

COLUMBUS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
A T H L E T I C S



2026-2027
Athletic
Handbook

Table of Contents

<i>Philosophy:</i>	3
<i>Athletic Eligibility Policy/Requirements</i>	4
Bona-Fide Student	4
Years of Participation:	4
Academic Eligibility:	4
Grade Level Participation.....	5
Physical Examination Requirements.....	5
Spiritual Expectations.....	5
Athletic Fee:	5
New/Transfer Students:	5
<i>Sportsmanship Guide</i>	6
The Responsibility of the Athlete	6
The Responsibility of the Fan/Parent.....	6
Fan Ejection	7
Coaching Ejections	7
<i>Athletic Lines of Communication</i>	7
Communication You Should Expect from the Coach	8
Communication Coaches Expect from Parents/Players	8
<i>General Information</i>	9
Student Leadership Policy (Captains/Co-Captains).....	9
Multiple Sports in Same Season.....	9
Overlapping Sports.....	9
Points of Emphasis.....	9
An Athlete Quitting or being Terminated During a Season	10
School Attendance	10
Missed Classes Due to Athletics	10
Team Transportation.....	10
Travel Dress	10
Game Day Dress	10
Athlete Not Riding Home in School Arranged Transportation	11
In-School Suspension	11
Out of School Suspension.....	11
Uniforms & Equipment	11

Student-Pay Items.....	11
Locker Room Policy.....	11
Awards Ceremonies.....	12
Practice & Game Attendance.....	12
Pre and Post Game Meals.....	12
“Meet the Rams”	12
Booster Club.....	12
MAIS Website	12
Conclusion	12

ATHLETIC POLICIES-

Philosophy:

Physical Fitness

The Apostle Paul makes an issue of how important the body is in serving the Lord. Romans 12:1 exhorts us, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” It would be impossible to serve Christ without utilizing some portion of the body in addition to the mind. I Corinthians 6:19-20 calls every Christian to discipline his body thereby harnessing its energies under the direction of the Holy Spirit in serving Christ. It says, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.” The care and keeping of the physical condition of our bodies is a vital component in CCA athletics.

Teamwork

Teamwork is vital ingredient of service to Christ. Jesus exercised teamwork when he chose and trained His twelve apostles to spread the Gospel. He later sent seventy disciples out to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom in teams of two. Learning the strengths of others in overcoming our own weakness is basic to Christian discipleship. Galatians 6:2 says, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Representation

Columbus Christian Academy student athletes are often the only representation of our school that others see. Our athletes, students, parents, and fans are expected to always be ambassadors for Columbus Christian Academy and representatives of our school mission. Failure to represent CCA in a positive manner can result in the loss of privilege to participate in athletics or attend athletic events.

Athletic Eligibility Policy/Requirements

Bona-Fide Student:

Athletes must be an enrolled student at CCA taking at least five courses in the current school year.

Years of Participation:

Upon entering the 9th grade, a student will have (4) consecutive years of eligibility in interschool contests. Whether a student chooses to participate during this time frame is not relevant and does not alter this 4-year window.

Academic Eligibility:

- **Beginning of Year Eligibility:**

A student must have accumulated four (4) credits the previous academic year.

- **During School Year Eligibility:**

Grade Checks:

Students are required to maintain a passing average in 4 subjects if they are to remain eligible for extracurricular activities, early dismissal, or athletics. Student averages will be checked at approximate 3-week intervals and at the end of each 9-week grading period. Any student not passing 4 subjects, at the aforementioned intervals, will be placed on probation.

Academic Probation:

Any student on academic probation and not passing 4 subjects when grades are checked, will be deemed ineligible for games or early dismissal. Students will be allowed to continue to practice with the team.

Regaining Eligibility:

Eligibility can be regained by acquiring a passing average in 4 subjects during the next or any following grading period.

Academic Ineligibility:

If a student is suspended from participation in extracurricular activities, the suspension will begin on the day that the grade check is reported to the Athletic Director and Administrator. When a student has taken the necessary actions to regain academically eligibility, he/she will be allowed to compete when the applicable Administrator receives his/her grades for the relevant grading period.

If a student becomes ineligible, the student may not participate in events/games. Any ineligible student will not be allowed to travel with his/her group/team to out-of-town events/games.

Grade Level Participation:

	<u>Football</u>	<u>Cheer</u>	<u>Softball</u>	<u>Cross-Country</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Track & Field</u>	<u>Volleyball</u>
Grade 12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Grade 11	V	V	V/B-Team	V	V	V/B-Team	V	V
Grade 10	V	V	V/B-Team	V	V	V/B-Team	V	V
Grade 9	JH/V	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V
Grade 8	JH/V	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V
Grade 7	JH	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V	V/B-Team	JH/V	JH/V
Grade 6			V/B-Team	JH/V	JH		JH/V	

Physical Examination Requirements

A student may not participate in a CCA sponsored sports program until the school has the following physical preparedness forms on file in the Athletic Directors office.

- Parental permission to participate each school year (Consent to Participate in Sports Activities form)
- A current physical signed by a licensed health care professional.
- A signed Concussion Policy & Verification form.

School Attendance:

On the day of athletic competitions, students must attend school or attend a school function (school sanctioned activities) for at least one half of the day to be eligible to participate. Saturday games require attendance on Friday per the same weekday policy.

Spiritual Expectations:

Junior varsity and varsity students who participate in sports and/or cheerleading are expected to recognize the importance of the example they are setting before other students and the public. Therefore, they should actively be seeking to conform to God's will for their lives and are strongly encouraged to fellowship with believers in a local church.

Athletic Fee:

All athletes are required to pay \$200 athletic fee to the CCA business office before participating in athletics.

New/Transfer Students:

If a new student, entering grades 9-12, applies and is accepted as a student at Columbus Christian Academy the following policy will be used to determine his/her eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities and/or athletics.

- a. A new student, in grades 10, 11, or 12, enrolling from a MAIS member school without a bona-fide move, according to MAIS regulations, cannot compete in an athletic contest for one year.
- b. A new student enrolling from a non-MAIS member school must be registered for a period of one week before competing in an athletic contest.
- c. A new student enrolling from a MAIS member school with a bona-fide move: If the student is registered after the first athletic contest of the season has been played but prior to the final date an athlete may be added to a roster under the MAIS regulations. The coach of the team the athlete wishes to join along with the

Athletic Director and Administration will determine if the athlete will be allowed to become a member of that team and participate in athletic contests for that sport.

Participation Rule for Girls & Boys

Girls shall be permitted to participate in sports offered to girls during that particular school year.

At no time will boys be allowed to participate in the following sports: girls' cross country, girls' softball, girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, girls' track & field.

Eligibility determinations by the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools or comparable governing authority shall supersede any provision to the contrary contained herein.

Sportsmanship Guide

Columbus Christian Academy coaches, players, and fans are expected to always conduct themselves in a manner that represents sportsmanship, fair play, and most importantly Christian integrity. An appreciation of the efforts and competitive trials of opponents is foundational in our own efforts toward success.

Rude or abusive behavior will not be tolerated by players, coaches, or fans and may result in severe disciplinary action.

The Responsibility of the Athlete

An athlete is often respected and admired by the student body, spectators, and the children in the community. The role is filled with responsibility.

Athletes Should:

- Always remember that you are representing God, your family, CCA, and your community.
- Always respect the integrity and judgement of the officials
- Always live up to the standards of a CCA athlete and expected sportsmanship guidelines.
- Attend every practice unless excused by the coach.
- Always display positive actions.
- Athletes that engage in conduct that causes them to be removed from a game by the official or by the coaches or actions that reflect poorly on Columbus Christian Academy in the opinion of the administration are subject to discipline by the coaches as well as the administration. **All fines incurred by actions of an athlete or by an athlete's parent(s) will be paid by the parent. Players will be disciplined according to coaches and/or administration before returning.**

The Responsibility of the Fan/Parent

Spectators at an athletic contest have an important role in displaying good sportsmanship. As a group, your actions may have the biggest impact on how others view Columbus Christian Academy.

Fans should:

- Compliment student-athletes in their attempts to improve and learn.
- Respect both players and fans of opposing teams.
- Know and understand the rules of the game and cheer good performances.

- Never confront an official/umpire before, during or after a game. Please use discretion when reacting to a call with which you disagree.
- Never confront players, coaches, or fans at any time. Physical or verbal abuse of a Columbus Christian Academy employee may result in a \$500 fine and a one-year ban from all Columbus Christian Academy athletic events.
- **All fines incurred by a parent or by an athlete will be paid by the parent before they are allowed to return.**

Fan Ejection

Any fan ejected from a contest shall be expected to be barred from all MAIS events until the individual has fulfilled sanctions and conditions imposed by the MAIS. Furthermore, Columbus Christian Academy reserves the right to impose its own sanctions and conditions in addition to the MAIS.

Current minimum sanctions in place by the MAIS Athletics & Activities Commission:

- Fan will be fined a minimum of \$250 to the MAIS, and \$300 to the school.
- Fan will not be allowed to attend any MAIS event for seven (7) days beginning with the day after the ejection occurred. (Example: A fan is ejected on Monday, October 1. The sit-out period would be Tuesday, October 2 through Monday, October 8. The first possible contest that the fan could attend would be on Tuesday, October 9.)

Coaching Ejections

The ejection of a coach from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically result in the following minimum disciplinary action:

- Coach will be placed on probation for at least one year.
- Coach will be fined a minimum of \$250; maximum of \$1,000.
- Coach will be suspended for the next game; he/she will not be allowed to attend. In accordance with the MAIS Affairs Committee the “next game” is interpreted to mean the next regularly scheduled game at the time of the ejection. For example, if an additional non-district game is scheduled, said game cannot be used to satisfy the “sit out” portion of this sanction. Furthermore, Columbus Christian Academy administration may impose additional “sit out” time depending on the severity of the incident.
- A suspended coach is not to have ANY kind of input (cell phone, text message, etc.) in the game.
- The case will be reviewed by the MAIS Athletics & Affairs Committee, with possibility of the coach being excluded from coaching all-star game.
- School may be placed on probation with the MAIS for at least one year.
- Any fines sanctioned on the school due to the unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach will be assessed to the coach.

Athletic Lines of Communication

Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging responsibilities. By establishing and understanding each position, we can accept the actions of others, thus enhancing effective communication. As parents you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from your coach. Please note that coaches and the CCA athletic director have responsibilities through the day. Phone calls and emails will be returned as soon as possible.

Columbus Christian Athletic Director, Coach Davidson can be reached with questions by phone at 662-571-3169 or by email at mdavidson@columbuschristian.com

Primary methods of communication for each athletic team are:

Team Reach messaging app.

Parent Alert (sent from office)

Individual parent contact

Team Meetings

Communication You Should Expect from the Coach

- When and where practices and contests are held.
- Expectations the coach has for your child and the team.
- Procedure if an injury occurs during participation.
- Team clothing/gear requirements
- Rules for participation.
- Notification whenever any disciplinary action results in your child being denied participation in a practice or game.
- Coaches will be required to have a meeting with parents prior to the season.
- Notification of same-day game changes will be made through Parent Alert.

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents/Players

Students involved in athletics experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand at times that students may experience disappointment and frustration. At these times, student-initiated discussion with the coach is recommended and encouraged.

Parents/Students should notify the coach regarding:

- Any schedule conflict well in advance.
- Any special health concerns.
- Any injuries, treatment, or rehab.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

- Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home.
- Ways you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
- Any dramatic changes you detect in your child's behavior.
- Treatment of your child, mentally, physically, or verbally.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Team strategy or play calling.
- Playing time
- Other student athletes

Never approach the coach immediately after a game with a concern.

Procedure to Follow If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach:

- Contact the Coach and/or Athletic Director to set up a meeting with the coach.
- If the coach or athletic director cannot be reached, call the head of school to set up a meeting.

- Please do not confront a coach immediately before, during, or immediately following a contest or practice. These can be busy and emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings in these settings do not promote resolution. Productive meetings require calm, rational attitudes.

If the meeting with the coach and athletic director does not result in a resolution of the problem, an appointment with the head of school should be set to determine appropriate next steps.

General Information

Student Leadership Policy (Captains/Co-Captains)

Eligibility for the captain and co-captain positions in sports and cheerleading will be determined by the following:

- Student gives evidence of genuine Christian conversion.
- Student shows diligence in academic endeavors
- Student is supportive in attitude toward school and church
- Student has a cooperative spirit and is submissive towards all authority, including game officials

Multiple Sports in Same Season

Athletes may participate in more than one sport during a season if the coaches are involved, and the athletic director gives permission. In some situations, it is impossible to play two sports in the same season due to conflicting schedules of practice and events. Athletes playing two sports must fulfill the obligations of each team as set by the coach to participate in both.

If conflicts in schedules occur, the coaches, with approval from the athletic director, will determine in which activity the athlete will participate. A District, Regional, or Class tournament game always takes priority over regular season games.

Overlapping Sports

If an athlete is participating in a sport, and a second sport in which he/she plans to participate begins prior to the conclusion of the first sport, the athlete's primary responsibility is with the first or seasonal sport. No athlete will be taken from one sport at the expense of another sport at Columbus Christian Academy. The head coach of the in-season team has the right to deny or grant permission for the athlete to participate in some activities on a limited basis.

Points of Emphasis

It is important for the involved coaches to work together for the benefit of the entire athletic program and not put the athlete in the middle of the controversy.

The end of a sport is certainly the most important time due to playoffs and tournaments. Coaches need athletes focusing on advancing as far as possible without the added pressure of starting a new sport.

Athletes that know they will be involved in overlapping sports must accept the circumstances and take responsibility.

- The athlete should take responsibility and work outside the seasonal sport on an individual basis to condition and improve skills required in the next sport.
- The athlete should realize that those players ready working on the next sport may have an early advantage.
- No athlete will be penalized for participating in another Columbus Christian Academy sport.

An Athlete Quitting or being Terminated During a Season

Once an athlete begins the playing season in a sport and his/her team membership is terminated by the athlete or the coach, he/she is ineligible to begin participating in another sport that season. An exception will require mutual consent of both coaches involved and the athletic director.

Note: The playing season is considered the beginning and ending dates of competition.

School Attendance

Students must attend school or be in attendance of a school function for at least one half of the day to be eligible to participate in an interscholastic competition. Saturday games require attendance on Friday per the same weekday policy.

Missed Classes Due to Athletics

An athlete will periodically be absent from a class due to interscholastic competition. It is the athlete's responsibility to secure in advance all work and deadlines from the teachers of the classes he/she will miss. If the athlete does not uphold this responsibility, he/she may be held out of competition for a period.

When tests are scheduled on the day of a trip, it may be required that the test be taken before a student can leave. Arrangements should be made with the teacher in advance. **It is the athlete's responsibility to initiate communication with the teacher.**

All athletes are expected to be in school the entire day following an interscholastic competition. If an athlete persists in coming to school late or being absent the day following the competition, he/she will be held out of competition for a period of time.

Team Transportation

The Athletic Director will arrange all team transportation. The mode of team transportation will either be by school bus, charter bus, or parents. The Athletic Director will work closely with each coach in determining travel arrangements. Football requires teams to travel as a team to the competition and return to campus together. Other sports' athletes may be allowed to travel home with parents with notification to the coach prior to the trip. If an athlete will be riding with another athlete's parents, that athlete's parent(s) must write a note stating that he/she gives permission for this transportation with the other parent(s).

Travel Dress

When students report to games, they should be appropriately attired. Coaches will determine appropriate attire.

Game Day Dress

Athletic teams may wear approved uniforms, warm-ups, or other game day attire based on approval by the Athletic Director or Head of School.

Athlete Not Riding Home in School Arranged Transportation

Athletes in sports other than football may be allowed to travel home with parents with notification to the coach prior to the trip. If an athlete will be riding with another athlete's parents, the athlete's parent(s) must write a note stating that he/she gives permission for this transportation with the other parent(s).

In-School Suspension

Any athlete internally suspended will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity on the day or days he/she is assigned In-School Suspension (including practice and interscholastic competitions). Additionally, the athlete may not attend the activity.

Out of School Suspension

Any athlete receiving Out of School Suspension will additionally be suspended from all athletic participation (including practice and interscholastic competitions). The student may not attend any athletic activities during the period of suspension.

Uniforms & Equipment

The care and safekeeping of uniforms and equipment issued are the responsibility of the athlete. An athlete will be liable for the replacement cost of items lost or damaged beyond the normal, expected wear.

All uniforms and equipment issued by the school should be turned in within one week of the last event of the sport. Failure to do so may result in suspension from further athletic participation. Any uniforms not returned by the end of the school year will result in a fine. Report cards will not be issued, nor transcripts/degrees finalized until all uniforms are returned.

Student-Pay Items

Athletes may be required or given opportunity to purchase student-pay items (i.e., practice clothing, shoes, etc.). The athlete must pay for the items before he/she receives them.

If an athlete is a member of a team and orders student-pay items and subsequently quits before receiving the items, he/she will still be responsible for paying for them. Failure to do so may result in suspension from further athletic participation.

Locker Room Policy

During School Hours:

- No student is allowed in the locker rooms any time before practice unless approved by a teacher or coach.

Locker Room Accepted Use:

- Changing clothes for practice or games.
- Team meetings with coach(es).
- The only athletes allowed in the locker rooms are the athletes whose teams are preparing for a game or are currently playing.

Loitering in the locker room, horseplay or any other unacceptable activity will result in loss of locker room privileges for athletes and depending on the incident, further discipline from the coach, athletic director, and school administration.

Awards Ceremonies

Award ceremonies will be directed by the Athletic Director in partnership with the Athletic Booster Club.

Practice & Game Attendance

Athletes are expected to attend all schedule practices and competitions; in the event of unforeseen circumstances, the athlete should contact the coach prior to his/her absence.

Pre and Post Game Meals

“Athletic Meals” will either be prepared by parents or will be “student pay.” The decision as to whether a team will eat a pre- or post-game meal(s) or where and what they will eat should be the decision of the head coach. The coach, however, may delegate this responsibility to a team parent.

“Meet the Rams”

Columbus Christian Academy athletic department hosts an annual “Meet the Rams.” The purpose of the night is to introduce all coaches (old and new) and to go over any school policy that pertains to athletics.

Booster Club

All parents are encouraged to join Columbus Christian Academy’s Booster Club. The Booster club works in partnership with the CCA athletic department to fulfill the mission and vision of CCA athletics.

MAIS Website

The MAIS website (www.msais.org) provides access to the public for such things as announcements, playoff schedules, and access to directions to all MAIS member schools.

Conclusion

This handbook is designed to provide information to parents and athletes concerning the athletic policies and procedures of Columbus Christian Academy. When policies, rules, and regulations are adopted, the first consideration is the welfare of the students. We believe the athletic handbook we have set up will promote that welfare. You are asked to follow the rules as stated. Please do not ask for exceptions to be made. While many areas have been addressed, this handbook does not and cannot address every situation, question, or problem that may arise. All problems involving interpretation of and enforcement of these policies and rules are the responsibility of and at the discretion of the administration. If you do not find herein the information desired, please ask the athletic director or head of school.