

Fayette Christian School

Athletic Handbook

2023-2024

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The sports program at Fayette Christian School is an excellent opportunity to exercise bodies, experience healthy competition, and learn valuable principles of commitment and teamwork. Most importantly, athletics provide the chance to instill and practice Godly character. This is the primary focus of the Crusader athletic department. From classroom to competition and from practicing to playing, our athletes are expected to take their coaches' instruction and implement it into playing skill, behavior, and character. Therefore, these policies are designed to establish order and discipline, producing an environment conducive to these purposes.

II Timothy 2:5 "And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

Fayette Christian School is a member of the Buckeye Christian School Organization (BCSO), which is affiliated with the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS). BCSO is not an athletic conference; however, they do provide us an affiliation of schools with whom we can schedule games. They also organize end-of-season tournaments for the schools in BCSO.

I. Eligibility

A. Academics

A student athlete must meet certain academic standards in order to participate in athletics. This academic eligibility requires having no F's and no more than one D in any subject. Eligibility will be determined by the grades on the progress and report cards. If a student fails to meet this standard, the student will become ineligible and will not be permitted to participate in any game (this includes attending away games and/or dressing out) for the next two weeks, or three games, whichever is the least amount of time. At the end of this period, a student's grades will be checked. If the grades are satisfactory, the student will again be eligible. If the grades do not improve, the student will remain ineligible, and will continue to be checked every two weeks or three games until they are raised to a satisfactory level. Students may attend practices while they are ineligible.

B. Age

Junior high teams may include 5th through 8th grades. Junior varsity and varsity teams may include grades seven through twelve. (It will be left to the coach to decide whether or not seventh and eighth graders will be included on JV and varsity teams.) Students must not be older than nineteen prior to August 1 to be eligible to play.

C. Enrollment

Junior high and high school students must be enrolled as full time students at Fayette Christian School in order to be eligible for FCS athletic programs. Homeschoolers in grades 1-6 may be eligible to play in elementary sports if they regularly attend Fayette Bible Church and have been approved by the athletic director and/or principal, and the appropriate fees have been paid on time. (See section X.)

II. Attendance

Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory. The only exceptions will be for illness or pre-planned, approved absences explained to the coach personally. The coach will determine the consequence for an absence (loss of starting position or playing time, etc.) Any student absent from school on the day of an activity is not permitted to participate in that day's activity. An exception would be if the student was absent in order to attend an approved activity. To qualify as an exception, the involvement must be pre-approved by the principal. Athletes are also required to report to school on time the morning after an event remain for the entire school day. Failure to do so (unless excused by the administration) will result in the student's not playing in the next game.

III. Appearance

Modesty and propriety should be demonstrated at all times in dress and appearance. This includes practices, games, and travel. Practice attire should never be too short, tight, or immodest in any way. Shorts should come to the knee, and tops should have sleeves. Please make sure your tennis shoes/cleats are in good condition. Cleats should not be worn in the gym, and indoor shoes must have non-marking soles. The coach and the athletic director will monitor this policy. Unless the coach specifies a certain team dress on game days, male athletes will wear a shirt and tie with uniform pants. Female athletes will wear nice dresses or skirts and blouses conforming to school standards. The coach might determine that the team needs to travel in warm-ups and uniforms if there are no changing facilities at the away site. Otherwise, the team will change at the site of the game. If an athlete is not in compliance with this policy, he/she may not participate in any scheduled activities and may lose future privileges. An athlete may choose to change out of his/her uniform after a game; however, dress must be consistent with FCS policy for casual dress. Please remember that you are representing the school and must be modest in all areas. It is up to the coach to determine whether or not the attire is acceptable.

Athletic shorts must have at least a 7-inch inseam and be loose-fitting. Longer shorts (knee length), or leggings underneath shorts may need to be worn when playing BCSO schools or in the BCSO tournament.

BCSO conference rules for appearance will be followed for all BCSO games. The following are standards as stated in the BCSO athletic handbook:

Dress Standards. The purpose of dress standards in our association is to be sure of two important goals: first, to teach our students a proper example of Christian deportment and modesty; and second, to present a clean Christian testimony to all who attend the games. The following standards have been established to implement these goals.

BOYS: Haircut should be neat and trimmed conservatively in a standard cut. Dress for games should be standard soccer or basketball uniforms or slacks with school lettered t-shirts or jerseys. (Longer shorts are allowed for modesty sake, but they must be of the same color.) Neat, unpatched jeans may be substituted for slacks. Pants and shorts must be properly sized.

GIRLS: The key word in the dress standards for girls is “modest” (I Timothy 2:9 “... that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...”). For cheerleaders, either regular loose-fitting cheerleading outfits or loose-fitting uniforms are acceptable. Uniforms must be to the knee. Slacks (including warm-ups) are not acceptable. The criterion for determining the appropriateness of any given cheering routine is, once again, modesty. Cartwheels and flips are prohibited unless shorts that extend to the top of the knee are worn beneath the cheerleading skirt. Tops (shirts or sweaters) for the cheerleaders are not to be tight-fitting or low-cut.

Volleyball players will have an initial check of the uniforms before tournament play begins. This check should include the following: 1) Culottes or shorts should be to the knee (front and back). Check should be made with players in a ready/kneeling position; 2) Shirts should be checked while players are reaching to simulate blocking or serving to make sure that the shirts are worn properly. If the uniform does not meet the proper qualification at the time of the check, then the problem must be corrected before the girl is allowed to participate. The checker will report any uniform violations to the BCSO Athletic Director or tournament director before the game begins (if the problem has not been remedied with the checker), and that player will be ineligible to play until the checker approves the uniform. Once the initial check is completed, the athletes and coaches should be able to concentrate on the tournament without any interruptions or distractions by tournament personnel. Exception: If there is a clear breach of the modesty issue (for example, bare midriff showing, pulling up uniforms above the knee pads), then someone with tournament authority should say something at a convenient time to the coach (between games, etc.).”

*Any person assisting with a team should be dressed in attire consistent with

BCSO policy."

*Female coaches should wear skirts of modest length to games unless given permission from the athletic director. Male coaches should wear collared shirts.

IV. Conduct

A. Attitude and Team Conduct

Probably the most important area of an athlete's development is attitude. It is imperative that a good attitude and respectful behavior (including speech and actions) be exhibited at all times:

- in the classroom toward teachers and classmates;
- at practices toward coaches and teammates;
- while traveling toward anyone else in any situation.
- during games toward referees, opposing coaches and players, and fans;

All practices, games, and travel to and from are considered school functions; therefore, all school rules and consequences apply.

FCS students are expected to maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, language, morality, and honesty. As representatives of FCS, athletes must agree to strive toward unquestionable character in dress, conduct, and attitude both on and off the field or court. Students are expected to respect the property of the school and of others. Damaged property is to be replaced at the offending student's expense. Any athlete who receives 75 demerits will become ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the academic year.

Failure to follow these guidelines at any time will result in immediate action. Depending on the severity of the offence, the coach and/or athletic director will determine if a verbal warning, parent conference, loss of playing time, or expulsion from the team may be warranted.

B. Spectator Conduct

Please remember that we are a Christian organization and, therefore, expect only God-honoring conduct at games. There should be no negative comments directed toward players, coaches, opposing fans, or refs at any time. Please be respectful to those sitting around you when cheering. Inappropriate conduct may result in expulsion from the activity.

Spectators are to refrain from coming onto the court or approaching the bench at any time during the game. (Exceptions may be made in cases of medical emergency.) Parental support is encouraged; however, coaches are responsible for coaching their teams. The times during and between periods and games are to be reserved for the coach's instruction.

V. Physical Exams and Fees

A. Physicals

Physical forms may be obtained from the Ohio High School Athletic Association's website at <https://www.ohsaa.org/> and must be completed and returned before the first practice. No one will be permitted to play in a game until their physical form has been turned in.

B. Participation Fees

All athletes must pay a non-refundable participation fee before the first game of the season.

VI. Facilities and Equipment

The Lord has blessed us with facilities and equipment that make it possible for us to run a sports program. Athletes are to respect the gym and equipment and follow all rules set forth by their coach for maintaining it.

- Uniforms will be handed out to athletes at the beginning of the season. Athletes are expected to keep track of their own uniforms for the season. When washing uniforms, make sure to follow instructions given either on the tags or by your coach. In the event of a lost or ruined uniform, the athlete will be required to pay for the affected items.
- Athletes are not permitted to be in the gym without FCS staff supervision.

- Students may not enter storage areas unless given permission to do so. Equipment should be kept neat and organized. Report missing or damaged equipment.
- The following guidelines are to be followed by ALL patrons:
 - No one under the age of 18 permitted in the gym without a responsible adult.
 - Any type of shoe that can mar or otherwise damage the gym floor is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to cleats, street shoes, and shoes with soles that leave marks.
 - The area above the bleachers is off-limits.
 - Hanging lights are to be turned on only for practices or public events (games, programs, etc.)
 - No dunking, slamming, or hanging on rims or nets. This includes the outdoor basketball goals.
 - No running or jumping on bleachers.

VII. Travel

The school will provide transportation for away games. Please make sure that you are courteous to the driver and leave the vehicle in the same condition as when you entered. When girls' and boys' teams are in the same vehicle, boys and girls will not be permitted to sit together.

All athletes are to travel to and from away games with the team unless given specific permission by the coach to go home with their parents.

Overnight Policy

During the season and at tournaments, it may be necessary for a team to stay overnight at an away site. When this occurs, the following guidelines will be followed:

- Athletes will spend the night in rooms with a school-appointed chaperone or with their own parents.
- Male and female athletes will not visit each other's rooms.
- Students wishing to fellowship must meet in the hotel lobby.
- If a hotel has a pool, swim times will be designated for boys and girls.
- Athletes are to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m.

VIII. Relationship Guidelines

A. Parent/Coach Relationship Guidelines

Please remember that the coach's goal is to help your child grow in skill as well as character. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach. While it is true that coaches' and teachers' relationships with students do have an impact on their personal development, we recognize that the primary person of influence in a child's life is the parent. Your attitude towards the coach and his/her coaching decisions will be reflected in the attitude of your child.

- All practices are for athletes and coaches only and are closed to spectators to give the coaches the best possible environment to do their job. Please arrange ahead of time for any parental visits to the practice. (This also means that siblings may not attend practices, as this can lead to disruptions.)
- If a parent feels the need to speak with a coach regarding a coaching decision, the parent needs to call the school office to schedule a meeting with the coach and the athletic director or principal. Parents are not permitted to approach the coach before, during, or after a game to discuss a coaching decision.

B. Athlete/Coach Relationships

There are to be no personal text messages or phone calls between athletes and coaches.

The school office and coaches will make every effort to send timely information regarding changes or cancellations to practices or games. Email or text messages will be sent through Gradelink.

Coaches, during their particular sports season, may contact their players via cell phones with information regarding any changes to practices or games.

In order to promote team unity, there will be no activities involving coaches and an individual athlete. All activities should include the whole team.

C. Teamwork

Good teamwork is important in order for any team to be successful. Student athletes are expected to be supportive of their teammates. Coaches may require certain team activities to encourage teamwork. All athletes are expected to attend any team activity. Playing time is determined by the coach. Players on the bench are to be respectful of the coach's decisions and support those playing. Crusader teams also need to support each other. At away game sites, if one team is not playing while another team is, the idle team needs to be in the stands supporting the playing team.

Coaches may choose to appoint captains for the teams. This position is a privilege, and captains are expected to encourage and be good examples for the rest of the team.

D. Conflict Resolution

In the event of a conflict, individuals should go directly to the parties involved. The coach should be notified of the issue. If, for any reason, the conflict is not resolved the athletic director will be notified.

IX. Miscellaneous

A. Medication

- Copies of physical forms and medical releases will be taken to all games.
- A medical kit with general medical supplies will be taken to every game. Any prescription medication that might be needed during a game, such as inhalers, should be given to the coach to keep in the medical kit.
- Pre-existing medical conditions must be discussed with the coach prior to the season. All athletes must be self-sufficient and cleared by a doctor. Medical conditions should not prevent athletes from keeping up with the majority of conditioning and practice exercises.
- All students and parents must watch the required video, read the required informational handout, and then sign and return the Lindsey's Law form in order to participate in FCS athletics. The required information can be found at this web address: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>.

B. Awards

All athletes and their families are strongly encouraged to attend the awards ceremony held at the end of each season. This is a fun time to celebrate the athletes' accomplishments.

Requirements for Lettering:

- An athlete must be in the 9th grade or above.
- An athlete must participate in at least half of the games, halves, quarters, etc. that are played during the season.
- An athlete must not have missed any games due to ineligibility during the season.

C. Cell Phone Usage

Athletes are permitted to take their cell phones to practice; however, they are not to make calls/texts during practice unless given permission by the coach. Cell phones may be taken to away games; however, the school is not responsible for lost or damaged property.

D. Fundraising

In order to keep the sports program running, we may need to do fundraisers throughout the year. Athletes are expected to participate in fundraisers as assigned by the coach.

Concessions- One source of income for athletics is concessions. At least one parent per athlete must sign up to work concessions for at least one home game per season. It may be worked out that JH parents work Varsity games and vice versa so that parents aren't missing their own child's game.

X. Elementary Sports

All elementary students who attend Fayette Christian School or Fayette Bible Church are eligible to play elementary sports (soccer- 1st-6th grade, basketball- 2nd-6th grade). A small sports fee will be required for participation. Practices will be held after school two days a week, and games will be held on Saturdays. Parents will not be permitted to coach; however, they may be able to assist in other ways (such as running practices, reffing, running the scoreboard, etc.)

THE CHRISTIAN WINNER'S CREED

I believe that a true winner

always does his/her best,

never to the glory of self, but

always to the glory of God.

With the Lord's help,

I will strive to be a true

winner today.