



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



FAITH CHRISTIAN
A C A D E M Y

A Foundation of Faith. A Tradition of Excellence.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We are honored that you have chosen to be a part of our athletic program, and we look forward to partnering with our student athletes and families throughout the school year.

At our Christian school, athletics are viewed as an extension of the classroom and an opportunity to glorify God through competition, service, and personal growth. We believe that athletic participation provides a unique setting in which students can develop Christ-like character, strengthen leadership skills, and build meaningful relationships.

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries important responsibilities. Student-athletes are expected to uphold the standards of our school by maintaining a commitment to academic achievement, exhibiting Christian character, and respecting coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators. We encourage our student athletes to compete with passion while also demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship.

This handbook has been prepared to provide student-athletes and their families with guidelines that support our athletic program. We encourage you to read it carefully and refer to it throughout the year to maintain consistency. By working together in faith and unity, we can create a Christ-centered athletic experience. Our prayer is that every season will be an opportunity for students to grow not only as athletes but also as faithful followers of Christ.

Our athletic program is committed to fostering an environment that reflects the following biblical principles: (1) integrity, (2) humility, (3) encouragement, (4) respect, (5) excellence, (6) self-discipline, (7) perseverance, (8) servant leadership, (9) teamwork, (10) unity.

Morgan Moser, Head of School

Jennifer Prah, Middle School/High School Administrator

Stephen Hardison, Athletic Director

Since 1967

Ministering To Families In & Around Wayne County



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Academy Theme Verse

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

–Romans 8:37

Academy Motto

“A Foundation of Faith. A Tradition of Excellence.”

Academy Colors

Green, Gold, & White

Mascot

Conquerors

A Ministry of Faith Free Will Baptist Church

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OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

To provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures the heart, challenges the mind, and equips students to impact the world for Christ.

Statement of Faith

FCA believes the Bible to be the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God, the only infallible, authoritative rule of faith and practice. FCA believes there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. FCA believes in the Deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His vicarious death through His shed blood, His ascension to Heaven, and His personal premillennial return. FCA believes salvation is by grace through faith and all people are sinners in need of being saved. FCA believes in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who enables the believer to live a godly life. FCA believes in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philosophy of Athletics

It is the goal of Faith Christian Academy that the athletic program be an integral part of the lives of as many students as possible. While it is impossible to serve the needs of every person, every student is encouraged to explore the capabilities God has given him through the sports program here at Faith Christian Academy. The sports guidelines of FCA will be followed by all students. All parents are expected to support the standards and goals of FCA for the overall student body and Christian school ministry.

*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*

Winning is important to the continuance of a solid athletic program. It is undeniable that winning teams tend to bring larger crowds, higher enrollments, and greater school spirit. Winning, however, must be tempered by the basic beliefs of our Christian faith. First and foremost, it is the responsibility of all Christians to honor the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:23). We can win regional, state, or national titles, but with the loss of our Christian testimony, all becomes vain or worthless. The prevailing attitude among all those connected with the sports program at FCA should be – **I want Christ to be seen in my life.** Such an attitude will mold and shape Christian character from the inside to the outside. The following guidelines are designed to make the sports program profitable for each participant:

1. **Obedience** – Each player is expected to comply with what the coaches and others whom God has placed in authority over him ask him to do. If a player has a question, he should not be afraid to ask for clarification.
2. **Diligence** – Players should use all their strength and ability to complete each part of their task, whether it be cleaning up, doing drills, conditioning, competing in a game, or any other activity.
3. **Responsibility** – Each player should do everything that is expected, whether being directly supervised or not. A coach should not have to “baby-sit.”
4. **Determination** – A player should make up his mind to accomplish all of God’s goals in His time, regardless of the opposition.
5. **Confidence** – Remember, as you give all you have to Jesus, you become a winner in God’s sight.
6. **Intensity** – Each player should give a “total release” performance at all times, focusing his attention on the job at hand, putting forth every effort to complete it perfectly.
7. **Perseverance** – A player should always do his best to win, as this is the object of competition. Also, a player should continue faithfully throughout the entire season. If one has done his best, there is nothing to regret.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Sports Program Offerings

FALL SEASON

Varsity Boys' Soccer (Grades 6-12)
Cross Country (Grades 6-12)
Middle School Girls' Volleyball (Grades 6-8)

JV Girls' Volleyball (Grades 6-9)
Varsity Girls' Volleyball (Grades 9-12)

WINTER SEASON

MS Boys' Basketball (Grades 6-8)
JV Girls' & Boys' Basketball (Grades 6-10)

Cheerleading (Grades 6-12)
Varsity Girls' & Boys' Basketball (Grades 9-12)

SPRING SEASON

JV Boys' Baseball (Grades 6-10)
Varsity Boys' Baseball (Grades 8-12)
Golf (Grades 7-12)

Varsity Girls' Softball (Grades 6-12)
Varsity Girls' Soccer (Grades 6-12)

Expectations for Fans

FCA parents and students are aware of the standards set forth by the school but oftentimes are unaware of what we expect from our spectators. Therefore, we have listed a few things to keep in mind when you attend an FCA athletic event.

Do not criticize. Fans sometimes feel that they can do it better, but that is not their job. Support the players and coaches; **build them up – don't tear them down!**

Comments to officials and opposing teams should all be positive. "Booing" will not be permitted. The following actions will take place if the administration deems the speech or actions are at risk of hurting the ministry's testimony:

- 1st Warning will be a verbal and written warning by the administration.
- 2nd Warning will remove the fan from the game, and he/she will be suspended from field/gym for the next game.
- 3rd Warning – The fan will not be permitted to attend any more games for the remainder of that season.

If the fan is asked to leave by the OFFICIAL, then he/she will not be permitted to attend any more games for the remainder of that season. There will be NO WARNINGS for this action.

We as Christians are always displaying a testimony, whether good or bad. FCA wants to portray a good testimony, especially to the schools we compete against! LONG AFTER THE SCORE IS FORGOTTEN, OUR BEHAVIOR AND REPUTATION IS REMEMBERED.

Basketball Sportsmanship Tips:

Applause or cheering is **appropriate** when: (1) your team is getting a rebound, (2) your team is stealing the ball from the opposition, (3) your team is picking up a loose ball, (4) your team gains the tip on a jump ball, (5) your team receives the ball after being lost out of bounds by the opponent, (6) your team receives the ball as a result of a rules violation by the opponent, (7) your team scores, (8) your team blocks an opponent's shot, (9) a player makes a good pass to set a teammate up to score.

At certain times, noise is **inappropriate** when: (1) an official makes a call with which you disagree, (2) an opposing player is on the free-throw line, (3) the opponent's coach stands to his feet to instruct his team.
The failure of any player should never be ridiculed.

A Word to Our Parents

The best way to help your athlete is to provide encouragement and to be positive, both at home and in the stands. Please do not approach a coach, after a game, with a complaint. Give it 24 to 48 hours and if you still feel you must voice your complaint, schedule a meeting with the coach. If there is a problem, have your child talk to his coach. If the problem is not resolved or if it is a serious matter, schedule a phone call or meeting with the coach. If no solution can be reached at that point, the Athletic Director should be contacted to meet with all parties involved. Please know that you are the most important person in your child's life, and that he/she wants you to be proud of him. Be supportive of your athlete!!

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ATHLETE INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Anyone interested in trying out for a team must be at the first practice of the season. The coach must be notified ahead of time if an athlete is going to miss the first practice for an excusable reason (illness, death in family, etc.).

An Acknowledgment, Consent, and Release Form will need to be signed by a parent (or legal guardian) which includes an acknowledgment of risk involved in sports, as well as a travel consent and a liability release.

Each athlete must return the form in the back of this handbook to the Athletic Director before he will be allowed to participate in his first scrimmage or game of the school year. This is only required before he participates in his first sport of the school year.

During the basketball season, each parent of a cheerleader or basketball player is required to work at least 2 shifts per season in the snack shop at home basketball games. You can sign up for your slots at the Winter athletic meeting or in the school office. If you are unable to work the shift you have been assigned, please switch with another parent and inform the Athletic Director of the change.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

Due to the rising cost of operating a sports program for a Christian school, an athletic participation fee will be charged to cover the transportation expenses to games and to continue providing the necessary equipment for each sport.

Each athlete who plays on an FCA athletic team must pay a **\$75** athletic fee for each sport in which he participates. The fee is to be paid to the school office **before a uniform can be given out**. If an athlete competes in two different sports within a season, the sport's fee will be \$40 per sport.

GAME/PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Once you have joined a team, you have committed yourself to that team until the last game is completed. Players must be at every practice or game unless excused for one of the following reasons: (1) doctor/dental appointments – please try to schedule around practices, (2) personal sickness, (3) death in the family, (4) previously scheduled church commitment, (5) special permission granted by the head coach.

Faith Christian Academy is supportive of many local churches whose members make up our student body. Games and practices are not scheduled on Wednesday and Sundays. We try to schedule as few Saturday events as possible. We encourage our families to be actively involved in the local church. However, any athlete who misses a practice or game may have to make up practice activities and face the team's policy for a reduction in playing time. This is not meant as punishment for an excusable absence, but a reward and incentive to those team members who were present.

Each coach will announce their discipline procedure for missed practices or games. **Multiple unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.**

All athletes must be on time for practice and games. Each coach will announce his discipline procedures for tardiness. Once teams have been chosen, no one else will be allowed to come to the coach and ask to try out. Exceptions would be granted to a new student who enrolled after the teams were chosen, provided there is a uniform available.

If practice attire is issued to a team, they should be worn to every practice; otherwise, athletic/PE attire according to the FCA Student Handbook will apply.

ATHLETES' CODE OF CONDUCT

Every athlete is expected to maintain a good Christian testimony. At any time, an athlete not maintaining a Christian testimony on or off the field or in the classroom may be suspended or dismissed from the team.

An athlete who receives a detention that forces him to miss practice must serve that detention. Coaches will discipline players who are late or miss practice for detention.

A student who accumulates 25 demerits may participate in tryouts for a team but may not actively participate in practice or games until he has served a full week probationary period set forth by the Administrator and Athletic Director.

The use of headphones/ear buds is not permitted in gymnasiums or playing fields before, during, or after sporting events.

The use of profanity or other off-color remarks will not be tolerated. This type of language on or off the field will result in a suspension from the team to be determined by the administration and Athletic Director.

Fighting during athletic events will result in a suspension from the team to be determined by the administration and Athletic Director. More severe disciplinary action may be enacted, depending upon the circumstances.

Athletes are to be good representatives of Christ and Faith Christian Academy on road trips. Failure to do so may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

Faith Christian Academy does not condone and will not tolerate “hazing” or “initiations” of athletes by other teammates. Any such actions will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic team.

Any permanent removal of a player from the game by an official (i.e., ejection) will result in a one-game suspension. The Athletic Director and administration may review and make final decisions regarding game suspensions.

ELIGIBILITY

Attendance Requirements

All students participating in athletics must arrive by fourth period to participate in a practice or game scheduled for that day. Exceptions may be made only for previously scheduled medical, dental, or other school-approved appointments.

Academic Eligibility

To participate in athletics, students must: (1) have no failing grades in any class, and (2) maintain at least a C average in all core classes Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Bible.

Academic eligibility will be determined each Monday, beginning after the first three weeks of each semester. Students who receive an F in any class or who do not maintain a C average in Math, English, or Science will be declared academically ineligible from Tuesday through the following Monday.

During a period of academic ineligibility, students **may**: (1) attend practices, (2) attend home games, and (3) sit with the team in appropriate gameday attire with the approval of their parents and coaches.

However, academically ineligible students **may not**: (1) participate in games, (2) travel with the team to away games. Participate in contests or performances;

Students who meet the academic eligibility requirements at the next weekly review will regain full eligibility beginning the following Tuesday.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades will not affect eligibility until the work becomes past due. Once the deadline has passed, missing assignments will receive a grade of zero, and eligibility will be determined using the updated course average.

Students who receive an F in any class at the end of a grading period will be ineligible for the first two weeks of the following grading period.

Middle and high school students who are academically ineligible at the end of the school year will remain ineligible for the first two weeks of the following school year unless the failed course is successfully completed during an approved summer school program.

Notification of Eligibility

Eligibility determinations will be made each Monday morning and will take effect on the following school day (Tuesday).

If a student is declared academically ineligible during two consecutive weekly eligibility checks in the same athletic season, the student will forfeit his or her position on the team for the remainder of that season, including any postseason competition.

ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENTS

When it is necessary to miss class time due to travel to an athletic event, the following regulations will apply:

All due assignments should be turned in to the teacher **prior** to leaving.

All new assignments should be obtained **before** leaving or by **checking FACTS**. Late penalties may be assessed by the teacher for work not completed upon the student's return.

ATTENDANCE AFTER GAMEDAY

All athletes are expected to be present and punctual on school days following athletic events. If an athlete is absent or late, there must be a valid excuse as outlined in the school handbook. The following disciplinary actions will take place for those who cut class following a game day:

1st Violation: Parents Notified

2nd Violation: Miss next practice and first half of next game

3rd Violation: Miss entire next game

4th Violation: Miss entire next game

5th Violation: Removal from team

VIOLATIONS DO NOT RESET FOR EACH SPORT

ATHLETES' DRESS REQUIREMENTS

All athletes must meet the school dress code at all times for all practices, games, and after games. The following discipline action will take place if an athlete is out of dress code:

1st Violation – 1 Demerit and change. Change into school dress or correct the problem.

2nd Violation – 2 Demerits and change. Change into school dress or correct the problem.

3rd Violation – 2 Demerits and miss practice.

4th Violation – 2 Demerits and miss game or next game.

The following chart summarizes dress code requirements for game days:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>GAME DAY DRESS</u>	<u>TRAVEL TO AND FROM</u>
Volleyball	School Attire	Uniform
Soccer	School Attire	Uniform
Basketball	School Attire	School Attire/Uniform
Golf	School Attire	Uniform
Baseball	School Attire	Uniform
Softball	School Attire	Uniform
Cheerleading	School Attire	Uniform

Cleats are **not** to be worn in the gym area at any time.

NOTE: THESE GUIDELINES APPLY TO ALL PLAYERS, MANAGERS, STATISCIANS, AND SCOREKEEPERS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH TEAM.

QUITTING THE TEAM

Character is not built by quitting. "Trying times are not times to quit trying."

No student may quit the team without penalty. There should be a strong sense of belonging to the team even when personal injuries would restrict the individual's participation in practices and games. An injured player is expected to be at all practices and games (provided he/she is physically able).

Any athlete who quits a team will sit out the next two consecutive sport seasons. (Example: An athlete who quits basketball must sit out all spring sports and any fall sport the following school year.)

An athlete who leaves the team because of two consecutive academic probations will not be considered quitting.

An athlete who quits will be removed from the team roster and forfeit any post-season rewards such as team pictures, letters, athletic ceremony awards, etc.

An athlete who withdraws from school will not be eligible for post season awards and recognition.

The only exceptions to the above rules would be for death in the family or serious injury. The Athletic Director and the Administrator will decide on any exceptions.

TRANSPORTATION

This policy applies to all off-campus games and tournaments when transportation is provided by the school. It does not apply to activities for which the school does not provide transportation.

For all activities the team will be transported in a school-owned or school-rented vehicle. The vehicle must be driven by a school staff person or by an approved adult at least 21 years old.

When the school provides transportation to away games, all team members, cheerleaders, managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers must travel to the game on the school bus or van.

A team member may ride home from an off-campus game with his parent(s) or legal guardian provided that the coach has been **notified by the parent(s) or legal guardian (not the student) prior to leaving the game.**

An athlete may ride home from an off-campus game with a friend's parent(s) if the athlete's parents have provided the school or coach with a signed consent form authorizing their student to ride home with that driver.

Only at the discretion of the school may a team member be allowed to ride to an away game with the student's parent(s) or legal guardian.

FCA music guidelines must be followed at all times while traveling to and from games.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Any uniform or equipment issued to an athlete is the athlete's responsibility to return in good condition. Lost or damaged equipment will be charged to the athlete. Uniforms are only to be worn for games. Special permission may be granted for certain situations.

All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach or Athletic Director within 2 weeks after the last game of the season. If a uniform is not returned in this timeframe, it will be treated as not returning. A signed paper and discipline will be handed down.

Any athlete who does not return uniforms and/or equipment will have his report card held and costs for replacement will be charged to his school bill. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until all overdue uniforms, equipment, and fees have been turned in.

AWARDS

The school will have an athletic assembly at the conclusion of all the athletic events. All teams (Junior Varsity and Varsity) that participated during the entire season will be recognized at that time. All team members should make every effort to attend the awards assembly. Only athletes who finish the season still on the team roster will be recognized at the athletic ceremony.

All Junior Varsity athletes will receive a participation certificate. Also, managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers will be recognized.

Letterman Awards

To earn a Varsity letter, an athlete must be at least a ninth grader. One letter will be given per person, regardless of the number of sports played.

First-year Varsity lettermen will receive their letter and a pin for that sport.

Second-, third-, and fourth-year Varsity lettermen will receive a service bar for that sport.

Varsity managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers will receive pins and service bars each season according to the above guidelines.

Special awards

Junior Varsity teams will award up to **three individual recognitions** for each sport. Varsity teams will award up to **four individual recognitions** for each sport. The categories and numbers of awards will be determined by the coach and Athletic Director. **(NOTE: Any athletic team that finishes 1st or 2nd in the State may give one additional award.)**

Any athlete who participates in three sports during the school year will be given special recognition as a **Tri-Athlete** by the Athletic Director.

The Conqueror Award will be given to an athlete that the administration, Athletic Director, and coaches have selected.

Requirements:

- * Must participate in at least two major sports
- * Must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
- * Should be a spiritual leader
- * Should excel in athletics

Description:

The Conqueror Award is given to a student/athlete who displays spiritual leadership and sound academic performance while excelling in athletics. To receive this award the student athlete must participate in at least two sports, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be a proven spiritual leader. Besides receiving an individual plaque, the individual's name will be placed on a plaque that will hang in our gymnasium to honor recipients of this award.

Any questions or issues not discussed in this handbook will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and administration.



COMPLIANCE FORM

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FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Athletic Handbook Compliance Form

This form is to be completed and returned to the Athletic Director before an athlete participates in his first sport of the school year.

I have read and understand the rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I agree to abide by these rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Athlete's Name

Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent's Name

Parent's Signature

Date

SPORT(S): _____