

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

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ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

Kingdom Education, a biblical model of education, is the model we strive to implement in our daily schedules here at LCA. Kingdom Education is defined as “a life-long, Bible-based, Christ-centered process of leading a child into a new identity with Christ and developing a child according to his/her specific abilities given to him by Christ, so that a child would be empowered to live a life characterized by love, trust, and obedience to Christ.” This model can only be accomplished by bringing the home, church, and school together to educate and equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective Christian service.

LCA ATHLETIC SPIRITUAL MISSION STATEMENT

Together as players, coaches, teachers, and staff, we will help the academy present every student in our sports program with a credible offer of the gospel, encourage them to pursue God, and equip them for spiritual service on the playing fields and courts, in the home, church, community, nation, and the world. With these tools and the experiences gained as an athlete of Liberty Christian Academy, our athletes will be prepared to pursue future athletic participation in college.

SPORTS FEES

A seasonal sports fee is required to participate in a Middle School, JV, or Varsity sports team at Liberty Christian Academy. Fees may be applied to your school bill or paid directly to the school office.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

If your child plays basketball at Liberty Christian Academy, team shoes are purchased by the school and are expected to be worn by all players. This additional expense may also be added to your school bill or paid directly to the office. Because the school orders team shoes in bulk, the cost is significantly lower than purchasing them separately.

ATHLETIC TEAMS OFFERED

Fall Season (August – October)

- *Middle School Volleyball*
- *JV/Varsity Volleyball*
- *Middle School Boys Soccer*
- *Varsity Boys Soccer*
- *Varsity Cross Country*

Winter Season (November – February)

- *Middle School Girls/Boys Basketball*
- *Junior Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball*
- *Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball*

Spring Season (March – May)

- *Varsity Baseball*
- *Varsity Girls Soccer*
- *Varsity Golf*

ACADEMICS

Student athletes at Liberty Christian Academy are students first and foremost. **Coaches will work with teachers in helping the student-athlete be successful in the classroom.** If a student has a scheduled after-school tutorial, the student will not be penalized for being late or missing practice. Students participating in athletics should anticipate the demands on their time and plan accordingly. Athletic participation should never be used to excuse incomplete assignments, missed tests, or tardiness. **Student-athletes should be present and prepared for class regardless of game and practice schedules.**

SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

Any students who wish to be a part of any Liberty Christian Academy sports team **MUST** be passing all subjects and **maintain a 70 overall average at Progress Report time and at the end of each nine-week period.** If at those times, a student fails to meet the minimum average or is failing any subject, he or she will be eligible to participate in practice but not in competitions until significant improvement in meeting the minimum requirements is met and is confirmed by the 2 week evaluation benchmark. **(Students will be evaluated every two (2) weeks to determine eligibility, if they are failing or have less than a 70 (D) overall average at progress reports or end of each nine-week period.)** This policy also applies to transfer students.

ATTITUDE

Students are to maintain a disposition complimentary to a Christian on the field or court. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in suspension from the team. Liberty Christian Academy believes in playing to win, but not at the expense of its Christian testimony. Students must fully cooperate with their coach's training rules and strategy during games, practice attendance requirements, etc.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Athletes, coaches, and parents at Liberty Christian Academy are to be exemplary in their display of sportsmanship during games and practices. Team members should congratulate opponents after a game with a customary handshake and kind word. Physical and/or verbal abuse aimed at an opponent, official, coach, or teammate will result in immediate discipline by the coach, and possibly, the administration. Taunting and/or inappropriate language directed toward an opponent or teammate is not “part of the game”, and is inconsistent with the mission of Liberty Christian Academy. **An athlete ejected from a contest is automatically suspended for the next game but may sit on the bench. A coach that is ejected from a game may not attend the next scheduled contest.** All ejections are to be reported to the athletic director no later than the day after the ejection takes place. Athletes are to demonstrate sportsmanship and an attitude of cooperation with coaches and teammates. An athlete who has a grievance with the coach or another player should attempt to resolve the problem with that individual first in private, in accordance with biblical principle. Matters of disagreement and dispute should be kept confidential between the individuals involved. If the situation remains unsolved, the athletic director should be informed.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION PHILOSOPHY

Participation in athletics at Liberty Christian Academy is open to every student but conditioned upon meeting the criteria of academics, character, and athletic skill necessary to compete. While all teams at Liberty Christian Academy are expected to play hard in the true spirit of competition, there is a different emphasis at each level of play.

- 1. Jr. Knight Elementary Sports (grades 3-6)** – The young, future athlete is given an opportunity to join an intramural school team where the basic fundamentals and rules of the respective game are introduced. At this time, LCA offers co-ed soccer in the Fall, and both boys basketball and girls basketball in the Spring.
- 2. Middle School (grades 6-8)** – The athlete is provided a learning experience and opportunity for basic individual skill development. Team concepts of play are introduced.
- 3. Junior Varsity (grades 7-10)** – The athlete improves skills while learning team concepts that are more complex. At this level of increased physical development and better competition, there is an equal emphasis on winning and participation.
- 4. Varsity** – The athlete is advanced in skill and physical development. Emphasis is placed upon individual and team potential. The athlete’s playing time is determined by how it will best serve the team.

Please note: Athletes will not be allowed to play on 3 teams of the same sport.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for participation in Liberty Christian Academy sports programs, students must meet these basic requirements:

1. Be an enrolled student of Liberty Christian Academy in good standing who will NOT reach his/her 19th birthday on or before September 1 of the school year. (Note: In our JV/Varsity athletic conferences, homeschooled students may be eligible to participate in Liberty athletics.)
2. Meet the Scholastic Requirements
3. Desire to be on a competitive team of same gender
4. Adhere to the standards presented in the Athletic Handbook

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

LCA students must be counted present on the day of any game or practice or they will not be allowed to participate. In order to participate in a contest or practice, athletes must be in school by 10:00 a.m. **Students are expected to be in school on time on days following athletic events.** If a student checks out of school before 10:00 a.m., he/she must return to school by noon to be eligible to participate in practice or game that day.

DISCIPLINE

Coaches are employees of the school. Therefore, the coaches at practices, games, and road trips carry out all school policies and standards of behavior for students set forth by the administration in the Liberty Christian Academy Middle School/High School Handbook for Parents and Students. Disciplinary actions for misconduct are applied which include, but are not limited to suspension or expulsion from a team and/or school. All offenses, especially anything that could be construed as criminal, i.e. damage to personal property, etc., are brought to the attention of the administration and will be handled accordingly. The following steps will be taken in disciplinary referrals:

1. Students and other parties involved will be interviewed by the Athletic Director
2. The Athletic Director will conference with the coach and school administrator
3. After consulting with all necessary parties and gathering all relevant information, the Athletic Director will notify the athlete and the athlete's parents of the final decision
4. Decisions may be appealed to the school administration

NO NEGATIVE COMMENT POLICY

Athletes, managers, coaches, and parents will make no negative or spiteful comments verbally or by gesture to a game official on judgment calls. Coaches may inquire to a game official on a rule or game administrative procedure during the appropriate time.

TRANSPORTATION

Liberty Christian Academy provides transportation for teams to all away games. Players must travel with the team. There are two exceptions upon notification of the Athletic Director: (1) a player may ride home with his/her parent(s) after the game; or, (2) a player may return with another parent provided his/her parent(s) have granted **written permission**. Parents may not give permission for a child other than their own to ride home with another student or another student's parents. *Coaches must perform a head count of players each time the bus is loaded and unloaded.*

DRESS CODE

Appropriate apparel, as outlined in the Liberty Christian Academy Student Handbook, should be worn for all road trips, before and after games. Dress code policy applies unless teams go to the game in uniform.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are the property of Liberty Christian Academy unless players purchase their own uniforms. The school provides the funds for purchasing uniforms. An inquiry regarding a donation or the purchase of uniforms by anyone other than the school or booster club should be referred to the administrator.

The coach has the responsibility of distributing and collecting uniforms. At the beginning of the season, the coach will be given an inventory form on which to record the athlete's name and the uniform he/she is given. The coach and the athletic director will keep a copy of the form. Athletes are responsible for the care of the uniform and should follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning after each use. An athlete who loses a uniform must pay the replacement cost for that uniform. Uniforms which show more than normal wear may also have to be replaced and must be paid for by the students. Uniforms are not to be altered or tailored by the athlete. Athletes are to wear the complete uniform provided by the school only at games. They should not be worn to school, practice, or used for other recreational activities (Athletes are to be in complete uniform for team pictures, which are made each season; the dates for team pictures are on the school calendar.) All uniforms are to be cleaned and returned to the coach and accounted for within one week of the final game of the season.

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY COACHING PHILOSOPHY

All coaches of Liberty Christian Academy are selected based on experience in their respective sport, their determination to make a positive impact in children's lives, and their commitment to living a Christ-centered life modeled by their coaching. All LCA coaches believe in the following philosophy:

- *We will represent our Lord Jesus Christ, LCA, and ourselves in the best manner at all times*
- *We will work hard to be in condition equal to or better than any opponent we face*
- *All players will be treated fairly and with respect by the coaching staff and teammates*
- *We will play with great enthusiasm*
- *We will do all things decently, in order to glorify Christ*
- *All players are "coach-able" and will be given every opportunity to excel*
- *All players will be challenged and encouraged to develop their skills*
- *All players and coaches participate in their sport for competition and a love for the game*
- *At all times, we play to win, but we will play fairly*

**PLAYER/COACH/PARENT ATHLETICS HANDBOOK
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I agree that I have read and will abide by the policies and procedures as stated in the LCA Athletics Handbook.

Parent Name _____

Signature _____

Email and Phone # _____

Date _____

Student Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

***Please turn in this signed form to the LCA Athletics Office with the *Medical Liability Waiver* form before the first official practice begins.**