comforter, and the Spirit of Truth. (Matthew 28:19)
- We believe in the Priesthood of all believers. Every Christian must support the local church by his sacrificial giving and by his Godly example, both in the home, in the community, and in his active involvement in the Lord's church. (Acts 20:35; Corinthians 16:2)
- We believe in the existence of Satan, the father of all lies, the prince of this world, the chief of the fallen angels. We recognize his power and influence, but also know that he has lost and will be cast into Hell. (Revelation 20:10)

- We believe in the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We believe there will be a great judgment, a separating of the sheep from the goats, an eternal Heaven and Hell. (Revelation 22:12-13; Matthew 25:32-34)

### **Code of Conduct for Coaches/Advisors**

It is the expectation of CCS that all coaches and advisors will conduct themselves in a manner befitting an ambassador of Christ in each practice session and each competition.

#### **Other Responsibilities of the Christian Coach**

1. Each coach must sign a Statement of Faith, and have a Volunteer Form/Background Check on file with the administration. All coaches of CCS must be interviewed by the administration.
2. As a coach you are responsible for the condition of our athletic facilities. This generally means that while our team is using any facility (ours or that of someone else) it becomes your job to see that it is kept clean, and that it is locked or secured after you have finished. Coaches should report any damages to the appropriate authority. The coach should always be the last one out of the facility after use unless the CCS custodian is finishing clean up. It is also the coaches' responsibility to see that the facilities are ready prior to a practice or game. This does not mean that you must do the work, but only that you see that it gets done.
3. Coaches must supervise players at all times (before and after game or practice).
4. Coaches are responsible for players until they are picked up by a parent.
5. Equipment.
  - A. It is the Coaches responsibility to oversee the use of athletic equipment and uniforms.
  - B. Coaches are to complete and submit, to the Athletic Director, the provided inventory sheet.
  - C. Uniforms are to be worn at games **only**. If students wear a shirt under their uniform, the shirt must match the uniform color (ex. white under white and red under red).
6. A coach must provide a practice schedule to be approved by the athletic director. The athletic director must approve changes.
7. Coaches are responsible for all communication with parents, athletic director, and school administration. (Make sure all changes to the schedule are communicated to the school office.)

#### **Athletic Transportation**

Parents are responsible for transporting their athletes to and from games and practices. A written note or parent text message must be provided to the coach if someone else will be responsible for a student's transportation. **Students will not be permitted to drive themselves to away activities.**

#### **Athletic Budget**

Each coach is responsible for submitting to the athletic director a list of items to be ordered at the end of the season. The athletic director must approve purchases and complete the necessary requisition form.

#### **Pre-Season Duties for Coaches**

1. Coaches will compile and furnish to each student athlete/parent during a scheduled team parent meeting a list of rules and procedures pertaining to their sport.
2. Coaches are responsible for making sure each player has a physical on file in the school office before any practice time takes place.
3. Coaches must prepare a roster and submit it to the office within one week prior to the first scheduled competition..

## **In-Season Responsibilities for Coaches**

1. The coach is responsible for the physical and spiritual well-being of the athletes during the sporting activity. It is important that all coaches exemplify a Christ-like character both on and off the field.
2. The coach should ensure that prayer is included at games and practices..
3. The coach is responsible for notifying players of times and places in regard to games and practices.
4. The coach shall handle any discipline situations that occur on the team and may seek the assistance of the athletic director and/or administrator if necessary.
5. The coach must ensure proper conduct of players at all times during practice, games, or trips.
6. The coach shall discourage the wearing of athletic equipment and clothing at unauthorized places or times.
7. The coach shall call to the attention of the athletic director and/or administrator any incidents of conduct on the part of coaches, officials, players, or spectators, which seem to be detrimental to the best interest of the sport, CCS, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
8. The coach shall maintain a good rapport with the official associated with the administration of the contest and shall handle himself/herself in such a manner that he/she represents Christ in a positive light and sets an example for the athletes.
9. If an injury should occur, immediate, qualified assistance should be sought if the coach determines it to be necessary. The coach should report serious injuries to the athletic director or administrator, fill out an accident report form, and report it to the parents of the injured student.

## **Student Participants Code of Conduct**

It is the expectation of CCS that students participating in extracurricular activities conduct themselves in a manner that is Christ-like. Extracurricular activities including sports are a privilege at CCS.

1. Each student is required to have a statement of faith on file whether a student at CCS or not.
2. The students are representing CCS at all activities. Unsportsmanlike conduct and profanity will be grounds for disciplinary action.
3. All students must maintain a 2.0 grade average and no failing grades on both report cards and weekly progress reports.
  - A. If a student gets a failing grade or falls below a 2.0 GPA, on a mid-term progress report the student becomes ineligible but may become eligible on a week by week basis until the next report card is issued. If a student is ineligible on a report card then they are ineligible until the next mid-term progress report. These rules also apply to fall sports with the previous spring grading term used to determine eligibility.
  - B. For any student serving an Out of School Suspension: All assignments or tests missed during the period of suspension must be completed. All missed assignments will receive a "0" and test/quiz grades will be reduced by 10%.
4. Home school students are welcome to participate in the CCS athletic program in the event Columbus Christian School does not have enough students to fill a roster. The Athletic Director and the Administer will determine if a team requires non CCS Students. Home schooled students must be interviewed by the school administrator and meet CCS admission requirements before participating. Students not enrolled at CCS will pay \$175 to participate in each sport. These fees must be paid before students will be permitted to practice.
4. Home schooled students are required to provide a report card to the coach, at the end of the grading period.
5. Only high school students will be eligible to letter in a sport.
6. The administrator, coach, and athletic director will handle all drug and alcohol issues. The decisions made at this level will be final.
7. Each student must attend school in order to participate in extracurricular activities.
8. If a student arrives at school after 9:30 am or leaves before 1:30 pm, the student will not be able to participate in extra-curricular and athletic events.

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

Participation in athletics at Columbus Christian is a privilege. If you choose to participate in athletics, you willingly accept the responsibility of being a leader- both in and out of the classroom and in the arena of competition. You also understand you are representatives of our Lord. Those who choose to participate must make sacrifices and establish priorities.

With these things in mind, the following guidelines have been established for those students who elect to participate in the athletic program here at Columbus Christian.

I agree, as a student athlete at Columbus Christian, to:

1. Model Christ in speech and behavior;
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout the contest year by treating opposing players, coaches, officials, and all other representatives with respect;
3. Be prompt to all scheduled practices, off-season workouts, games and team meetings;
4. Accept correction and instruction from any and all authority understanding that correction makes me wise and has eternal benefits as well as short and long-term benefits for my teammates and myself;
5. Represent my God, family, school, and team in such a way that it brings honor to each, whether competing at home or in away games;
6. Respect and relate in a Christ-like manner to teammates and classmates throughout the school day;
7. Participate in team ministry opportunities;
8. Hold academic achievement with high esteem receiving no lower than a 2.0 GPA to participate.

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

1. I will support Columbus Christian Athletics through prayer and my presence at CCS events.
2. I will encourage my son/daughter to uphold the ideals stated in the Columbus Christian mission statement as well as the Athletic Code of Conduct.
3. I will encourage my son/daughter to submit to authority and resolve conflicts when necessary.
4. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout the contest year by treating opposing players, coaches, officials, and all representatives with respect.
5. I will conduct myself at all sporting events in a manner that honors God. I understand that failure to act in said manner may result in expulsion from the event and possibly future events by school administrator or representative.
6. I will not publicly disparage the coach at sporting events, nor will I disparage him/her in my home.
7. I will go to the coach directly and avoid gossip, which could impugn my own integrity.
8. I will be realistic about my student athlete's capabilities and emphasize improvement and commitment.
9. I will be a role model for my student athletes through my actions and words.

## **Student Athletic Participation**

Even though every coach in each individual sport may have specific rules and guidelines for that sport, the following rules are in effect for all athletes at CCS.

1. Use of drugs, alcohol, vaping, and tobacco are prohibited (365 days per year). Proven use constitutes disciplinary action. (1Thes. 5:15, Proverbs 15:1)
2. Attendance at all practices and games is expected. .
3. Any improper or questionable language will not be permitted. Disciplinary measures will be taken for the first offense and expulsion from the team for the second offense. Let your performance do your talking. Improper language includes swearing, "in your face" boasting, and disrespect to officials, player or coaches. Lead a spirit controlled life and the Holy Spirit will control your tongue. (James 1).
4. CCS requires that a student's gender for purposes of participation in athletic activity or event be determined by the student's sex at the time of the student's birth, as indicated on the student's original birth certificate.

## Academics

**It is the student athlete's responsibility to maintain academic eligibility.**

1. Early dismissal for away games or practices is never an excuse for failure to fulfill academic responsibility.
2. Each student athlete is responsible for contacting teachers before early dismissal regarding work or assignments that might be missed or assignments that are due that day.
3. Student athletes must coordinate with the teacher to make up all missed work, including written assignments, quizzes, and tests.
4. All assignments not completed will result in failure for that work and will jeopardize the athlete's academic eligibility.

## Parental Participation

As a part of CCS partnership with parents, the athletic department requires involvement and participation by parents of student athletes in the overall function of the athletic program. Because of continual yearly budget constraints and limited athletic department manpower, there are numerous areas and activities that need parental support and participation.

The CCS Athletic Program depends on the support and involvement of parents in its goal to develop student athletes into the image and likeness of Christ through athletic competition. To build those desired character qualities into our student athletes, parents must agree with the school's philosophy of Christian education and the school's athletic philosophy. Parents should be supportive of the decisions of the Athletic Director and the coaches and always follow the Matthew 18 principle in any conflict or misunderstanding.

**Parent Participation Requirement:** Parents should sign up to work the gate or concessions at 6 home athletic events and 1 track event. For any parent that does not sign up they will be assigned times to work. If parents choose not to participate they can donate \$200.00 to the athletic department.

**CCS Booster Club** – Another important organization all parents of athletes are invited to join is the CCS Booster Club. The CCS Booster Club is a volunteer parent organization that provides valuable support to the athletic department and sponsors several fundraising functions and activities to help in the overall athletic budget. Their mission is to promote school spirit, provide financial support, and foster the growth and development of all CCS athletics. Parents of all student athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in the CCS Booster Club.

**Communication** – In order to enhance the communication between the athletic program and coaches, student athletes and parents, important information can be found in the "Athletic Handbook". All parents will receive a copy from the Athletic Director. Most other information such as changes in schedule, practice schedule, game times, etc., can be obtained through the coaches through Eventlink. At the beginning of each season for each sport, the game schedule will be provided that will also include individual coach's contact information.

## Fundraising Guidelines and Procedures

Extra-curricular groups may organize and conduct fundraisers in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Get approval from the administration for the type of fund-raiser.
- Schedule time for fundraiser events.
- Be responsible for the promotion, overseeing, set-up, and clean-up.
- Collect the funds and report to the appropriate authorities.

## **Sportsmanship**

Both winning and losing athletic competitions provide valuable Biblical and life lessons for our students that might not be learned anywhere else.

Parents and fans should model Biblical behavior while watching our student athletes in fierce competition, because modeling that behavior is just as important as the behavior of the athletes on the field.

These are principles to guide us, as Christian parents and fans of our student athletes:

1. Show proper respect to the players of both teams, remembering that each one is someone's son or daughter. Likewise, respect the visiting crowd, treating them just as you would like to be treated in their gym or on their field.
2. Show proper respect for officials and for their legitimate position of authority over the game.
3. Remember that the other team's players, coaches, and fans are not our enemies, just opponents in the game.
4. Please do not show negative reaction or behavior toward an official's decision or a player's performance.

Remember that the Lord sees our actions and He knows our thoughts and the intent of our hearts.

### **Sportsmanship tips for student-athletes:**

1. Accept your responsibility as a role model. Understand that representing your school and your community is a privilege that's not to be taken lightly.
2. Learn the rules of the games you play. Help your parents and fellow students understand them better.
3. Treat your opponents the way you want to be treated with respect. Nobody understands how hard they have worked better than you do.
4. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents especially comments of an ethnic, racial, or sexual nature.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials, no matter how much you may disagree with them.

### **Sportsmanship tips for parents:**

1. Student athletes are continuously learning, which means they make mistakes. It's important to praise them, and not criticize.
2. Always respect opposing players, coaches, and spectators. Show appreciation for the outstanding plays that they make. Never cheer if one of them is injured.
3. Respect game officials. Understand that they are people like you and me who are doing their best to support our youth.
4. Remember that a ticket to an athletic event is not a license to verbally assault others - including officials, coaches, and players from the opposing team.

### **Sportsmanship tips for coaches:**

1. As a coach, you need to exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership possible. You're a lot more than just a coach. You're a teacher. There is no profession that is more important. .
2. You need to do more than teach the rules of the game. You must also respect them and abide by them.
3. You must stress to your student athletes that disrespectful behavior including taunting, trash talking, and intimidating will not be tolerated.
4. You must set a good example for players and fans to model. This means treating officials with respect.



## **Awards and Lettering**

At the competition of each athletic season a banquet will be held to recognize outstanding achievement and Christ-like qualities..

Columbus Christian School awards a varsity letter to players and cheerleaders who meet the following criteria:

1. The student should demonstrate growth in Biblical character qualities.
2. Athletes must compete in 70% of the scheduled contests. A JV player moving up to Varsity must play 50% of contests after being moved up.
3. Athletes must finish the season in good standing.

Awards will be issued at the coaches discretion

## **Facilities**

The Lord has blessed Columbus Christian School with an outstanding facility. Student athletes must learn to be good stewards of what we have and use these facilities wisely. You should always leave an area cleaner than the way you found it. Do not tolerate destructiveness or misuse of property or equipment at any time.

1. All articles left in the gym or locker room area will be taken to the "Lost and Found" for a short period of time and then, if not recovered, given to a charity.
2. Students must not be in the building 30 minutes before or after the scheduled athletic event.
  - A. Athletes cannot remain on the school premises after the coach leaves.
  - B. For practices, athletes should not be in any other area of the building other than the designated practice area.
3. Coaches will be the last ones out to ensure the doors are locked.

## **Closing**

The CCS Board, faculty, and athletic director would like to encourage each student by wishing you the very best in all your athletic endeavors. If we can help you in any way, please let us know. It is our heart's desire to help each student athlete grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that the sports program at CCS will truly encourage you to develop and mature in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Our hope is that, through the athletic program of Columbus Christian School, you will strive to do your absolute best by using your God-given talents and abilities in the athletic competition so that you will bring glory to Him!

## **Acknowledgement of Receipt of 2022-2023 Athletic Handbook**

My signature below acknowledges that I have accessed the latest edition of the Columbus Christian School Athletic Handbook. My signature also indicates my understanding that the information contained in the handbook is considered to be official school policy. It is my responsibility to read the handbook and familiarize myself with the information contained therein. I understand that I am expected to comply with the rules and procedures contained in this handbook.

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Team

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Player/Coach/Parent

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Signature

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Date

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Printed Name

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Contact Number

\* Return this signed signature page to your coach or school office