

Worthington Christian High School Athletic Handbook 2011-2012

*“In our zeal to win, Lord, help
us not to forget you.”*

Worthington Christian High School Athletic Department
6670 Worthington Galena Road
Worthington, OH 43085 (614-410-3448)

ATHLETIC HOTLINE 431-3815

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to aid participants, parents, and coaching staff of Worthington Christian High School and Middle School with the development and the operation of our athletic program. It is the goal of the administration to facilitate and partner with the athletic program. It is realized that all responsibilities of the head coaches, athletic administration, and student athletes may change as time progresses and we will update this handbook accordingly.

This handbook will:

1. Define our athletic philosophy.
2. Define individual responsibility of those associated with the program.
3. Serve as a reference for information pertaining to athletic procedures, practices, responsibilities, attitude, and discipline.

WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY, EXPECTATIONS, AND ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The athletic department will function in cooperation with the overall philosophy and mission of Worthington Christian High School. The primary purpose for athletics at Worthington Christian High School and Middle School is to glorify God. The athletes, the facilities, the coaches, the contests, and the fans of WCS all belong to God and exist to be used by Him for His purposes.

1. To evaluate our athletic programs and all persons involved in them in the light of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130; Psalm 139:23,24; Hebrews 4:12)
 - a. Athletics serve as a complement to both the spiritual and educational programs at WCS.
 - b. Athletic participation is an honor and privilege.
 - c. We expect all athletes to fully commit to both their spiritual and athletic development.
2. To use athletics to train boys and girls to walk in a manner consistent with the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 John 2:6; John 15:10; Hebrews 12:11)
 - a. Athletes serve as representatives of both our Lord and the community of WCS.
 - b. Athletes at WCS are held to a higher standard of responsibility and conduct.
3. To recognize that athletic programs afford students the opportunity to develop valuable skills and attributes through their individual development and the actions of participating as a member of a team (Romans 12:11; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Philippians 1:9,10; Philippians 3:12-14)
4. To teach each of our athletes to do all they can to strengthen the team, doing their part for the good of the whole (Philippians 2:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-6; Romans 12:3-5; Romans 15:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
5. To view winning and losing as a by-product of the application of God's principles, keeping in mind His sovereign choices (Joshua 1:7-9; Ephesians 5:1-17; 2 Corinthians 13:5-8; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
6. To acknowledge God's right to determine the outcome of our athletic endeavors for His

purposes (Philippians 2:12,13; Hebrews 13:20,21; Hebrews 12: 7-11; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 55:8,9)

7. To utilize the athletic arena and the relationships connected with it to evangelize the lost and support fellow believers (Romans 12:14-21; Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 6:10,12)
8. To cooperate with our parents as we labor together in the process of training the people entrusted to us (Ephesians 6:1-9; Romans 12:3-8; Galatians 5:13-15)
9. To return to our Creator the glories and honors that come from athletic success (apart from Him we can do nothing) (Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 3:1-6; Philippians 2:9-11)
10. To optimize their experience, we have the expectation for a year-round commitment to remain alcohol, tobacco, and drug free to allow students to achieve their maximum performance mentally, physically, academically, and spiritually.
11. Using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by any middle school or high school athlete is prohibited, and can have potential negative effects on the student's health and safety while also potentially endangering his/her fellow students.
12. We want students and their parents to come forward if there are issues with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs before a violation is established. If there is a self-referral prior to a report, there will be no denial of participation.
13. Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects good citizenship. Any dishonorable conduct by an athlete will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, both on and off school premises, include but are not limited to theft, hazing, vandalism, manifest disrespect, violation of the law, or any violation of the Student Community Life Covenant that results in an in-school or out-of-school suspension.
14. Education and adult support are a vital component of this code. Educational and support opportunities will be available to parents and students as a way to encourage our students to make appropriate choices.
15. The athletic department hosts a meeting for parents prior to the start of each season (fall, winter, spring) to review the athletic handbook. In addition, all head coaches are present and individual team meetings are held after the general session.

As noted above, participation in an athletic program offered by Worthington Christian Schools is both an honor and a privilege. Students who wish to belong to any athletic team make themselves subject to additional responsibilities, not only to themselves, but also to their team, school and Lord.

In order to participate in athletics a student must understand and abide by the Community Life Covenant as well as the rules and regulations in the Athletic Handbook. A student's intent to

abide by this covenant and code will be evidenced in an agreement that shall be signed by the student and her or his parent(s)/guardian(s) before a student may begin to practice with his or her team. All students of WCS are responsible to abide by the athletic code of conduct as long as they are enrolled as students. The very nature of this agreement implies that it will provide a guideline for our lives at all times (including vacation and non-school hours, and in all of our modes of communication).

A student who violates this Code will serve the consequences during an athletic season/school year under said code. In order for any consequence to count toward completion of a disciplinary action, the participant must be an active member of the team for an entire season/school year.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Citizenship	Consequence
1 st Offense	10% loss of participation All awards held Loss of leadership for 1 calendar year
2 nd Offense	25% loss of participation All awards held Permanent loss of leadership positions
3 rd Offense	50% loss of participation All awards held
4 th Offense	Permanent loss of the privilege to participate in athletics
 Alcohol, Tobacco or Other Drug Use	
Voluntary referral	No participation loss Required to meet with Intervention Coordinator May be used one time in grades 7-12
1 st Offense	20% loss of participation All awards held Loss of leadership for 1 calendar year Required to meet with Intervention Coordinator Recommended assessment
2 nd Offense	50% loss of participation All awards held Permanent loss of leadership positions Required to meet with Intervention Coordinator Mandatory assessment
3 rd Offense	Permanent loss of privilege to participate in athletics

BIBLICAL PROBLEM SOLVING

One of the things that is unique to a Christian school is biblical problem solving. Whenever people get together, there are problems that must be solved. God's Word gives us much instruction in biblical problem solving. The Bible provides clear principles for a Christian seeking to resolve differences with others. Matthew 18:15-17 teaches us that there is a process for solving problems with others. It is a process that begins privately with the offended and the offender. Clear steps are given on how to proceed from that point if the problem is not resolved. Galatians 6:1 tells us that our motive in confrontation should always be the restoration of the relationship, if that is possible. At any level of the process, it may be helpful to invite others to participate in the discussion if it is believed that their involvement will assist in reaching a solution.

- Athlete and coach meet
- Athlete, parents, coach meet
- Athlete, parents, coach/AD meet
- Other administration as needed

ADMINISTRATION: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY

WCS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

.....
Dr. John Foreman
Superintendent
.....

Tom Anglea/Troy McIntosh
HS/MS Principals
.....

Kevin Weakley
Athletic Director
.....

Tim Kraynak
Assistant Athletic Director
.....

Head Coach
.....

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN COACH

General

The coach is to demonstrate a life under the control of the Spirit. Coaches are to actively be involved in a Bible-teaching, fundamental church. The coach should not only strive to actively disciple athletes in his/her program but also lovingly present truth to opposing teams. Finally, the coach is to emphasize personal growth and character development.

Coaching Skills

The coach is to teach sport-related strategies and techniques to his/her players. The coach is to motivate and tap into the potential of each athlete. The coach is to provide a loving atmosphere as he/she instructs, and coaches are to encourage team unity.

Administrative Skills

In this area, coaches are to construct and execute daily and weekly practice schedules. The coach should communicate with athletes and parents through a parent letter/email which details schedules, policies, and transportation needs. Coaches are to record statistics and bring information about athletic awards to AD secretary at season's end. The coach is to have first-aid equipment and medical release forms available at all times and attend HB251 Pupil Activity First Aid Program.

Professional Growth

Coaches are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to grow in their area of expertise. Coaches shall familiarize themselves with the eligibility rules as established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Coaches shall strive to maintain technical competency by learning the rules in their particular sport and by attending the rules meeting sponsored by OHSAA at the beginning of each season.

Equipment and Uniform Care

Coaches will submit a list of equipment and uniform needs to the AD secretary before the beginning of their season. Coaches will clean, store, and inventory all uniforms and equipment at the end of their season. Coaches are to stress equipment and uniform care to all athletes.

Responsiveness

Assistant coaches are to be responsible to the head coach and to assist them as needed. Each coach is to promote unity among the coaching staff and to adhere to the athletic philosophy of WCS.

Pre-Season Responsibilities of Coaches

1. Coaches must complete a BCII and FBI background check and the National Federation of High School Coaching Course (NFHS) before the hiring process is complete. In addition, coaches must sign a new contract each year agreeing to abide by all rules set forth by the school, athletic department and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
2. Coaches may compile a list of rules and procedures that they desire their athletes to follow in their particular sport. This list is to be approved by the athletic director before it is distributed

to the athletes.

3. Coaches are responsible for making sure their athletes have current physical forms and parent/athlete contracts on file in the athletic office prior to the start of the season.
4. Potential cuts must be discussed with the athletic director before notifying involved athletes. Athletes will be personally notified by the coach.
5. Coaches must submit to the athletic director a list of all items to be purchased by athletes. This list must be approved by the athletic director before it is distributed to the players.

Evaluation of Coaches

The athletic director will provide a written evaluation providing varsity coaches with an assessment of how well they have fulfilled their responsibilities as well as their coaching strengths and weaknesses. This evaluation will also include suggestions for improvement. The evaluation will be signed by the athletic director and coach and then filed in the athletic office. All other coaches will be evaluated at the conclusion of the season by the varsity coach and/or the athletic director.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All athletes:

1. Are required to have a current year's physical form on file before they may practice.
2. Are required to have a parent and athlete contract on file before the start of the regular season (only one needs signed annually for each athlete).
3. Must have a current year's medical authorization on file.
4. Must be enrolled as a fulltime student at WCS.
5. Must meet academic requirements.
6. Must accept all rules established by the coach

The coach of each individual sport may give his/her athletes a copy of the rules and procedures concerning their particular sport. These rules and procedures will be approved by the athletic director. Parents will receive these rules and procedures at the parent meeting held at the beginning of each sports season.

The Christian athlete strives:

1. to honor Jesus Christ in all he/she does.
2. to play with great intensity.
3. to focus on maximizing his/her potential
4. to respect and adhere to the coach's authority and team policies

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

It is a goal of WCHS to adequately provide for the development of the whole person. This would include the body as well as the mind and the spirit. The athletic programs at WCHS provide an effective tool for the physical development of our students.

WCHS offers a well-rounded sports program. Students may participate in a wide variety of sports activities. For the women: soccer, cheerleading, volleyball, tennis, cross-country, basketball, softball, and track. For the men: golf, cross-country, soccer, basketball, wrestling, swimming, tennis, track, and baseball. Bowling is also offered as a club sport. WCS is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and participates in tournaments sponsored by OHSAA.

While the athletic program at WCHS holds a place of considerable importance in our program, it is not to be considered an end in itself. Alongside the physical benefits a student may gain in athletics, there are the mental and spiritual benefits that can be derived from self-discipline, hard work, and the establishment and achievement of goals. Paul instructed believers in their spiritual walk by using many examples from sporting competition. He also brings physical activity into perspective by telling Timothy to "Take time to keep yourself spiritually fit. Bodily exercise has a certain value, but spiritual fitness is essential both for this present life and the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:8). It is therefore essential that WCHS athletes maintain a high standard of personal conduct as well as acceptable academic achievement. The following standards for athletic eligibility are established to encourage this balance.

1. Athletic eligibility is determined at the end of each grading period. Eligibility for fall sports is determined by the last grading period in the spring for both the high school and middle school. The last six weeks grade for eighth graders will establish their fall eligibility as freshmen.
2. The mandatory grade report date for teachers in grades 7-12 shall be the end of the second school day following the end of a grading period. "Report" means to input grades in the district's computer grading system so that information can be accessed by the district's administrators as well as the students, parents, or other person's having permitted access. A student's athletic eligibility shall be reinstated 24 hours after the end of the mandatory reporting date provided the student meets the eligibility standards. This means if the grading period ends on Friday, ineligibility or reinstatement of eligibility begins on Wednesday afternoon.
3. The student must achieve a minimum GPA of 1.50 in the most recent grading period prior to athletic participation. This GPA is not cumulative. A student who does not achieve a 1.50 will be ineligible for nine weeks provided the student attains a 1.50 without any "F" grades in the next grading period. Students may practice but may not participate in games or scrimmages.
4. The student must have passing grades in all subjects for the immediate grading period (the schools conduct grade does effect eligibility).
 - a. If a student has one "F," he/she will be ineligible through the midterm of the next grading period provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. Students may practice but not participate in games or scrimmages until eligibility is re-established.
 - b. If a student receives two "F" grades, he/she is suspended from all athletic participation including practice, scrimmages, and games for nine weeks.
 - c. A student's Community Life Grade will affect athletic eligibility.
5. If a student receives two "F's" on an interim report then the student-athlete is required to meet with the athletic director and student services director which may result in probation or temporary ineligibility.
6. The student must maintain the NCAA standard cumulative GPA of 2.0 in at least 11 core academic courses. If the student falls below a 2.0 average, he/she must improve or risk ineligibility for NCAA competition.
7. To be eligible to compete on any given game day or to practice on any given day, a student must be in attendance for at least four of the eight class periods on that day unless prior arrangements have been made by the coach, the athletic office, or the attendance office. All early releases from school for athletic competition must be approved by the athletic director and principal in advance and should appear on the Daily Student Report.
8. Student suspensions or disciplinary actions can and will affect the eligibility of the student athlete.

NOTE: *The student will be evaluated on the same above-stated criteria at the end of any probationary period.*

INJURIES

Athlete Care and Injury Reporting Guidelines

1. Athletes are to first report practice injuries to the coach and then to the athletic trainer. All injuries and health concerns must be reported to the athletic trainer.
2. In the absence of the trainer, the coach will initiate early first aid care. The coach will notify the trainer of all injuries.
3. Injured athletes are expected to continue treatment and recovery period.
4. Parents are encouraged to contact the trainer regarding any questions or concerns relating to their child's injury.
5. All athletes missing practices or games due to injury must notify the coach directly prior to that practice or game.

Medical Referral for Injuries

The athletic care service provided by the school is not designated to replace the family physician or to dictate medical care. The choice of health care provider and initiation of medical referral always remains at the discretion of the parents. Your family physician should be contacted if problems develop with an injury, the condition worsens, or if the condition persists for an extended period of time. It is important that injured athletes return to the training room for reevaluation and report any new or remaining problems. Parents have access to the services of team physician staff who supervise all care provided by the training staff.

Return to Activity Following Injury

All athletes who have been removed from activity by the trainer and referred for physician evaluation must provide a note from the consulting physician prior to return to activity. In addition, all athletes who have been removed from activity by a physician must present a note from the physician clearing the athlete to reenter activity.

Awards

Teams will hold individual awards banquets. Coaches will follow the awards guidelines:

1. Athlete must be a member at the close of the season to receive an award.
2. To receive a varsity award, an athlete must participate in at least half of the contests.
3. A varsity player will be awarded a letter after the completion of his or her first varsity season. Each varsity season to follow, the athlete will receive a pin.
4. Freshman and junior varsity participants will receive a participation certificate.

OTHER POLICIES

Awards

Teams will hold individual awards banquets. Coaches will follow the awards guidelines:

1. Athlete must be a member at the close of the season to receive an award.
2. To receive a varsity award, an athlete must participate in at least half of the contests.
3. A varsity player will be awarded a letter after the completion of his or her first varsity season. Each varsity season to follow the athlete will receive a pin.
4. Freshman and junior varsity participants will receive a participation certificate.

Budget

In coordination with the athletic director, each varsity coach will submit a list of needs for the upcoming season. The athletic director will prioritize and fulfill all essential needs based on available funds. Teams are not to purchase any items. All orders will be placed through the athletic office.

WCS Fundraising

Individuals contribute much time and money to our programs each year. All requests or ideas for use of funds must be presented to the athletic director.

It is understood that in approving teams, Worthington Christian Schools assumes the responsibility to equip those teams with all the equipment and uniforms necessary to their sports. Donations and fundraising provides the athletic program with some extra purchases that enhance and improve the programs over and above the athletic budget. WCS participates in our school-wide fundraiser; therefore, individual fundraisers are not allowed.

Dress

With the understanding that our athletes represent Christ and our school, each team should strive to dress appropriately. The appearance of a team communicates a great deal about our values.

Facility Scheduling

All practices, scrimmages, games, and contests must be scheduled through the athletic department. Teams should not be on premises without first being approved and placed on the master calendar.

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.

1. The scheduled athletic event or practice is considered canceled unless the athletic director or principal determines it possible to play.
2. If a bus has been scheduled, the athletic director communicates with the transportation supervisor to determine if a bus and driver are available and the subsequent departure times.
3. Players and parents should call the athletic hotline (614-431-3815) for information concerning games.
4. Head coaches should communicate with athletes and parents with updates, cancellations and changes that need to be made via email and/or phone calls.

Transportation

The athletic director is in charge of all athletic transportation. Buses are the primary choice for all away contests. Coaches are required to ride the bus to and from the event. If a coach is unable to ride the bus there must be an adult approved by the athletic director on the bus. Students are not permitted to transport themselves or any other students without parental and administrative approval (principal and/or athletic director). Parents who will be transporting are required to fill out the transportation agreement provided by the athletic department.

Open Field/Gym Guidelines

The purpose of open field/gym is to encourage recreational play for all high school levels. These activities are not limited to current team members. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gauge their abilities in an open environment. These activities are supervised by coaching personnel. However, in conjunction with OHSAA rules, individual or team instruction is not permitted, unless the session is between June 1 and July 31.

School-Sponsored Teams, Non-School-Sponsored Teams, and Home Schoolers

A school-sponsored team by definition is a team that has received administrative approval and functions within the guidelines of the school board and administrative team. Each school-sponsored team is entitled to use the facility and budgeted financial assistance. A non-school-sponsored team by definition has chosen to function outside the guidelines of the school board and administrative team. A non-school-sponsored team may not use the school name and is not guaranteed school resources. School sponsored athletic programs are available to those students who are enrolled full time at WCS. Parttime students or home-schooled students are not eligible for athletic participation.

Wednesday Play Policy

Inasmuch as Worthington Christian Schools is an extension of family and a support to the local churches, and inasmuch as the majority of our school churches meet on Sundays and mid-week, our commitment is to honor this by encouraging our students to regularly attend and be involved in their churches (Hebrews 10:24,25).

Therefore, teams sponsored by Worthington Christian Schools are not to schedule any athletic contest on Wednesdays or Sundays. All Wednesday practices must be completed by 5:00 p.m. There are two exceptions to this policy. The first is being baseball and softball games may be made up on Wednesday. Secondly, varsity teams during any season may play OHSAA end of season tournament games on Wednesday nights.

Tattoo's and Body Piercing

Visible tattoos and body piercings are not permitted at any team activity including games, practices, meals, travel, etc.

Senior Tag Policy

Participation in senior tag or any of its variations is not permitted for spring sport athletes.

WCMS Athletics

Philosophy: It is our mission that the primary purpose for middle school athletics is to glorify God. Our abilities have been given to us by Him; therefore, it is our desire to honor Him with those talents.

Playing time: Each coach should be focused on the development of all athletes. Varying skill levels in each discipline make it difficult to play all athletes equally. Therefore, the coach must use his/her discretion when making personnel decisions during a contest. Coaches cannot nor should not guarantee an equal amount of playing time for all athletes. However, it should be the goal of the coach to find opportunities suitable for all athletes to play when the situation presents itself.

Team sizes: It is our goal that all athletes who desire to participate will have the opportunity to do so. There are some sports where larger numbers may require us cap the size of the team.

Uniform collection: At the conclusion of the season, the coach is responsible for the collection and storage of uniforms. It is the athletes' responsibility to return all uniform items to their coach immediately following the season.

Banquets: At the close of a season, coaches may use the facilities to schedule a team banquet. The athletic office provides certificates for all athletes who participated.

Communication: Questions relative to middle school athletics should be directed to Tim Kraynak. **The middle school office does not handle athletic related matters.** Below is contact information for all athletic related questions:

Athletic Hotline: 614-431-3815

WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Parent/Student Acknowledgment of Student-Parent Athletic Handbook

We, _____ and _____
(parent/guardian) (student)

have received and read the athletic handbook. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures and policies of Worthington Christian Schools.

Signature of Athlete

Printed Name of Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent

Printed Name of Parent

Date

* If you have not read the entire handbook, your signature indicates you are, nevertheless, willing to live in harmony with the stated principles and guidelines.

* “Agree” does not necessarily mean “like” or “approve of.” It simply means that you recognize that these things are a part of the WCS athletic program and since you are a part of the WCS athletic program, you will abide by them.