

Wooster Christian School Athlete Code of Conduct

We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom, at home and through the local church, can be put into practice through athletics. Participation in sports contributes to the development of discipline, sportsmanship, confidence and character. Athletics allow the student to use their God-given abilities to glorify God. Because competition is usually surrounded with pressure, the athlete is tested and true character is revealed. Therefore, the opportunity for character growth readily presents itself through competition.

As a member of a WCS team, you are in a position of honor and responsibility. It is a privilege to participate in WCS sports and that privilege depends on your behavior, attitude and sportsmanship. We wish to help you build not just athletic skills, but life skills which will help you become a champion in life.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Participation in WCS sports is open to students in 5th -12th grade.

GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES

Athletes representing WCS are highly visible in our school and have the opportunity to represent Christ in our competitive play. This means that WCS has high standards for the conduct and commitment of our athletes. The expectations are as follows:

- *Athletes are expected to exhibit Christ-like character and integrity at all times. This includes showing respect for coaches, officials, teammates, opponents and fans at all times.
- *Athletes will foster good sportsmanship and teamwork at all times. This includes committing to practice and play as a team as directed by the coach for the good of the team.
- *Athletes are expected to attend every practice and give full effort with a good attitude. Choosing not to participate in practice or showing disrespect for the coach may impact playing time at the next game.
- * Athletes are expected to accept responsibility for taking care of school equipment and uniforms.

ATHLETIC/ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- A current Physical Form, Department of Health Concussion Information signature form, and Lindsey's Law signature form must be on file in the athletic director's office before a player may participate in practice. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Students must be in school by 12:30 on game day to play that evening.
- Grades need to be above an F during the entire playing season.
- Grades will be checked as of midterms (the first 4.5 weeks).
- After midterms, grades will then be checked on a weekly basis if the student has a D or D- to make sure it does not drop to an F.
- Grades will also be checked at the end of the quarter if the athlete is playing in the next sports season. If the end of the quarter grade is an F, they will have 3 weeks to get it up to a D- before starting the next playing season. (ie: A volleyball player, who also plays basketball.)
- If the student has an F at midterms, they will be on academic probation and will have a 3 week period to get their grade up. Within those three weeks, they are allowed to practice, and go to a game. However, they will not be on the game roster as long as their grade remains an F. They will be allowed to attend the game, wear their warmup, but they cannot wear their jersey for that night's game roster. If after the 3 week period their grade is still an F, they will be fully ineligible resulting in not being able to participate in any future season's play, practice or game. Anytime during the 3 week period, if their grade goes up, they will be off of academic probation.
- With that being said, during the 3 week academic probation, their grades will be checked on a day to day basis. If, at any time, the F goes to a D-, they are off of academic probation.
- Athletic Waiver

A student who fails to meet the WCS Academic Standard may apply for a waiver to participate in the seasons play. A waiver request may be made in writing to the principal, teacher whose class he/she is failing, and athletic director (the principal will have the final authority to grant or deny the request). Waiver requests are available in the athletic office.

Factors contributing to the denial of a waiver could include

- a pattern of not turning work in on time
- frequent absences where work has not been made up
- failure to seek additional help from the teacher
- poor conduct or negative attitude in the classroom
- more than one disciplinary action or detention during the quarter the F was earned
- more than one waiver has already been granted in the academic year

COACHES AND PLAYING TIME

Because of our commitment to excellence, our coaches have a very important role in our athletic program. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like attitudes and behaviors for our students while under pressure themselves. One of their most important roles is to develop not only sport specific techniques, but to develop sportsmanship and life skills that will follow the athlete beyond the sport. Coaches have great responsibilities and opportunities to mold young lives to be ambassadors for Christ in our community.

Playing time will be determined by the coach. Instruction and active participation will be our goal. While every effort will be made to allow the athlete to participate in each game, additional Playing time will also be determined based on attitude, effort and attendance at practices.

PARENT SUPPORT

Parental support is essential for our children in every aspect of their lives. Supporting your student athlete is no exception. There is great opportunity for parents to model Christ-like attitudes and behaviors to their students in the athletic arena. WCS asks you to do this in the following ways:

- Conduct yourself in a Christ-like manner, remembering that you are representing our WCS family just as much as your athlete.
- Remember, our children are just that: Children. They need positive reinforcement and encouragement and acceptance of their abilities as they learn to navigate the challenges presented through athletics.
- Good sportsmanship involves applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship exhibited by either team.
- Treat our officials and guests with respect and see opportunities to show Christ to unbelievers that may be present.
- Respect the judgment of officials, remembering that they are making decisions based on fast moving events and what they see from their vantage point.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Please show respect for the coaches by picking up your child promptly from practice and games.
- If you would like to discuss your child with the coach, please contact them about scheduling an appointment to meet. Please do not confront the coach before or after games. Coaches would love to talk with you about how you can assist with your child's behavior and development in the sport.
- If you are not satisfied with your meeting, please schedule an appointment with the athletic director to further discuss any ongoing issue.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Adherence to the Code of Conduct is vitally important to the success of the student athlete in pursuing Christ-like excellence in athletics. The code is not confined just to practice and games, but reflects an expectation of behavior in and out of school. This also includes their social media presence. Violations of the Code of Conduct will be subject to discipline by the coach, athletic director or principal.

Each coach will establish their own individual regulations based on the Code of Conduct. Attendance, attitude, effort and respect for authority and teammates will be the primary factor in these regulations.

These regulations will be laid out to the athlete on the first day of practice. There will be an informational meeting for parents and athletes before the start of each season to discuss these expectations. Parental attendance is strongly encouraged.

I _____, have read the WCS Athlete code of conduct.

I understand the privilege it is to be a part of this team. I will follow the guidelines set out and do my best to represent WCS with a Christ-like attitude.

Athlete Signature

I, the parent of _____, have read and understand the expectations for my child. I will encourage my child to do their best in all they do, as working for the Lord, and not for men.

Parents Signature

*Please return to Madi Elliott (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR) by the 1st practice.