



CAMBRIDGE CHRISTIAN

Lancer Athletics

Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook

“Every Athlete A Disciple” –Matthew 28:19

Revised 8/1/16

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I. Purpose of Handbook

This handbook explains the policies of the interscholastic athletic program at Cambridge Christian School. Please understand it is not a right to take part in extracurricular activities, thus the parent/student-athlete is required to abide by the rules as written in the handbook.

II. Mission Statement

The mission of Cambridge Christian School Athletics is to honor God in all things and make “Every Athlete A Disciple”. Sports provide an excellent opportunity for discipleship as students learn many important life lessons on sacrifice, self-discipline, perseverance and community. We use athletics to prepare young people for life as Christian leaders who choose character before career, wisdom beyond scholarship, service before self, and strive to follow God’s will for their lives

By implementing Biblical principles in our instruction and setting Godly examples, our Athletic Department staff and coaches will do our best for the Lord- “And whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord, and not to me.” (Col. 3:23) It should be the desire of every coach to use interscholastic sports as a means of developing champions for Christ. Therefore, our coaches are expected to:

Foster opportunities for intentional discipleship

Build relationships with players and parents (rules without relationship yields rebellion)

Encourage good citizenship and academics

Teach the team concept, coupled with strong competition

Present teams prepared to play

Do all these things with the primary goal of bringing honor to the Lord Jesus

OUR VALUES

Values in the arena of athletics help to accomplish the mission of making disciples. We are here to help train up our student-athletes in the way they should go - Proverbs 22:6. This means that we will coach from a biblical perspective and strive to be a true reflection of Jesus Christ to our athletes.

Promoting honesty, integrity, humility, loyalty, unity, and encouraging total character development of our athletes. These traits are foundational in building a “TEAM”. This will include all our coaches promoting and encouraging the success of all other programs, emphasizing the need to share multi-sport athletes and to collaborate fruitfully with students, parents, and staff to balance our students’ investment in academics and the arts.

Showing good sportsmanship, respecting others at all times and under every circumstance is expected. This includes behavior towards coaches, teammates, officials, opposing coaches, opposing players, and fans. We expect our coaches and athletes to demonstrate respect toward teachers and parents at all times. Defiance and disrespect are not tolerated in a disciplined program.

Creating a winning environment by displaying a positive attitude and providing daily encouragement to those under our leadership helps build strong relationships. Our student-athletes will respond better when they know we genuinely love and care for them.

Fostering a commitment to excellence is a key to success. Success in athletics is the result of coaches and players going the extra mile. Teams who pay the price in the off-season win championships. We must communicate great expectations, provide great instruction, emphasize great fundamentals, and demand great effort, in the context of strong relationship. Most importantly, according to God's word, if we want to be great, we must model great servant hood to our teams.

OUR VISION

To honor God and exalt Jesus Christ by making "Every Athlete A Disciple"

To foster each athletes personal relationship with Jesus Christ

To produce disciplined, Christ honoring teams that strive for excellence at all levels

To be ambassadors for Christ and CCS at home and away

To model humility in winning and grace in losing

To graduate student-athletes committed to the Bible, prayer, and servant leadership

OUR VOICE

Pursuing greatness God's way through unity, service and sacrifice – "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity" Psalm 133:1 and "How can two walk together except they be in agreement" Amos 3:3.

OUR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Athletic Director: Mark Butler mbutler@cclancers.com 954-501-5477

Assistant AD: Kevin Hickinbotham, khickinbotham@ccslancers.com 813-758-0311

Athletic Assistant: Stephen Piercefield, spiercefield@ccslancers.com 956-393-0507

Athletic Assistant: Walt Jacobus wjacobus@ccslancers.com 941-993-3740

OUR ATHLETIC TEAMS

BOYS

Fall: Football, Bowling, Golf, Cross Country

Winter: Basketball, Soccer

Spring: Baseball, Track & Field, Tennis

GIRLS

Fall: Bowling, Golf, Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheerleading

Winter: Basketball, Soccer

Spring: Softball, Track & Field, Tennis

III. General Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility for students will be determined at the end of each grading period. A student automatically becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until the mid-point of the following quarter upon receiving a grade lower than an average of 2.0 in grades 6-12 and/or an “F” is earned in any class. Grade point is calculated in the core academic subjects of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. The period of eligibility will begin on the first day of the new grading period and continue until mid-way through the following grading period. At that time, a progress report will be checked and used to determine eligibility. If grade point average is still below 2.0 or a grade of “F” is determined for a class, ineligibility will extend until the end of the 9-week period.

IV. Requirements for Participation

- a) Student must be in good standing with business office, admissions office and meet minimum academic standards.
- b) Updated FHSAA Physical (EL 2) forms must be on file in athletic department. Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date signed by physician.
- c) FHSAA Consent (EL 3) form must be on file in athletic department.
- d) Student Athletes are expected to be in school the day of an athletic contest. If a student misses school for an illness or doctor/dentist appointment, he/she must attend ½ of their academic classes to be eligible to participate in contest.

V. Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Cambridge Christian School believes extracurricular activities are necessary to supplement the curriculum of the school and provide meaningful and educational experiences for each student. Since participation in athletics is voluntary and all groups and organizations must exist within a framework of certain policies, rules, and regulations, the Athletic Department has developed the following code of conduct:

- A. All athletes must abide by all regular school policies and the Florida High School Athletic Association. All athletes must adhere to these policies during the full duration of their season including all conditioning sessions and postseason competitions (tournaments).

- B. Appropriate care must be taken of all equipment, school facilities, and properties. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any damage or loss through their negligence.
- C. All athletes shall report any injuries or illness to their respective coaches immediately upon occurrence.
- D. The athlete shall be expected to attend all required practices, meetings and contests. The appropriate coach shall be notified of an absence. No season is over until all contests and tournament games are completed.
- E. Athletes quitting a sport after being selected as a member of that team will not be eligible to participate in the next season's contests or practices until all practices and contests for the prior season are completed.
- F. Athletes who are under any type of medication shall have on file with the coach (or athletic director) a note from the parent/guardian and/or doctor.
- G. All athletes shall abide by all regular school policies and by the code on student suspensions, expulsions, and removals that was adopted by the School Board.
- H. Athletes who engage in any criminal activity or violations of civil law will be denied participation in an extracurricular program.
- I. Athletes shall abide by additional rules and regulations presented normally to all team members of a particular sport by the coaches. It is the policy of the Athletic Department to prohibit the use by students of any tobacco product, alcoholic product, or drugs not prescribed by a physician. For any violation, the student handbook code of discipline will be used.

Specific Expectations of the Student-Athlete

- A. Be on time for practice, games, bus departure and class.
- B. All coaches, game officials and school administrators are to be treated with respect.
- C. Athletes will conduct themselves in a manner that is pleasing to God, be supportive of their teammates and always give their best.
- D. All proper attire must be worn at all times. Individual coaches may set sport specific equipment/attire fashion and grooming requirements.
- E. Jewelry is strictly prohibited during all practice and games.
- F. It is the student-athletes responsibility to communicate with their coach if practice time is missed due to academic responsibilities. Communication should be done prior to missing a game or practice.
- G. Understand that coaches reserve the right to enforce team policies and rules. Consequences may include: reduced playing time, extra running, and extra practice or written assignments.

The Athletic Department also identifies the following stipulations:

- A. The use of alcohol beverages shall also be enforced under the code on student suspensions, expulsions, and removals.

- B. Since state law prohibits purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, law enforcement and legal ramifications may exist.
- C. It is either a misdemeanor or a felony in this state to use, buy, or sell illegal drugs. Law enforcement personnel will be notified, and legal ramifications may exist in the use, sale, and purchase of illegal drugs.

VI. Spectator Code of Conduct

Attending an athletic event means that the spectator has assumed responsibility for proper representation of Cambridge Christian School, just as the athlete does. These rules apply to all spectators (parents, students, fans, etc.):

- Spectators should conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner-remembering that they are always representing Cambridge Christian School.
- Parents are to be supportive of their child, give positive reinforcement and have an accepting behavior of their child's abilities. However, please don't coach from the stands-that is the coach's job.
- Parents should trust the coaching staff to be good role models and Christian examples of what is right for the players, the sport and the school.
- Spectators are always to regard the official's decision as final.
- Parents and spectators are not allowed to enter home locker rooms, visiting locker rooms or official's locker rooms.
- Spectators are to cheer positively and are to completely avoid abusive language.
- Spectators are not permitted to engage in any kind of intentional display of rude behavior toward visiting teams.
- Spectators are to respect and obey property regulations established by each school.
- Spectators who are asked to leave or be removed from a game by the Cambridge Christian School staff will be subject to a minimum of three game suspensions. If a game official removes you from a game, you will be suspended from all home and away competitions for the remainder of the season. This applies for all home and away games. (FHSAA Rule)

These rules are in effect at both home and away games for Cambridge Christian School athletes, students, spectators, and parents, even when not observed by opposing teams and fans. Failure to meet these standards will result in disciplinary action. Any spectator situations will be reported to the Headmaster via the Athletic Director. Because we are a Christian school, we expect a high level of Christian morals and values to be displayed at our athletic events.

VII. Practice/Game Schedule Communication

Practice/Game Schedule – Coaches have the responsibility to communicate game and practice schedules to athletes and parents prior to the start of each season. Each head coach is

required to have a team meeting with parents prior to the first regular season contest. Updated game schedules will be posted on the athletic calendar.

Changes to Practice/Game Schedules – It is the responsibility of each sport’s head coach to communicate any changes in game/practice schedule. In the event of a schedule change on the day of, the following procedure will take place:

- a. Head Coaches will be notified as soon as change takes place.
- b. School website, athletic information phone message, and Twitter will be updated with all changes and rescheduling.

VIII. Dealing with Conflict on Athletic Teams

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our programs, you have an obligation to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child’s program.

Communication Parents Should Expect From Their Child’s Coach

- Philosophy of the coach and statement of commitment to Jesus Christ, the child, and his/her family
- Expectations the coach has for the child, as well as other players on the squad
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements will be announced during the pre-season parent/player meeting (i.e. special equipment, off-season conditioning, tournaments etc.)
- Procedures if an athlete is injured during practice/contest
- Discipline that may result in the denial of an athlete’s participation

Communication Coaches Should Expect From Parents

- As children become involved in the athletic programs, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way athletes or their parents wish. At this time, discussion with the coach is encouraged.
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Parents’ commitment not to be an agent of division, or gossip in the community
- Notification, well in advance, of any schedule conflicts

- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Medical or physical limitations of the child

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of the child: spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and athletically
- Ways to help the child improve or concern about child's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches Outside of a Private Setting

It is very difficult for parents to accept their child's not playing as much as they may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all athletes involved. Here are the items not appropriate to discuss with the coach.

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

Procedures to Follow When a Player/Parent has a Concern with the Coach

There are some situations that may require a conference between the player and the coach and the parent and the coach. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these times of conflict arise, here is the established Chain of Command to follow:

Step 1 – Athlete to Head Coach

We believe that student athletes should be able to approach his/her coach with regards to conflicts that arise on athletic teams. Parents are asked to encourage their child to deal directly with the team's head coach.

Step 2 – Parent to Head Coach

Once your child has met with his/her head coach, parents are welcome to set up meetings with the head coach of their child's teams. Such discussions should be done with a professional demeanor. Parents are not allowed to approach coaches immediately before or after contests and must follow the 24-hour rule. This action will not be tolerated in our department. Failing to comply can result in your child's loss of privilege to participate.

Step 3 – Parent to Athletic Director

If the proper channels of communication have been followed and the conflict is still not resolved, parents are encouraged to set up a meeting with the athletic director. Please contact the athletic department to schedule this meeting. This will allow the proper allotment of time to be scheduled for the meeting. A follow-up meeting with parent, student-athlete, head coach and athletic director will take place if necessary.

Step 4 – Parent to Assistant Head of School

If steps 1-3 have been followed and the conflict is not resolved, a meeting with the Assistant Head of School can be set up through the upper school office.

Understand the Chain of Command – Below is the process for parents/student-athletes with regards to dealing with conflicts that arise on athletic teams:

*If at any point during an athletic season, behavior of a Cambridge Christian coaching staff member is observed that would be considered unethical in regard to the Christian morals, values and standards of our school, please notify the athletic director directly.

IX. Middle School Athletics Philosophy

Competitive Teaching - Our desire is to utilize our middle school athletic teams to teach the basic concepts of competitive athletics. Middle school athletics will be a combination of participation, basic skill development, and basic knowledge of rules, sportsmanship, and the development of an understanding of working in a team environment. Our desire is to use our middle school teams as a feeder system for our varsity teams. With this being said, middle school student-athletes are held to the same standards of discipline, behavior, commitment and academic standard as varsity athletics. At the middle school level multiple sport participation is encouraged. Whenever possible, cutting will be avoided on middle school sports teams. However, some sports are limited to a manageable number of team members. The athletic director will have final say on limiting the number of spots available on each team (see tryout policy for more details on tryout process).

X. Junior Varsity Athletics Philosophy

Competitive Development – Our junior varsity teams are used to prepare student-athletes grades 9-11 for varsity competition. This level is also used as a transition period for athletes who are not ready to compete on the varsity level yet. Junior varsity teams will be created based on participation numbers, facilities, and logistic capabilities. If at all possible, junior varsity teams will practice and workout with the varsity team. Schedules for this level will be abbreviated to maximize varsity play. No senior is allowed to compete on the junior varsity level. (FHSAA Regulation)

XI. Varsity Athletics Philosophy

Competitive Excellence – Our goal on the varsity level is to compete at the very highest level possible without compromising our values as a Christian school. The varsity level requires the greatest commitment, self-discipline and work ethic. At this level, our kids are expected to train under our coaching staff pre-season, post-season and in-season. At the varsity level we expect their number one priority to be the Cambridge Christian School's team, not club, AAU, travel, etc. Varsity coaches' priority is to play athletes that best embrace their system and are committed

to our team's success. Varsity level teams are limited in number and are subject to a tryout process if necessary.

XII. Tryouts/Cuts

It is our desire to see as many students involved during the athletic season as possible. However, due to facility space, time constraints, and manageable numbers on some sports teams, tryouts are necessary.

In sports with limits on the number of participants a tryout process will be in effect to select the team. Our tryout process is as follows:

1. There will be a minimum of 2 evaluation workouts.
2. The tryout process will be communicated to the team prior to the beginning of workouts. This will ensure that each student-athlete is aware of the following expectations:
 - a. Length of tryout period will be a minimum of two days.
 - b. Objectives used to select members of the team.
 - c. Distribution of practice and completion schedules.
 - d. Explain the commitment necessary to join the team
 - e. Academic standards
 - f. Classroom behavior and discipline
3. Attendance is required for making a team. You must attend every session of tryouts.
4. The head coach and his/her staff will select the team. If the tryout is for a middle school or junior varsity team, the varsity head coach will be encouraged to assist.
5. The head coach will notify student-athletes who do not make the team prior to the release of the final roster.
6. During the tryout process, head coaches will be working directly with the athletic director to work through any special situations that may arise (injury, illness, etc.)
7. Parents are not allowed to attend the tryout process.
8. ***Risk of Participation Disclaimer:*** Participation in interscholastic athletics can lead to possible injury. Cambridge Christian School and staff have taken every precaution to prevent such injuries, but the risk of injury is possible with any physical activity. *Cambridge Christian School is not liable for any injury due to participation in the sports program.*

XIII. Transportation

1. No student may drive to an away contest if Cambridge Christian can provide transportation, unless a transportation waiver is signed by the parent/guardian and is approved by the coach.
2. Student-athletes must return to the school on the bus, unless a parent/guardian notifies the head coaches of other arrangements.
3. If a transportation issue occurs and car-pooling is necessary, written permission must be given to the team's head coach for a student-athlete to travel to practice or away games.
4. Student-athletes are not permitted to drive school vehicles.

XIV. Sport Participation Fees

Our athletic participation fees have been set by our business office and is necessary for the athletic departments' budget operations to cover cost of officials, uniforms, facility rental, coaching stipends, transportation and equipment. Once a student-athlete has competed in an athletic event, the participation fee will be charged to family's school account. **Once this has taken place, the fee is non-refundable.** Participation Fees are as follows:

High School Sport Fees:

- \$350 for HS Varsity Football
- \$300 for 1st sport (non-football) (HS Junior Varsity or HS Varsity)
- \$150 for 2nd sport (HS Junior Varsity or HS Varsity)

Note: Coaches may require additional items for purchase and kept by athletes

Middle School Sport Fees:

- \$300 for Middle School Football
- \$150 for 1st Sport (Middle School)
- \$100 for 2nd sport (Middle School)

Note: Coaches may require additional items for purchase and kept by athlete

XV. Fundraising Process

No fundraising by Cambridge Christian School athletic teams is permitted without permission from our advancement office. If you are interested in raising funds or donating, you must contact the athletic department. The annual golf tournament is the sole fundraiser for CCS Athletics.

XVI. Equipment/Uniform Policy

1. Team uniforms, warm ups, and equipment are the property of Cambridge Christian School and must be treated with care. Uniforms must be kept clean and under security. Uniforms and warm ups are for game use only and are not to be worn as street wear. Report any loss, theft or damage to uniforms and warm ups to the respective coach. Lost, stolen, intentionally damaged uniforms and/or equipment must be replaced at cost.

NOTE: Since uniforms and warm ups must be ordered in large quantities, carelessness becomes expensive. Equipment will be repaired or replaced at the athlete's expense, at over the counter cost. The student-athlete's school account will be billed for the amount of the replacement.

2. At the end of each season, all uniform components and equipment must be returned in good condition and on the date specified by the head coach. An automatic \$75.00 fine will be assessed if uniforms are not received to the head coach.
3. Uniforms must be turned in to the head coach. Do not drop off uniforms to upper school office or athletic department. If uniform gets lost, it is the athlete's responsibility.
4. Student-athletes may earn a varsity letter by participating on a Varsity team for an entire season and be in good standing with the coach for that season. CCS establishes dates for

students to order jackets. The school does not purchase jackets; however, if the student-athlete earns a varsity letter, he/she may purchase a letter jacket. Please check with the athletic department for more information concerning letter jackets.

XVII. Home School Policy

Cambridge Christian School currently welcomes home school students under the following conditions:

1. Student athlete and parents must go through an interview process with the athletic director.
2. Home school students and family members must follow all athletic department and school policies of Cambridge Christian School.
3. No Cambridge Christian student will be cut from a sports team to retain a home school student if a try-out process is required to make the team. *The AD reserves the right to change or make exceptions to this policy.*
4. Once a home school student is selected to join a sports team, he/she is treated like all other Cambridge Christian student athletes with regards to discipline, playing time and commitment.
5. Home school fees are as follows:
 - Application Fee \$150
 - Varsity or JV \$450 1st Sport (\$200 Each Additional Sport)
 - Middle School Football \$450
 - Middle School (except football) \$300 1st Sport (\$200 each Additional Sport)

XVIII. Team and Individual Award Procedures

Team/Individual Awards and Varsity Letters/Pins

1. Each team will have an end of season team party to handout appropriate certificate, awards and for fun and fellowship
2. Varsity Letters/Pins are awarded at the discretion of each varsity coach
3. There will be an end of year HS Varsity Sports Awards Banquet for all HS Varsity teams to recognize the Lancer and MVP Award recipients for each team.

XIX. Sexual Ethics Policy

Cambridge Christian School affirms the biblical understanding of sexuality as a gift from God (Genesis 2:24) as defined in His Word. In concert with biblical teaching, CCS supports the principle and practice of purity in singleness and fidelity in marriage, which is the union of one man and one woman. In addition, CCS recognizes that the gift of gender is part of the goodness of God's creation and is predetermined by God and revealed at conception. Lifestyles or practices inconsistent with these biblical teachings are also inconsistent with the mission of CCS. CCS

affirms the biblical teaching that all sexual conduct outside the sanctity of marriage, including both hetero and homosexuality, is a sin, a turning away from God's ideal as outlined in Scripture. CCS understands that while we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), the grace of God poured out through the blood of His Son calls us to repentance, forgiveness and a new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 7:10, 12:21; 2 Timothy 2:25; 2 Peter 3:9). We understand that these issues are very personal in nature, and great discretion will be given in dealing with such matters – our purpose is not to bring shame or discomfort to an individual or family. However, nor will our actions negotiate the veracity of biblical absolutes on the altar of cultural convenience and compromise. Consequently, our policy for all CCS students, staff, parents/guardians and board members calls for devotion to a biblical standard of purity. When confronted as a result of not observing these biblical standards, continued involvement with CCS would necessitate a contrite heart before the Lord. In addition to personal behavior, board members, staff, students, parents/guardians and their families are expected not to participate in advocacy groups that promote sexuality contrary to biblical teaching. CCS may determine a consequence for the individual that is appropriate for the act committed. In doing so, the school shall offer counsel and assistance to the individual so that the consequence imposed may be a catalyst for redemption in his or her life. If a continued relationship with CCS and any member of the CCS staff, board, student body or parental body deemed to be damaging to (or a distraction from) the mission of CCS, appropriate action, which could include dismissal, may be necessary. CCS will respond to such issues with an appropriate combination of grace and truth.

Cambridge Christian School Athlete and Parent Contract

Participating in Cambridge Christian School athletics is a privilege. Responsibility comes with that privilege.

The following principles are understood to be in effect for an athlete involved in Cambridge Christian interscholastic sports:

A current FHSAA sports physical form (EL2) and Consent and Liability form (EL3) is required prior to participation in practices or games.

Athletic fees and additional team expenses (Spirit Packs) will be billed to your school account. The account should be paid in full before the athlete may participate in an additional sport.

Student must show proof of insurance to play. Appropriate documentation is required to be included on the FHSAA sports physical form. Parents must sign a transportation waiver form indicating a release of liability.

Uniforms and equipment distributed to the athlete is the responsibility of the athletes and the parents. **Distributed items must be returned within one-week post season.** Replacement of lost or damaged uniforms and or equipment is required. The Athletic department will determine costs. Failure to comply will cause grades to be withheld until returns or replacement costs are complete.

Due to the varied talents of athletes on each team, **playing time is not guaranteed.** It is the intent of each coach to give each player as many quality minutes as possible during the season, however, this is based upon varying factors. Encourage your student to work hard to improve his/her talents so that he/she will be an intricate part of the team.

Excused absences include illnesses and death in the immediate family. Any other absences need the coach's prior permission to be excused. Please schedule vacations, doctor and dental appointments, etc. so as not to conflict with practices and games.

Parents are asked not to withdraw any student for the reason of grades, without first speaking to the coach and seeking other alternatives. Replacement is impossible once the season begins. If discipline is needed, we ask that you find ways to discipline the student without punishing the team and the coach.

Appropriate sportsmanship is required of every athlete and his/her parents at all times. The athlete and parents have an obligation to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is pleasing to God. Inappropriate attitude and/or behavior may cause an athlete or parent to be removed from the competition area. The coach and/or the AD will have the final decision in such matters.

I have read this handbook and contract and will abide by all it contains. In addition, I waive the receipt of a hard copy of the FHSAA eligibility information which is available at www.ccslanders.com.

Athlete's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

“EVERY ATHLETE A DISCIPLE”