

# Athletic Handbook

## Cornerstone Christian Academy

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Receive...

Realize...

Respond...



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Athletic Vision .....	Page 1
Athletic Philosophy	
Mission Statement.....	Page 1
Athletics Purpose .....	Page 1
Objective.....	Page 1
Goals .....	Page 1
Expectations.....	Page 2
Parent Participation.....	Page 2
What it Means to Win .....	Page 2
Eligibility and Participation Requirements	
Sportsmanship.....	Page 3
Athletes as Representatives.....	Page 3
Eligibility for Participation .....	Page 3
Substance Abuse Policy.....	Page 4
Attendance .....	Page 4
Hazing .....	Page 4
Academic Eligibility Requirements .....	Page 4
Physical Examination.....	Page 5
Athletic Fee.....	Page 5
Uniforms .....	Page 5
Transportation.....	Page 5
Practices .....	Page 5
Snow Day Policy .....	Page 6
Awards Program .....	Page 6
Homecoming.....	Page 6
Senior Night.....	Page 6
Statement of Commitment .....	Page 7

## **Athletic Vision**

To continually strive for excellence in all aspects of athletics by committing to:

- A foundation centered on Jesus Christ and the revelation of God in the Bible and in Creation
- Develop athletes whose Christ-like character qualities are evident in their lives
- Build eternal values by stressing attitudes and actions in relation to God's Word
- Promote growth physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and morally, as well as in academic discipline
- Develop and maintain well-balanced competitive programs
- Hire, train, and retain coaches who can minister to the spiritual needs of the student as well as maximize each athlete's potential
- Involve not only the participants, but also the student body, staff, faculty, school family, and the community in supporting the athletic program
- Provide high quality facilities, equipment, and uniforms

## **Athletic Philosophy**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to create an environment where students receive an excellent education based on God's Word, realize their unique purpose in God's plan, and respond productively to God's call.

Cornerstone recognizes the desirable role an athletic program plays in the life of the school. The mission of CCA Athletics is to have a strong spiritual emphasis and to achieve excellence while integrating Christian principles into the athletes' daily lives.

### **Athletics Purpose**

Athletics is a unique ministry that provides activities for character building outside the traditional classroom setting. Biblical perspectives and appropriate responses may be taught to student athletes through the challenges, encounters, and situations found in competition. Athletics, a microcosm of life, teaches intensity, diligence, dependability, patience, and other Christ-like qualities.

### **Objective**

The objective of CCA Athletics is to develop the athlete so that God is honored in all aspects of their lives allowing the athlete to:

- Serve others by helping their teammates and team succeed through teamwork
- Be an effective witness on and off the field/court
- Fully utilize their God-given abilities
- Realize the requirements of a work ethic
- Make sound decisions under pressure
- Handle conflict, deal with success, and cope with disappointment
- Improve playing knowledge and skill
- Develop self discipline

### **Goals**

Each team at CCA will set measurable goals based on the mission, purpose, and objectives of CCA Athletics.

## **Expectations**

The CCA athlete has an obligation to conduct himself/herself at all times in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Christianity, as part of who we are, should be self-evident in our performance and actions. Good sportsmanship is expected and required to maintain team eligibility and activity participation.

### **CCA athletes, coaches, parents, student body and spectators will:**

- **Clearly reflect the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **Maintain respect for opponents.**
- **Cheer for Cornerstone Christian Academy, not against our opponents.**
- **Recognize and respect the position of authority granted to coaches and referees/officials.**
- **Refrain from all derogatory remarks toward any player, coach, or official.**
- **Uphold the winning tradition of CCA sports.**

*When the conduct (including language) of the spectators, team member officials, or any other person is not representative of the KCAA (Kentucky Christian Athletic Association), the host Administrator or Athletic Director shall have the authority to stop the contest and warn the offender(s). Upon repetition of the offense, the Administrator or Athletic Director may resolve the situation according to his/her best judgement. Control of the KCAA is important, but officials must have and indeed do have authority over the contest at all times. For regional and state competitions, the elected officials have the authority to correct misconduct. (KCAA – Constitution and Bylaws, Article II, Section 1B).*

## **Parent Participation**

As the primary focus of Cornerstone is to provide a quality Christian education, it is important for parents, family members and friends of student athletes to remember participation in athletic events is a privilege, not a right. Parents are encouraged to attend sporting events and cheer for their student athletes. Parents are expected to adhere to the same conditions of sportsmanship and Christian character.

It is never appropriate to cast a disparaging light on coaches or other athletes by slander, manipulation or maliciousness. Any parent, family member or friend of student athletes actively engaging in questionable behavior in the stands or away from the school, which impact student athletes or coaches may be banned from athletic events. Any parents who have issues with the way their child's coach is performing must address their issues with the Athletic Director.

## **What it Means to Win**

At Cornerstone, winning means much more than outscoring the opponent. It means doing everything in a way that honors the Lord and doing everything heartily, as unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:23 *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”*

CCA measures winning by a different standard than just the scoreboard. Winning is measured by the heart of the coach and the student athlete.

## Eligibility and Participation Requirement

### Sportsmanship

Everyone involved with athletic contests should be committed to the demonstration of good sportsmanship and Christian behavior. It is vital that our coaches, fans, and participants remember that Christian character should be represented at the cost of any positive results in a competition. The reflection of the Christian testimony of our school outweighs the outcome of any contest. Players will be expected to shake hands with opposing players after the game.

### Athletes as Representatives

The administration and athletic staff of Cornerstone Christian Academy are very concerned with the attitudes displayed by the athletes. We believe that our athletes are representatives of our school to the outlying community, both on and off the playing field. Many times the only contact that people make with our school is through observation of our athletic teams. We feel that a student's behavior in the classroom displays a clear indication of what their behavior will be on the field or court. If a student athlete does not act in a Christ-like manner with his peers and his teachers, we do not expect that he will be a good candidate to represent our school through the athletics program.

**Due to the varied talents of athletes on each team, playing time is not guaranteed.** It is the intent of each coach to give each player quality playing-minutes during the season. Students are encouraged to work hard to improve his/her talents so that he/she will be an intricate part of the team.

When a disciplinary situation occurs on or off the field, it will be dealt with immediately. After consultation with the athletic director, the player's coach will meet with the athlete and explain the disciplinary decision. Parents will be contacted either by letter or a phone call informing them of the circumstances and the resulting disciplinary measure that was assessed. Each case will be judged individually. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Pre/post practice clean-up duty
- Push-ups, sit-ups, wall time
- Running
- Verbal apology when applicable
- Written apology when applicable
- Loss of playing time
- Suspension from team
- Dismissal from team
- School disciplinary demerits issued by the Headmaster

### Eligibility for Participation

- A player must be enrolled, full-time student (at least four (4) instructional hours per day) at CCA in order to play on a junior varsity or varsity team, inclusive of practices.
- Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to try-out for all high school sports.
- Students in the upper elementary grades may be eligible to participate at the high school level in volleyball, cheerleading, and individual sports.
- Junior Varsity: Any athlete, upon entering his/her freshman year, shall only have 4 semesters of eligibility for JV play. An athlete is ineligible for JV play if he/she turns seventeen (17) before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year.
- Varsity: Any athlete upon entering his/her freshman year shall only have 8 semesters of eligibility for varsity play. An athlete is ineligible for varsity play if he/she turns nineteen (19) before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year.

- A student is only eligible for the first eight (8) consecutive semesters after enrolling in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, even if he/she does not participate in athletics.
- Students repeating a grade for failure of academics may not participate in a sport during his/her 2<sup>nd</sup> repeating year.

#### Transfer Students:

- Member Schools: A transfer student, who has transferred from one member school to another member school, during the school year, must sit out six (6) weeks (42 days) and is eligible on the 43<sup>rd</sup> day.
- Non-Member Schools: A transfer student, who has transferred from a non-member school, is eligible to play for a member school on the 15<sup>th</sup> day after he/she is enrolled in the member school.
- Post-Season Play: To compete in post-season play, the transfer student is required to compete in at least one-fourth (1/4) of the regular season or at least be dressed and on the bench.

Foreign Exchange Students: CCA may have no more than two (2) foreign exchange students per roster. A foreign exchange student may play for only two (2) years.

#### **Substance Abuse Policy**

Substance abuse is a major violation of the CCA discipline code. Once an athlete is determined to be using alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, the school will take whatever action deemed necessary.

#### **Attendance**

Students must be in attendance for the full day of school on any given game day. The exceptions will be as follows:

- Doctor appointment with written excuse/note from the doctor
- Funeral service

All other absences, inclusive of practices, must have prior approval from the coach in order to be excused.

#### **Hazing**

Hazing (Harassing with silly, disagreeable, or demeaning tasks) is considered a major violation of the discipline code. If an athlete is determined to be involved in a hazing incident, the school will take whatever action deemed necessary.

#### **Academic Eligibility Requirements**

Athletics are viewed as a subordinate element to the primary purpose of the school, which is to serve the parents as an **academic** resource. A student **must maintain a minimum overall 2.0 GPA, with no failing grade (F) in any one class.** Failure to meet this requirement will result in the following:

- Any student who does not meet the minimum requirements shall be placed on probation until the next three-week progress report or report card.
- In consideration for sports beginning prior to start of the school year, students who did not meet the minimum overall GPA, or who had a failing grade in any one class at the end of the previous school year, will automatically be placed on probation at the beginning of the school year.
- At the end of the probationary grading period, if the student's grades do not meet the minimum requirements, he/she will be suspended from any participation (inclusive of practices, games, meetings, etc.)

- A student must serve a suspension through a minimum of five (5) consecutive school days, but thereafter, when the student reaches the minimum requirements for eligibility, he/she will return to a probationary status.
- Upon a student's third suspension during a particular season, he/she will be removed from the team. Removal from a team negates any athletic awards a student may have received for that season.
- Students may also be declared ineligible at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, or Headmaster for disciplinary reasons.

### **Physical Examination**

A sports physical form must be on file with the school in order for an athlete to be eligible to participate. Physicals are only good for one calendar year from the date indicated by the physician. A new physical must be completed for each school year for sports. It is recommended for sports physicals to be completed between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### **Athletic Fee**

An athletic fee is collected from all participants. **Athletes will not be allowed to play until this fee has been paid.** All fees should be sent to the Financial Office. Indicate the student's name and on which team the student is participating. Fees are based on the level of the team, not the grade level. Fees will be posted as assessed from year to year.

### **Uniforms**

For sports where a team uniform is owned by the school, a rental fee will be charged. For sports where a team uniform is not owned by the school, athletes are responsible for securing their own uniform. In sports where uniforms tend to be changed annually, students will purchase and keep their uniforms.

An issued uniform, or any sports equipment, that is issued to a student become the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents. Distributed items must be returned within one-week of the end of the season. Replacement of lost or damaged uniforms and/or equipment is required. The Athletic Director will determine the costs.

### **Transportation**

As a rule, parents are responsible to provide transportation to all games and practices. Cornerstone will try to provide transportation to games through a team bus or car pool. Parents should direct transportation questions to the coach at the beginning of the season. **Students may not transport other students to any sports activity. Please do not allow your student to find his own way to the games.** Special circumstances should be discussed with the Athletic Director. Parents and students should discuss proper safety procedures for their student driving to and from athletic events. Student's cell phone numbers should be given to the coach for emergencies.

### **Practices**

Coaches should cover practice expectations in a pre-season meeting and/or informational letter. Practice attendance is mandatory to be successful. Varsity and Junior Varsity teams practice Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Some coaches will hold practice on Saturdays. Practice will be scheduled from 3:30-7:00 when school is in session. So that our students may attend church, athletic practices on Wednesdays are discouraged; however, scheduling, tournaments, or other exceptions may deem it necessary to schedule a Wednesday practice. In such cases, practice will end at 5:00 p.m. and is not mandatory.

Parents have the responsibility to pick up students in a timely manner. Students should not be on campus after school unless their practices are immediately after school. Please make arrangements for your student accordingly.

## **Snow Day Policy**

If a “snow day” or “emergency day” is called on the day of an athletic contest or practice, the following policy will be in effect:

- A decision about practice or games will be made by 1:00 p.m. This information will be provided through the One-Call system.
- The scheduled athletic event or practice is considered cancelled unless the Athletic Director or Headmaster determines it possible to play.

## **Awards Program**

The awards program is held each spring. Coaches will work with the Athletic Director and parents to schedule and create an appropriate end of the season program. The program is a time for athletic recognition, awards and honors.

- **In order to be eligible for awards, inclusive of receiving a letter, an athlete must have been dressed and eligible to play 75% of the games, with the exception of injury or extreme circumstances defined by the administration.**
- The following individual awards will be given within each athletic team:
  - Christian Character
  - Most Valuable Player (MVP)
  - Most Improved
- **Varsity Letters** will be earned by athletes who participate on a varsity team. Those who qualify will earn a letter in or after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who qualify at the varsity level either before 9<sup>th</sup> grade or after receiving a letter will earn a pin. In order to be eligible to receive this honor, an athlete must have been dressed and eligible to play in 75% of the games.

An Athlete of the Year will be selected as well. This award will consider academic performance, character attributes, and playing abilities. This award will be agreed upon by the Coaches, Athletic Director, and Headmaster.

## **Homecoming**

Cornerstone Christian Academy will schedule a homecoming event during the Basketball season.

## **Senior Night**

Cornerstone will plan a Senior Night for senior athletes during one of the last scheduled home games, to recognize all seniors who participated in a sport during their senior year. Both parents and athletes are expected to participate in this recognition. The Athletic Director will notify senior athletes and their families of the details.



**CORNERSTONE**



**BULLDOGS**

**Athletic Handbook Statement of Commitment**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We understand that participating in the Cornerstone Christian Academy athletic program is a privilege, and understand that the responsibilities as outlined in the Athletic Handbook come with that privilege. We have read, discussed, and understand the procedures and policies as defined in the Athletic Handbook, and here sign that we are committed to abide by such.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Printed Name

\*\*Please sign and return this page to the respective coach.