

**Cross Creek Christian Academy**  
**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**  
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## FOREWARD

The responsibility of the Athletic Department at Cross Creek Christian Academy is to provide an environment in which a student athlete has the opportunity to develop educational and spiritual values. It exists as a part of the overall ministry of Cross Creek Christian Academy and promotes both its mission and objectives. The following represents the core principles driving the Athletic Department:

- We believe athletics are an integral part of the educational system
- We believe athletes to be an integral part of the student body
- We believe student athletes must be the focus of the athletic program
- We believe in the character building qualities of athletic participation
- We believe in the ability to share and model Christ through athletic participation

This manual attempts to outline basic policy and procedures that govern the Athletic Department at Cross Creek Christian Academy as it strives to model its above mentioned principles. Changes to current policy and the addition of new policy will be made as the need arises.

### Philosophy of Athletics

To place Christ at the center of our lives both on and off the field of play.

*“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come”*

1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

Recognizing athletics as part of the ministry at Cross Creek Christian Academy is key to understanding its role. Athletic participation is of some value, but if our time in athletics is without training in godliness, it has failed to function effectively.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”*

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

**The Athletic Department at Cross Creek Christian Academy desires to present itself to God and not to man. Our coaches, staff, and student athletes will strive to give their all as they represent CCCA and Jesus Christ. Whether in the classroom or on the field, all abilities; mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual, should be used for the Lord. This requires a commitment to excellence in all we do.**

## **OBJECTIVES**

The following represent the objectives of the Athletic Department at Cross Creek Christian School. The objectives involve all athletes, coaches, parents and staff members of the school.

- To model Christ in both attitudes, actions, and words
- To grow in our relationship with Christ through times of devotion and prayer
- To use the God-given talents and abilities, not for personal glory, but for God's glory
- To develop and nurture the God-given talents and abilities
- To develop Christ-like social interactions 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
- To recognize and seize the opportunities to share the love of Christ by word and example to officials, opposing teams, and spectators
- To develop the athletic program as part of the overall ministry of discipleship of Cross Creek Christian Academy
- To grow in community awareness of Cross Creek Christian Academy and its mission

## **Core Values**

The athletic program exists as support of the mission and purpose of Cross Creek Christian School. Therefore, its core values and governing principles should support the goals of leadership and excellence in faith and learning.

### **Character & Integrity**

- Purity of Intentions – desire to do what is right all of the time – Matthew 22:16
- Authenticity in relationships, dedication to Christian principles lived out in our daily walk

### **Discipleship & Discipline**

- To develop and equip leaders who will change their behavior and for moral improvement – I Corinthians 9:24-27
- Hard work, punctuality, coachable spirit, and taking care of the “little things”

### **Teamwork & Unity**

- To work in humility toward a combination or arrangement of parts into a Singleness of Purpose – Romans 12:3-5
- Open communication (shared expectations), genuine concern for others (shared compassion), and common goals (shared purpose)

## **Eight Athletics Principles**

Our athletic program offers eight specific discipleship focuses for teams to grow together toward Christlikeness.

### **1. Focus | Colossians 3:23**

- Offering our full attention
- Life Skill: Learn to give full attention and benefit to the matter at hand.

### **2. Intelligence | Romans 12:2**

- Offering our mind to be renewed
- Life Skill: Learn the ability to learn and apply godly patterns of behavior to life in self-awareness, emotional knowledge, problem solving, and leadership.

### **3. Training | Hebrews 12:11**

- Offering respect to those in authority
- Life Skill: Excel at any task requires criticism and evaluation; learn not to mistake such input as dislike or personal failure.

### **4. Communication | Ephesians 4:25**

- Offering the truth in love
- 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.

### **5. Humility | Philippians 2:5**

- Offering up our own agenda
- Life Skill: Humility leads to unity. Learn to work together without concern over who gets the credit. Point the spotlight to others.

### **6. Integrity | Proverbs 10:9**

- Offering our confidence in consistency
- Life Skill: Learn to develop a winning attitude through consistent winning effort and positive speech.

### **7. Perseverance | Romans 5:3-4**

- Offering our all in effort
- Life Skill: Learn to make the most of every opportunity; give the best you have leaving no regrets.

### **8. Self-control | Philippians 2:14-16**

- Offering a consistent testimony
- Life Skill: Learn that one display of poor testimony can erase years of positive testimony.

All Cross Creek Christian Academy athletes will be responsible for knowing and, to the best of their ability, demonstrating these characteristics. And therefore, our program might be described using these values and principles.

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

The Booster Club has been established to give support to the athletics programs primarily through fundraising, such as concessions at games, and any other fund raisers. Any parents, whose child participates in any of the sports teams, is considered a member of the Booster Club. Parents are expected to support sports through participation in the booster club by volunteering in the concession stand, collecting admission for games, providing food donations and participating in any other fundraisers. Parent support is very important to the athletic program.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP STANDARDS**

**Cross Creek Christian Academy athletics is an opportunity to provide a positive influence towards opponents, officials, coaches and teammates. It is a time where we can set ourselves apart and share the light of Christ towards others.**

### **Our Relationships with Opponents**

*Many of the opposing schools are Christian schools, which means that they are brothers and sisters in Christ. Regardless, they are created in the image of God so we:*

Demonstrate self-control and respect others

- Avoid words or actions that offend opposing teams, players, coaches, officials or spectators
- Treat opponents as we would like to be treated
- Avoid booing, taunting, and personal comments
- Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity

### **Our Relationships with Officials**

- Learn the rules of the game in order to be a more intelligent spectator
- Accept and respect the integrity and authority of the officials
- Avoid personal comments and sarcasm towards officials
- Have your goal to make the official's work a joy, not a burden

### **Our Relationship with Athletes and Coaches**

- Support our athletes by positive encouragement
- Understand athletics is a learning environment, students are not professionals
- Keep a proper perspective - student's character development, spiritual and academic progress is much more important than their athletic achievement
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the coaches. If you have legitimate concerns, contact the Principal and Athletics Director with your concerns. Confrontation before, during or after a game is not an appropriate time

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The following policies and procedures have been established to govern the affairs of the Cross Creek Christian Academy athletic program.

### **1) Athletic Eligibility for Tryouts and Participation Policy**

**Students wishing to try out for an athletic team must:**

- Be enrolled as a full-time student. Homeschoolers are allowed to play but must be considered a full-time student in order to participate in sports.
- Adhere to any published pre-season criteria established for the sport by the coach or Athletics Director.
- Students should have an athletic physical **prior to the first scheduled practice date**. Physicals are to ensure students are healthy enough to participate in sports and is valid for one school year for all sports that the athlete is participating in.
- Pay the designated Athletic Fee if applicable. Athletic fees are non-refundable and are due prior to the first scheduled practice date of each sport.
- Have demonstrated academic eligibility as stated under academic eligibility.

**Students must adhere to the following to remain eligible for participation:**

### **2) Attendance Policy**

- Adhere to any school policy governing participation.
- Students must arrive at school on time and is to participate in any game that afternoon or evening.
- Students not able to arrive at school by the designated time or who leave school early due to an approved college visit, physician appointment, Principal or Athletics Director approved event (such as attending a funeral) are still eligible to participate in a game that afternoon or evening. Please communicate with the office and coach prior to the situation.
- Students leaving school due to an illness cannot return for participation in any game that afternoon or evening.
- In case of a snow day situation when CCCA has school but a student's school district is closed – if the student is a regular bus rider and no transportation is provided by the district, they may still participate in a game that afternoon or evening.

### **3) Discipline Policy**

- Student disciplined in other areas of school life is subject to suspension from the athletic program to be determined by the Athletics Director and the Principal. Coaches and parents will be informed of the decision.
- If a student receives a detention of any kind, the serving of that takes precedence over attendance at practice and/or games.
- Students serving suspension will be ineligible for any practice or game held on that day.
- Students using profanity or abusive language, or demonstrating unacceptable behavior in school will be subject to suspension to be determined by the Athletics Director and Principal.
- Students found to be using tobacco, vapes, alcohol, or drugs will be automatically subject to dismissal from all athletic teams for the current academic year.
- Any student or coach ejected from a game based on unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials will be subject to the PIAA's Supplemental Disqualification rules for a two game suspension.
- Unsporting activity such as red cards in soccer game or ejections in basketball or volleyball both carry a minimum of one game suspension according to the PIAA.
- Cards (both yellow and red) issued in soccer or technical fouls issued in basketball for unsporting activity require a meeting with the principal and the Athletics Director before the next game to determine if additional discipline is warranted.

### **4) Team Commitment**

- If a player earns a position on the team, they are expected to remain on the team throughout the season. Non-excused absences will result in lack of playing time in games. Excessive absences will make student subject to dismissal from the team.
- If a player experiences some difficulty which affects them remaining on the team, a conference with the coach, the parents and the player must be held prior to the players leaving the team.
- In the event of an unexpected medical condition which impacts a players ability to participate, a conference with the coach, the parents, and the player will be held to identify the level of participation which is reasonable.
- Players are strongly encouraged to participate in off-season workouts, clinics, and camps to improve their skills.
- Players and parent must participate in any fund raising done for the athletic program through the Booster Club or Athletics Director.

## 5) Academic Eligibility

- Students must maintain a passing overall average in all classes.
- Students carrying a passing overall average but is failing **one subject** will be considered on **restrictive eligibility (may not start)**. Student will be eligible to practice fully but will not be eligible to play as follows:
  - For soccer games, players may not enter the game until the beginning of the twenty-minute mark of a forty-minute first half.
  - For basketball games, players may not enter the game until the beginning of the second period.
- Students carrying a passing overall average but failing **two or more subjects** will be **considered ineligible (may not play)** and will not be permitted to play in games, practice, or travel with the team.
  - At the time an **ineligible** student becomes eligible to play, they will be considered under **restrictive eligibility** for their first game back.
  - A student on ineligible status for three full weeks (not necessarily academic reports) will be dismissed from the team.
- Academic eligibility will be determined Friday afternoon of each week and determines eligibility for practices and games played the following Tuesday through Monday. Students will be notified by the following Monday of their eligibility status.
- Once ineligibility has been determined, during the week, a student may, **by their own initiative**, improve the quality of their work to the level specified above. The player would be reinstated under the above mentioned guidelines by word from the Upper Learning Center Teacher to the coaches of the sport.

## 6) Practice Policy

- Attendance at practices is required for participation.
- Coaches will be constantly adding and adjusting team strategies during practice sessions. Missing practice may result in students being unprepared for game situations.
- Missed practices will be classified and handled under the following two guidelines
  - 1) **Unchangeable Family Commitments**
    - Defined as an absence outside of the control of the player due to family commitments.
    - These absences should be kept to an extreme minimum and will result in no mandatory loss of playing time.
  - 2) **Player Chosen Activity**
    - Defined as an absence from practice due to a player's deliberate choice



- These absences will most likely result in a loss of playing time during the next scheduled game.
- Injured players are expected to attend practice to observe and learn new team strategies.
- Practice and event schedules will be provided by the coaches and may be held on Saturdays or school holidays. Wednesday's practices will end by 4:30 pm.
- If a student is participating in a practice not held directly after school and wishes to remain on campus, they must remain in a supervised study room until practice begins.

**Dress Code - No cut off t-shirts may be worn before, during or after practices. If not followed, the athlete will not be permitted to practice for that day.**

### **7) Uniform Policy**

- Uniforms will be distributed to athletes prior to their first game.
- Athletes are responsible for the maintenance of their uniform throughout the season.
- Any damage, outside of normal wear and tear, will be the responsibility of the athlete.
- Uniforms must be turned in, to the coach or Athletics Director, no later than two (2) weeks after the last game of the season. If no arrangements have been made directly with the Athletics Director, you will be billed for the uniform.
- Uniforms or uniform parts are to be worn ONLY during athletic games or approved athletic events, not for gym or general wear.
- Game-Day Dress Code - referees may enforce that colors underneath the jersey must be similar. If not followed, refs may not allow you to compete.

### **8) Travel Policy**

The following guidelines govern transportation:

- Students are expected to have rides to and from all away games unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach.
- Players must communicate with the coach to ride home with another student's parent.
- No student may ride with another student unless written permission from both parties has been given to the coach prior to the game, identifying the person who will be giving the ride.
- A student may not ride with another parent unless written communication has been given to the coach or the school 24hrs in advance. Only a written note or a text message communication is acceptable.

The following guidelines govern travel conduct:

- Athletes must adhere to any seating arrangement designated by the coach.
- Athletes shall conduct themselves properly and follow the rules of the coach and vehicle driver, such as, fighting, horseplay, or distracting the driver.
- Travel dress will be designated by the coach, yet should always be within the school dress code.
- Any athlete using electronic devices are expected to be listening to Christian music only, and using headphones.
- No trash is to be left at an away bench, in the locker room, or in vehicles; be sure to place all trash in the receptacle or take it with you.

### **9) Playing Time Policy**

- Playing time is an earned privilege.
- Playing time will be distributed at the discretion of the coach using the following guidelines based on level of competition:
  - For junior high teams, coaches are instructed to give each team member opportunity to play, based on practice attendance, effort, and attitude.
  - For high school teams there is no guarantee of playing time.
    - Coaches are instructed to use ability, effort, and attitude, to distribute playing time.
    - Evaluation of ability and game strategy is at the coach's discretion.

### **10) Gym and Playing Field Policy**

- Athletes are expected to respect the facilities and fields afforded them for practice and competition.
- Athletes are responsible for all trash and equipment after games and practices.
- All trash should be placed in proper receptacles.
- Proper shoes should be worn at all times. Non-marking shoes only should be worn on the gym floor. No cleats should be worn in the school building at any time.
- Locker rooms should be kept clean at all times.
- Athletes should report any damage as soon as it occurs.
- Athletes are not to be in the gym without proper adult supervision or approval.

## **COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**

It is inevitable that questions and concerns will arise throughout the course of an athletic season. In the hopes that they will all be handled appropriately, efficiently, and professionally, the following guidelines have been established.

1. Before, during and after a game is not an appropriate time to approach a coach about some concerns. Take some time to think about what your question is before you address any concerns.
2. If appropriate, talk with your son or daughter about your question. What is your child's perspective? Can your child solve the problem him or herself?
3. Set up a meeting with the coach if you still have questions. This should be an informational meeting where parties ask questions, listen, and discuss. Remember that the coach makes decisions for the good of the team based on practice, ability, attitude, and chemistry.
4. If questions remain, set up a meeting with the Athletics Director, Principal, coach and yourself.

### **ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE COMMUNICATION AT GAMES:**

1. Acceptable Behavior
  - Encouraging players at all times. Sports can help develop focus and determination if coached properly. Encourage students to stay focused for the next opportunity.
  - We confront in private and encourage in public. Ask players question about their play in private.
  - Cheering for the opposing team when a player shows hustle or athletic excellence.
  - Showing gratitude and respect to officials for the work they do is essential. Officials are not perfect. There are fewer and fewer officials because of the chaos most officials have to endure. We will show gratitude and respect as a community to those who officiate our games in spite of how we feel toward the official.
2. Unacceptable Behavior
  - Telling players what they did wrong directly after the incident. Phrases that point out what the player knew to do (like yelling "catch the ball") are not helpful and cause added frustration for the player.
  - Speaking in sarcasm with opposing players, coaches, or parents. Refrain from any communication that is not explicitly encouraging.
  - Refrain from complaining about opposing players.
  - Insulting or demeaning conversation will not be tolerated at any level. Persons who harass officials, coaches, or players will be asked to leave.
  - Arguing with officials has no place in a Christian school league. Life is not fair and our players need to learn how to cope with disappointment and overcome obstacles. Arguing deflects personal responsibility and is problematic in the long run for the development of our players.

# ATHLETICS FAQS

## SEASONS

- Soccer – Coed 6th-12th grades — Aug – Oct
- Basketball – Girls 6th-12th — Nov – Feb
- Basketball – Boys Varsity 9th-12th — Nov – Feb
- Basketball – Boys Junior Varsity 6th–9th — Nov – Feb
- Volleyball – Girls 6th-12th — March – April

## AWARDS

Athletic awards can be earned in all sports; however, certain criteria must be met. Awards are presented at the discretion of the Coach, the Athletic Director, and Principal. An award banquet for all the seasons is held each spring.

These awards will be determined by a *secret ballot vote by the players* and may include, but are not limited to:

- Most Valuable Player
- Most Improved
- Offensive Award
- Defensive Award
- Christian Character Award
- The Coach’s Award - this award is not voted on by the team

*Any student ejected from a competition based on unsportsmanlike conduct forfeits his or her ability to receive Most Valuable Player or Coach’s Award.*

## SENIOR NIGHTS

The last regular season home game is traditionally “Senior Night”. All senior athletes who participated during their senior year will be recognized. Senior Athletes that participate in both a fall sport and a winter sport will be recognized during both senior night celebrations.

## **Consequences of not Finishing the Entire Season**

- If the student is suspended from the team for academic or disciplinary action he/she will forfeit all recognition for that season. (recognition, award, etc.)
- If the student quits the team he/she will forfeit all recognition. If the student quits for extenuating circumstances, the Athletic Director will review the individual situation.
- Injuries suffered during participation in a school sport shall not necessarily exclude him/her from receiving an award. Cases involving injury or other unusual circumstances shall be decided by the Coach and the Athletic Director.

**Cross Creek Christian Academy**

**Athletic Handbook Contract**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”*

Colossians 3:23

*The Parent(s) agree to:*

3. Abide by the Athletic Handbook at all athletic events involving Cross Creek Christian Academy.
4. Know and understand the information covered in the Athletic Handbook.
5. Encourage good sportsmanship by personally demonstrating Christ-like support for all players, coaches, fans, and game officials.
6. Respect the decisions made by the coaches, Athletics Director and Principal.
7. Promise to employ the Biblical model for resolving conflicts.

*I/we, the parent(s) or guardian of the student athlete, acknowledge that I/we have read the terms of the Athletic Contract and Athletic Handbook. I/we also understand and agree that any violation of the Athletic Handbook will be cause for suspension, or permanent expulsion from future athletic contests. I have read, understand, and agree to uphold the Cross Creek Christian Academy Athletic Handbook.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student-Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*The Athlete agrees to:*

1. Abide by the Athletic Handbook at all athletic events involving Cross Creek Christian Academy.
2. Know and understand the information covered in the Athletic Handbook.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship by personally demonstrating Christ-like support for all players, coaches, fans, and game officials.
4. Respect the decisions made by the coaches, Athletics Director and Principal.
5. Promise to employ the Biblical model for resolving conflicts.

*I acknowledge that I have read the terms of the Athletic Contract and Athletic Handbook. I also understand and agree that any violation of the Athletic Handbook may be cause for suspension, or permanent expulsion from my team. I have read, understand, and agree to uphold the Cross Creek Christian Academy Athletic Manual.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date