

Athletics Handbook



Woodland Christian School

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Mission Statement

Woodland Christian School (“WCS”) exists by God’s grace and for His glory to educate and prepare students for college and Christian life. By faith in Christ, our students, parents, and staff can change the world.

Athletics Philosophy

At WCS, athletics are an extension of our overall education program. We believe that sports can prepare students for college and Christian life. Our programs emphasize the importance of academics, teamwork, competition, character, and sportsmanship.

We strive in all ways to glorify God. We desire to win with honor, humility, and character. Our athletics program is designed to enhance the God-given talents of each player and provide the best chance for a team/player to succeed.

Goals

To build a successful sports program and prepare students for life, WCS athletics strives to accomplish the following goals:

1. Teach and model Christ in our sports programs. Our ability to emulate Christ on and off the field will be a witness to our opponents and our community.
2. Players and coaches will give their best effort at every practice and game.
3. Players and coaches will respect one another, officials, and opponents.
4. Players and coaches will learn how to persevere and improve their skills, individually and collectively. Coaches will challenge players to maximize the players’ abilities and to encourage their teammates to do the same.

Character Qualities

Athletes and coaches are encouraged to display and develop the following qualities while participating in our sports programs:

Endurance: Do not give up (Gal. 6:9; II Tim. 4-7)

Humility: Remember that God is ultimately responsible for a player’s or coach’s abilities, talents, and successes (Gal. 6:14)

Intensity: Give total physical and mental effort (Col. 3:23)

Commitment: Dedicate your time and effort to that sport (Col. 3:17)

Discipline: Work hard to win the prize (1 Cor. 9:24)

Respect: Honor athletes, teammates, coaches and officials with words and actions (Prov. 1:7)

Responsible: Handle decisions respectfully, take the initiative to work hard and make intelligent decisions, and accept the consequences for personal actions (Rom. 14:12)

Self-Control: Remember that whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble (Prov. 21:23)

Sportsmanship

WCS promotes good sportsmanship for players, coaches, parents, and fans. Poor sportsmanship reflects negatively on the team, school, coaches, and the individual player. Coaches, players, parents, and fans are expected to do the following:

1. Treat others (including our opponents and referees) with utmost respect.
2. Participate positively and encourage one another whether you are on the bench, on the field, or in the stands. Profanity will not be tolerated during games or at practices.
3. Win fairly. This should occur regardless of the opposing team's behavior.
4. Win with humility and lose graciously. All players will positively acknowledge the opposing team and officials at the conclusion of a game - regardless of the outcome.
5. Respect the officials, even if their judgment appears to be in error.
6. Reflect Christ-like attitudes at all times.

Any players, coaches, parents, or fans may be ejected for displays of poor sportsmanship. In the event a player and/or coach is ejected or removed from a game by an official, the coach shall notify the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will review the circumstances to determine if further action is required.

Eligibility

Athletics at Woodland Christian School are an extra-curricular activity. Academic success is a higher priority. As such, players are encouraged to excel academically *and* athletically. In order to compete on any WCS sports team, the player must, at a minimum, do the following:

1. Maintain a GPA greater than 2.0, without any F grades or disciplinary probation. Eligibility will be checked every month or at the coach's discretion. If a student fails to meet these requirements, they may continue to practice until the next grading period and may rejoin the team if they meet the requirements.
2. All fees, required forms, and physical exams (if mandated) must be paid/completed prior to any participation.
3. Athletes participating in high school sports must meet all CIF requirements and must have a physical exam on file within the past year.
4. WCS coaches or the WCS Athletic Director has the right to cut a member of any team or deny participation for violations of this handbook.

Injuries and Concussions

Players are required to report all injuries to the coaching staff so that proper aide may be given. Players are also required to inform coaching staff of any preexisting conditions that may impact the player's health and well-being on the field (e.g., allergies, asthma, physical restrictions).

At any point during a practice or game, if the coach or official believes the player may have a concussion or serious injury, the player shall be removed from play. The coach will determine whether emergency medical treatment is required. The coach will also ensure the player's emergency contact is notified about the incident.

If concussion symptoms or a serious injury are substantiated, regardless of whether the player received emergency medical treatment, the player will be ineligible to continue practice/playing until the following has occurred:

1. The player is evaluated by their primary care physician, and
2. The player provides a doctor's note indicating the player is cleared to play sports again.

Coach/Player Conduct and Appearance

Players and coaches are expected to conduct themselves (on the field/court, at school, and while away from school) in a manner that reflects positively on WCS. Any player or coach that brings discredit upon WCS may be removed or denied eligibility for WCS teams. Players and coaches are expected to be courteous toward staff, players, officials, and opposing teams. The following rules and regulations apply:

1. Theft of goods or equipment may result in expulsion from the team or activity. Theft is interpreted as the unauthorized possession of equipment or goods belonging to WCS or any other school, organization, or individual.
2. The use or possession of alcohol and/or drugs may result in a player being ineligible for WCS teams.
3. School equipment is to be worn only while participating in practice or during scheduled contests or with the approval of the WCS coach or principal. Players are expected to keep uniforms clean and in good condition. Players who lose or damage school-issued equipment are financially responsible for the replacement and/or repair of the equipment. All financial policies, including the withholding of official transcripts, apply to athletics-related fees.
4. Coaches shall make every effort to treat players fairly. There may be times when accommodations need to be made for students who have non-school athletic activities, need to leave early from practice, or have conflicting events.
5. WCS students shall not participate on any college, junior college, or university athletic teams while also participating for WCS.
6. Players must demonstrate loyalty to WCS, their teammates, and coaches.
7. Players must dress appropriately for practices and while traveling to and from games.
8. Coaches will have the authority to set and enforce the rules and standards of their sport within the guidelines of this handbook.
9. In the event a player needs to leave early from class to play in a game, he/she has the responsibility to get all assignments from their teachers before leaving for a game. Furthermore, players must ensure their

assignments are turned in on time. Failure to turn in assigned work on time because of a sport commitment is not a valid excuse.

Mandated Reporting

All WCS staff (including coaches and volunteers) are mandated reporters of child abuse. Failure to report child abuse immediately in accordance with state law is a criminal act and will result in disciplinary action.

Employees and volunteers are required to report all serious/significant injuries to their immediate supervisor. The supervisor will ensure that an incident report has been completed. In the event a staff member or volunteer becomes aware that a player has a contagious illness/disease that could place the school at risk for an outbreak (e.g., chicken pox, whooping cough, measles), they shall immediately notify their supervisor.

Practice/Game Policy

Productive practices are the foundation for any successful team. WCS student-athletes must listen, work hard, and follow the coach's instruction to the best of their abilities. Players shall abide by the following rules:

1. Be dressed and ready for practice/game on time.
2. Notify the coach in advance if they are unable to attend practice or a game. Failure to notify a coach is considered an unexcused absence and may result in disciplinary action, including loss of playing time, suspension from the team, and/or dismissal from the team.
3. Attend a minimum of three class periods on days when there is a game or practice in order to be eligible to play in games. Coaches should be notified if there is a family emergency or medical issue that would prevent players from meeting this expectation.
4. Attend every practice unless excused in advance by the coach. All players, regardless of injury, are expected to be at practice and games unless excused by the coach.
5. Work to improve. While it is important to have fun, players should practice to the best of their ability.
6. Refrain from complaining, negatively criticizing, gossiping, or making excuses. If a player has a concern or problem with another player or coach; they should attempt to resolve it with the person individually. If the issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the player should contact the coach and/or athletic director in an effort to resolve the problem.

7. Never leave the field/court without permission. Desertion during a game or practice is grounds for dismissal from a team.
8. Pay attention when the coach is talking. Players shall make every effort to execute the instructions given by a coach.
9. Care responsibly for all WCS equipment.
10. Make every effort to stay conditioned both physically and mentally.
11. Be prepared for every practice and game.
12. Have high expectations for themselves, coaches, and teammates.
13. Pray for teammates and coaches on a regular basis.

Transportation

Transportation to and from games/practices is the responsibility of parents. Under no circumstances will a student be assigned to drive fellow participants to/from games or practices. Parents and players are responsible for ensuring they have rides available at the end of practices and games so coaches do not have to wait.

Team Selection

In any specific sport where sufficient interest is evident; WCS will attempt to provide a junior varsity (“JV”) team and a varsity team. JV teams are viewed as developmental or instructional in nature; whereas, the varsity team is viewed as a competitive team. The objective for both teams is to win in such a way that we honor Christ and represent our school in a positive light.

Number of Participants

Participants in a sport may be selected on the basis of competitive tryouts. If the number of students trying out for a sport exceeds the number of players that can reasonably be accommodated, some of the players may need to be cut. By itself, a student’s desire to play is not always sufficient to make the team.

Tryouts/Team Selection

Students are chosen for team membership on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Level of skill the player already possesses in comparison to the other players trying out. Size, speed, strength, and agility are among the relevant factors that coaches consider.

2. The natural abilities that a player might possess that would indicate a high potential for development of skills not yet refined.
3. The attitude and effort that the player shows during tryouts.
4. Evidence that a player can be a part of a team and place the welfare and achievement of the team ahead of personal gratification and recognition.

Starting Players/Participation

All players and students are valued at WCS. That being said, the coach for any particular sport determines who the starting players will be and who will receive playing time. In an effort to prepare players for their future endeavors, equal playing time is not an aim of WCS athletics. Everyone contributes to the success of the team, but not everyone will contribute equally in terms of playing time in games. Playing time accorded a player will depend on a variety of criteria:

1. The skill the player possesses.
2. The growth and development of skills as the season progresses.
3. The ability to function effectively as part of a team, i.e., the ability to follow the game plan and put team success first.
4. The effort, attitude, and seriousness devoted to practice sessions.
5. The way a player fits into the strongest combination of players that the coach can put on the field or court.

Middle School Sports Teams

Middle school athletic teams exist to provide students with the ability to improve their skills, work as a team, and prepare for high school athletics. WCS will make every effort to field as many teams as possible, so that cuts are not needed. Every player will participate in each game unless there are disciplinary reasons and/or medical restrictions that would limit participation. While every member of the team will play for some portion of every game, this does not mean that every player will receive equal playing time.

Conflict Resolution

We all want what is best for your children and the school. That being said, we may not always agree on how teams/players are managed. We make every effort to resolve problems individually with the players, parents, and coaches who are involved. It is inappropriate to voice negative comments with other players, coaches, and families, as this only divides the team. Our

coaches are human, but we also expect them to be held accountable for their actions. Players/parents can always address the following concerns with a coach:

1. The mental, physical, and spiritual needs of a player
2. Ways in which a player can improve their abilities
3. Concerns about a player's behavior/performance

With few exceptions, the following concerns are generally inappropriate to address with a coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play-calling
4. Other student-athletes

Parents and players are encouraged to work together with coaches to resolve differences. If a player or parent feels an issue should be discussed with a coach; he/she should take the following steps:

1. Contact the coach and request an appointment to discuss your concerns. Please DO NOT confront a coach before or after a game/practice without setting up an appointment.
2. In the event you are unable to reach the coach or set up an appointment, please contact the Athletic Director and he/she will assist you in either reaching the coach or resolving the issue.

Awards

Each athlete participating in WCS sports will receive a certificate of participation. Coaches may give additional awards to athletes who have performed or demonstrated characteristics that warrant additional recognition (e.g., Most Improved, Most Valuable, Most Inspirational). These awards are usually given out during a sports banquets.