



**WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN**  
**WARRIORS**

2021-2022  
Athletic Handbook  
Grades 7-12

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

Worthington Christian School Athletic Department  
1485 Lazelle Road  
Westerville, OH 43081

## **PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK**

The purpose of this handbook is to aid participants, parents, and coaching staff of Worthington Christian Upper 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 UPPER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY, EXPECTATIONS, AND ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The athletic department will function in cooperation with the overall philosophy and mission of Worthington Christian School. The primary purpose for athletics at Worthington Christian School is to glorify God. The athletes, the facilities, the coaches, the contests, and the fans of WCUS all belong to God and exist to be used by Him for His purposes. The WCUS Athletic Handbook discusses how matters of school discipline impact athletes and their participation in practice and contests. When students join a Warrior athletic team they agree to live by a higher standard, since they voluntarily wear the uniform of the Worthington Christian Warriors.

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 young men and women 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 or 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, inappropriate use of social media, violation of the law, or any violation of the Community Life Together Covenant or Honor Code.
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 Upper School 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 Worthington Christian Upper School Handbook as well as the rules and regulations in the Athletic Handbook. A student's intent to abide by the handbook 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 non-school hours, and in all of our modes of communication).

A student who violates this Code will serve the consequences during the current athletic season under said code. If a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct occurs outside the season, the student athlete will serve the consequences at the start of the next season of participation. 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.

It is important to note that the expectations and standards of the Head Coach are enforced on a seasonal basis and may or may not be included in official policy documents. Nevertheless, the athlete is expected to fully comply with the Head Coach's expectations and standards with regard to, but not limited to: practices, dress/appearance, proper conduct, care of equipment, respectful behavior, transportation, practice/contests, and locker room demeanor. Coaches at WCS must adhere to the Athletic Code of Conduct, but may also administer discipline in addition to the Athletic Code of Conduct if the coach feels additional discipline is warranted.

WCS Administration reserves the right to adjust the consequences as deemed necessary.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

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

**WCUS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

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Jim Parrish  
Head of School

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Tim Kraynak  
Upper School Principal

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Kevin Weakley  
Upper School (9-12) Athletic Director

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James Storey  
Upper School (7/8) 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 the Athletic Assistant 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 Athletic Director 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 WCUS.

### **Pre-Season Responsibilities of Coaches**

1. Coaches must obtain a PAP Permit from the Ohio Department of Education before the hiring process is complete. This process includes completing a BCI and FBI background check, the National Federation of High School Coaching Course, a sports first aid and CPR course, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course and concussion course. 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 each athlete has a current physical form, concussion form, and Athletic Participation form on file in the athletic office. A coach may not allow an athlete to participate in a tryout, practice, scrimmage or game unless these three forms have been turned in.
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**

1. Must turn in to the athletic office a current physical examination that has been completed in the past 365 days. The athlete must be cleared in Final Forms before athletic participation in any practice, scrimmage or game.
2. Are required to electronically sign via Final Forms prior to participation in any practice, scrimmage or game the following: the Sudden Cardiac Arrest form, the OHSAA Eligibility Statement form, the HIPPA Authorization form and the ODH Concussion form, the Athletic Participation Form, the Parent Partnership Agreement, the Transportation Agreement and Athletic Trainer forms.
3. Must be enrolled as a fulltime student at WCUS. An exception can be made for a senior who has met all graduation requirements, but whom is still meeting all OHSAA requirements.
4. Must meet academic requirements.
5. Must accept all rules established by the coach.
6. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend an athletic parent meeting prior to the start of the season.

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 WCUS 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 WCUS provide an effective tool for the physical development of our students.

WCUS offers a well-rounded sports program. Students may participate in a wide variety of sports activities. For the women: soccer, cheerleading, volleyball, tennis, golf, cross-country, basketball, swimming, bowling, softball, and track. For the men: golf, cross-country, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, bowling, tennis, track, and baseball. WCUS is a member of the Mid State League (Ohio Division). In addition, WCUS is a member of the OHSAA for the 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade and participates in tournaments sponsored by the OHSAA.

While the athletic program at WCUS holds a place of considerable importance in our school, 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.

### **BOTH O.H.S.A.A. AND WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET**

1. The Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility standards for participation in athletics are as follows: In order to be eligible in grades 7-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in the school the immediate preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student enrolled in grades 9-12 must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent which counts toward graduation. Students in grades 7 or 8 must have received passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects carried. Students entering grade 7 are automatically eligible by O.H.S.A.A. standards in the first quarter of that academic year. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received for the final grading period of a regular school year, although credit earned through summer school may count toward graduation requirements.
2. Quarterly grades determine a student's eligibility for the following grading period. Worthington Christian eligibility standards for participation in interscholastic athletics require that a student in grades 7-12 have no F's in any classes for a final quarterly grade. Semester and final exams are not calculated in the nine-week assessment because of their comprehensive nature. A student's eligibility will be determined by examining each nine-week's grades independent of prior grading periods. The students Community Life grade will factor into athletic eligibility. Students with one or more F's will be ineligible for a period of three weeks. At the completion of the three week period, the student must have no F's in any classes in order to return to competition. If the student has one or more F's after three weeks, the student will remain ineligible to the midpoint of the quarter which will be 4.5 weeks where the student's academic progress will be evaluated.
3. Students who meet O.H.S.A.A. standards but fail to meet Worthington Christian standards may apply for a waiver in order to participate. Such a waiver request is made to the building principal, who has the sole authority to grant or deny the request. Factors contributing to denial of a waiver could include, but are not limited to any of the following:
  - A pattern of not turning in assignments in a timely way
  - Frequent absences where work has not been made up
  - Failure to seek additional help from the teacher or resistance to special help offered
  - Poor conduct or blatantly negative attitude in the classroom

- More than one detention or disciplinary infraction during the quarter the F was earned.

Student athletes who neglect the matters delineated above should not expect a waiver to be granted simply because they are gifted athletes or there is a “big game.” Warriors would rather accept honest defeat than win at the expense of neglecting the weightier matters that should shape the life of the student athlete who is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Student-athletes, parents, coaches and other students must understand that if two student athletes fail the same course, one may request and be granted a waiver, while the other might request one and be denied. Reasons for granting or denial of a waiver will be provided to the student athlete and his or her parents. Coaches will also be informed. Reasons will not be discussed with any other parties outside of the school administration. WCUS recognizes that some of our Warrior athletes face special challenges. A student athlete may work very hard and very consistently and still not pass a course. The goal of this eligibility policy is to recognize, encourage and reward hard work, discipline and consistently trying one’s best. Sometimes hard work is not enough to earn a passing grade, but it is enough to earn the privilege of representing the Warriors on an athletic team.

4. 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 system’s computer grading system so that information can be accessed by the system’s administrators as well as the students, parents or other persons 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.
5. Provisions may be made for individual students with identified Individual Education Plans (IEP’s).
6. 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.
7. 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 (For concussion related injuries, see the school's concussion intervention plan in the back of the handbook).

### **Concussion Intervention Plan and Baseline Impact Testing**

Worthington Christian has a Concussion Intervention Plan for students who sustain a concussion during athletic competition. A form is available online that can be used by a physician. The information provided on the form will allow our teachers and staff to better help the student through the recovery process.

Ohio Health offers free neuro-cognitive testing to athletes at Worthington Christian. Baseline Impact Testing requires parent authorization. This testing can be used if an athlete sustains a head injury during athletic competition.

## OTHER POLICIES

### **Awards**

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

1. An athlete must be a member at the close of the season to receive an award.
2. To receive a varsity letter, an athlete must participate in at least half of the contests. Exceptions agreed upon by the coach and athletic director can be made for senior team members who do not meet the 50% requirement.
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**

Any fundraising requests must go through the Director of Development.

### **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. 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 department and coach will work to communicate in a timely manner when bus transportation will not be available. When bus transportation is provided, it will be one-way transportation (unless previously communicated by the coach). Parents will be responsible for arranging transportation for their child upon the completion of athletic events.

An adult must ride the bus to and from the event. When a coach is unable to ride the bus it his/her responsibility to work with the athletic director to find a parent willing to fill this role.

## **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.

## **Participating in Non-Interscholastic Team Sports During the Interscholastic Sports Season**

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board shall not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-interscholastic squad in a team sport in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season.

## **Wednesday Play Policy**

Worthington Christian School is an extension of family and a support to the local churches, and 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 Upper School are not to schedule athletic contest on Wednesdays or Sundays. All Wednesday practices must be completed by 5:30pm unless special arrangements have been made with the athletic office and communicated with parents. Exceptions to this policy include Mid-State league games during the regular season scheduled on Wednesdays by the league, make-up varsity contests, events approved through the athletic office, and varsity teams competing in OHSAA end of season tournament games.

### **Tattoos 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.

### **Social Network Communication Policy**

Student-athletes must be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their teams, Worthington Christian School or our Lord. This includes any activities online.

### **The Warrior Logo**

No one may use WC's name, logos, and likeness without approval from the WC Development department.

### **In Conclusion**

The student-athlete should be aware they are responsible for the content of anything they post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any other type of social media site. Pictures and information posted on the internet are considered public information, and if brought to our attention, regardless of when the events occurred, the student will be subject to athletic consequences laid out in the athletic code of conduct. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of the sender's control the moment it is placed online –even if access is limited by the user. We advise Worthington Christian student-athletes to exercise extreme caution in their use of social networking sites.

Things may be added or removed from the handbook during the school year. The administration will notify students, parents and teachers when such changes occur.

The Handbook is not exhaustive. There is no way that WCUS can anticipate every eventuality and address it with policy. The handbook sets down common sense guidelines for spirit-led believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to come together as an athletic community. Looking for loopholes to be used to excuse specific, unmentioned actions is not an appropriate use of the handbook. The handbook is our best effort at setting forth the aspirations and limitations of athletics at WCUS.

Students, parents and coaches will be asked to sign an agreement that states that they have read the handbook and are willing to abide by what is set out in it

## WCUS 7/8 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.

**Addendum to Academic Eligibility for 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade Students:** If a student is not performing well academically that student will be placed on an Academic Watch List. Administration will work with that student to develop an action plan aimed at increased success in the classroom. Athletic eligibility may be withheld, at the discretion of administration, if it is determined that the student violates the terms of the Academic Watch Plan.

### **OHSAA**

The Worthington Christian Upper School (7/8) is not a member of the OHSAA. While this is the case, while this is the case, WCUS still requires our coaches to meet the OHSAA coaching requirements. In addition, our students and parents must complete all the requirements listed on Final Forms to be eligible for competition.

**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 to 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 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics should be directed to Athletic Director James Storey or Athletic Assistant Jennifer Deskins.