



Central Christian Crusaders

Athletic Handbook

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OVERVIEW

MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Christian School Athletic Department exists to reinforce the school's honor code, assist student athletes in finding their identity in Christ, and to build a legacy of excellence that honors God.

CULTURE

Culture has a big impact on how our teams function and perform. How our student athletes think, feel, behave, and perform are all influenced by the environment in which they practice and compete. Our culture is an expression of our values, attitudes, and goals about sports, competition, and relationships. It establishes norms of acceptable behavior on our teams and at our competitions, conveying to members what is allowed and what is not. These norms dictate to our athletes how to behave, communicate, cooperate, and deal with conflict. Our culture creates the atmosphere that permeates every aspect of our team's experience. When we clearly define our culture and it is understood and accepted by all of our student athletes, they have a desire to support that culture. Our goal is to create a culture that nurtures Christ-Centered behavior, individual and team growth, success, and fun.

Our athletic department culture consists of three essential pillars that support all team functioning and performance: **values**, **attitudes**, and **goals**.

Values are our standards of behavior. Values are so important because they guide the decisions and choices we make as a department, team and as individuals. Whatever you value most is where you will devote your time, effort, and energy. Here are our values that are essential for individual and team success:

- Christ-centered - Make God the number one priority in our lives. Our behavior will leave no doubt that we are children of God. We will refrain from saying hurtful things about others including teammates, parents, coaches, opponents, and officials.
- Work Ethic - Give 120% every moment of every practice and competition. Embrace the grind. Never settle for average. Strive for excellence.
- Commitment - Devote yourself to the school, athletic department, team, teammates and coaches. Commit to going a little further.
- Integrity - Stand up for what's right. Develop honorable habits and live up to our values in every choice you make.
- Respect - Treat others with dignity and respect. Respect is the glue that holds teammates together. It helps develop chemistry, teamwork and trust.
- Responsibility - Fulfill your responsibilities to the team without taking shortcuts. Recognize and own the power of your choices, decisions and actions.
- Accountability - No excuses. Own your mistakes and correct them. Hold yourself and teammates accountable for everything you say and do on and off the field or court.

Attitudes are the way we think and feel about something. Attitudes are vital because they guide how athletes think, feel, and act toward their sport.

- Focus on the process, not the outcome
- Treat challenges as opportunities. Develop the mental and physical toughness to overcome obstacles
- An understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and goodwill toward an opponent
- Always put the team ahead of yourself

Never give up

Goals are our aim or desired result. As you know so well, goals are vital for athletes to motivate them and to direct their efforts

- Provide a Christ-Centered environment for athletes, coaches, and fans.
- Build athletic programs from elementary through varsity.
- Promote a feeling of pride, school spirit, and unity throughout the CCS community.
- Demonstrate excellence in preparation and performance.
- Provide a safe, fun, and family atmosphere at each event.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS (GAPPS)

GAPPS is the governing body for CCS athletics. It is the largest, private interscholastic organization in Georgia. GAPPS mission is to unite Christ-Centered Schools, Independent Schools and Learning Centers in an environment where students can compete yet still be encouraged to grow in their faith. Member schools create a competitive setting in which members strive to set a Godly example of excellence.

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Sports

Cheerleading - varsity, middle school, and elementary (Little Crusaders)

Girls Volleyball - varsity, JV, and middle school

Football - varsity, middle school, and elementary (Little Crusaders)

Winter Sports

Basketball - varsity boys and girls, MS boys and girls, and elementary (Little Crusaders)

Spring Sports

Baseball - varsity

Girls Soccer - varsity, middle school, and elementary (Little Crusaders)

Tennis - varsity boys and girls, MS boys and girls

*All teams are contingent upon having enough athletes to fill roster

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Athletic Fees

All athletes are required to pay the athletic fees. Athletic fees include a one-time participation fee paid once per school year of \$200 and a sport specific fee for each sport. The fees have been calculated to offset the cost of officials, travel, facilities maintenance, equipment, uniforms, coaching stipends, and GAPPS fees. Fees are billed through the FACTS Management System.

CCS Offers sibling discounts as long as the siblings are participating in the same season. The oldest sibling will be charged the full amount, 2nd oldest will receive 25% discount from total, 3rd oldest will receive 30% discount from total, 4th will receive 35% discount, and all additional players will receive 40% discount from their total.

Sport Specific Fees

Sport	CCS Athlete	AES Athlete
Varsity Football	\$425	\$550
Middle School Football	\$325	\$450
Varsity Cheerleading	\$375	\$500
Middle School Cheerleading	\$275	\$400
Varsity Volleyball	\$325	\$450
JV Volleyball	\$250	\$375
Middle School Volleyball	\$225	\$350
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball	\$375	\$475
MS Girls/Boys Basketball	\$225	\$350
Varsity Baseball/Softball	\$325	\$450
MS Baseball/Softball	275	375
Varsity Soccer	\$225	\$350
Varsity Tennis	\$175	\$250
MS Tennis	\$150	\$225
Little Crusaders	\$60	\$80

Fees Schedule:

Fall Athletic Fees Due by first Friday in August
 Winter Athletic Fees Due second Friday in October
 Spring Athletic Fees Due by first Friday in February

Refunds - Sports fees will not be refunded unless:

- Athletes that have paid fees and are cut after tryouts will be refunded.
- An athlete that is injured before midseason and unable to play the remaining games, can request a prorated refund.
- An athlete that cannot participate in games or practices due to academic or behavioral issues, will *not* be refunded.

Delinquent Payments - CCS has a “**no pay, no play**” policy. If there are extenuating circumstances the parent needs to contact the athletic director to discuss options. Fees that are not paid by the due date will be subject to the following:

- Athletes will not be allowed to participate in games or practices until fees are paid.
- FACTS will charge a \$50 late fee for any fee not paid by the due date.

Additional Costs

Uniforms - The athletic department purchases and issues uniforms on loan for most sports. Uniforms are to be returned at the end of the season. If it is deemed that a uniform has been damaged due to negligence the athlete will be fined for the cost to replace the uniform. Uniforms purchased by parents or with team fundraising money will belong to the athlete and are not required to be returned.

Team Apparel - There may be requirements and/or opportunities to purchase additional CCS Team apparel depending on team needs.

Gate - Parents should expect to pay an admission fee for every CCS home athletic event. Fans can purchase digital CCS All-Sports Pass, specific sport season passes, or single event tickets on our Ticket Spicket link on the CCS athletics webpage. All-Sport and sport specific season passes are not valid at away games or post-season CCS home events.

Meals - Pre-game meals for home events will be paid using team fundraising. Meal expenses during travel dates are to be paid by the athlete or team fundraising.

Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to support our sport teams. Each team is required to conduct annual fundraising events. Any funds raised are dedicated to that team. The more funds raised the better the experience for our athletes. Any athlete/parent not participating in fundraising events will be charged a fundraising fee in addition to the athletic fees.

Crusader Athletic Club (CAC)

The Crusader Athletic Club exists to enhance the overall athletic program through financial support and volunteer efforts. The CAC is composed of volunteers under the leadership of the athletic director. The athletic club coordinates the Corporate Sponsorship Program, Family Sponsorship Program, coordinates fund raising activities that benefit the athletic program as a whole, and coordinates concessions for all athletic events. The Crusader Athletic Club will have no influence on playing time or any other matter related to a specific athletic team or coach.

STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

CCS Enrolled Students. Students enrolled in CCS are considered full-time CCS students for the purposes of academic designation and athletic participation.

AES (Home School) Students. Central Christian allows alternative education students to participate in our athletic program as outlined by the GAPPS policy.

- AES students are required to submit a Georgia Department of Education Home Study Declaration of Intent, birth certificate, and GAPPS AES form to the athletic director
- AES athletes are held to the academic and code of conduct requirements outlined in the CCS student handbook
- After the completed application has been submitted, the athletic director and coach will determine if the AES athlete will be accepted to participate in the CCS athletic program

CCS transfer to AES. Individuals who transferred from Central Christian School to AES (Alternatively Educated Student). These families shall:

- Complete an exit interview
- Be in good standing with the school

Academic Eligibility

At CCS, we emphasize the **“student” in student-athlete**. Our goal is to help athletes grow not only in their sport but also in the classroom. To support this, CCS follows a **“No Pass – No Play”** policy.

Below are the terms and conditions for athletic eligibility:

General Expectations

- Athletes must be passing **all classes** to remain in good academic standing.
- Grade reports will be reviewed **weekly**, beginning the **third week of school**.
- Coaches will be notified by the athletic director if an athlete is failing a class (grade below 70).

Academic Probation

- Athletes placed on probation may **continue to practice and compete**, but must raise failing grades to passing within **four weeks**.
- Situations that place an athlete on probation include:
 - **Fall sports:** A failing final average from the previous school year (unless corrected through summer school).
 - **Winter & Spring sports:** A failing grade on the most recent report before the season begins.
 - **Any athlete** who receives a new failing grade during the season.

Academic Suspension

- Athletes on suspension may **not participate in practices or games**.
- Suspension occurs if:
 - A student fails to raise their grade to passing within **four weeks** of being placed on probation.
- To return from suspension, the student must show proof (such as a teacher's grade report) that the grade is now passing.

Additional Expectations

- Coaches may require extra academic accountability, such as **extra conditioning or reduced playing time**, for athletes who are struggling academically.

Conduct Eligibility

- A student may be found ineligible if his behavior and/or cooperation in class is found to be unacceptable by at least two of his classroom teachers. The same rules of eligibility will apply to behavior as to academics.
- Students receiving OSS from school may not participate in sporting activities on the day of suspension.

GAME PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Participation in CCS sports programs is a privilege, not a right. Athletes must maintain their behavior integrity, academic responsibility, and their athletic commitment. In order to participate in games athletes must do the following:

- Academic Responsibilities
 - Student-athlete must be in good academic standing as outlined in the CCS Academic Policy for Athletics
 - Academic work is due as assigned. Athletes must coordinate with teachers to complete assignments due when they are released early for sporting events. Assignments that are due are not to be excused.
- School Attendance
 - In order to participate in a game, a student-athlete must be present for a half-day, 3 1/2 hours, or at least 4 full class periods.
 - Athletes will not receive excused tardies to school the day after a game
- Practice Attendance
 - Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. If an athlete misses a practice, coaches are encouraged to follow these guidelines:
 - Unexcused Practice Absences - Coaches will have final discretion on all team rules. There will be some loss of participation in official competitive events associated with unexcused practice absences.
 - Excused Practice Absences include death in the family, sickness with doctors note, school-related activity, or college recruitment visit.

- Game Attendance
 - If an athlete misses a competition (unexcused) he/she will sit out the next competition plus any additional consequences as determined by the coach.
 - Administrator and/or coach have final say on handling excused game absences.
- Athletic Behavior of Student Athletes
 - Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct during a game or practice, such as profanity, taunting, or gestures toward opponent, official, or coach will not be tolerated whether a technical or penalty is issued or not.
 - Discipline will be given to any athlete who displays unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - The head coach will communicate player suspension to parents and the AD.
 - Repeated offenses will result in additional disciplinary actions that could include termination from the team.

PLAYING TIME

Athletes should have several expectations in regard to playing time. Understanding these expectations prior to the season is critical to everyone's enjoyment.

Middle School Playing Time Expectations:

- CCS views our middle school sports as developmental programs
- Coaches are expected to play every athlete in every game
- Our teams will be competing for championships, therefore, coaches have discretion as to how much playing time each athlete earns based on the team's overall opportunity for success
- Playing time is determined by performance, attitude, work ethics and compliance with school honor code

Varsity Playing Time Expectations:

- Our main goal for varsity sports is to be competitive while displaying Christ-like character
- Our expectation is athletes wishing to participate in varsity sports already have the fundamental skills required
- There are no guarantees of playing time for any JV or Varsity team
- Playing time will be earned in practice
- The coach determines which athletes will put the team in the best position to be successful

MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION

CCS encourages our athletes to participate in multiple athletic opportunities. Research supports the idea that playing multiple sports is beneficial for the holistic development of the athlete.

- Students must complete all practices and competitions with the first sport before trying out for another.
- Coaches will understand this and apply no penalty to athletes participating in another sport
- All out-of-season skill development sessions, workouts, and/or training opportunities are NOT mandatory
- Athletes that quit a sport are not eligible to participate in another sport until the end of the season of the sport they quit and acquire approval from an athletic board

- Participation on CCS teams must take priority over participation on any non-CCS athletic teams. Coaches can withhold playing time and a varsity letter if the athlete misses practices or games for non-CCS sports

Appearance and Dress Code

No pierced jewelry is allowed for boys on campus or at school-related functions at any time. Pierced jewelry for girls is limited to earrings with a maximum of 2 per ear. Tattoos of any nature cannot be exposed on campus or at school-related functions. Hair should always be clean, neat, and well-groomed with no extreme haircuts or colors. Hats are not to be worn in the school buildings at any time. Modest facial hair is allowed but must be kept to a minimum and approved by the Athletic Director.

All clothing worn to school and its activities must be clean, not badly worn, and without rips, holes or tears.

- Central Christian does not allow body-piercing of any kind on any part of the body. The only exception is pierced ears for the female students, and this exception is limited to two earrings per ear.
- Excesses in hair styles, apparel, accessories, or fragrances for either boys or girls are not permitted. Final decisions regarding what constitutes “excesses” belong to the administration.

TRANSPORTATION

CCS will make every effort to provide transportation to and from athletic events being held off campus. Driver and/or driver availability may necessitate the need for alternate transportation. If this occurs, coaches will communicate requirements to athletes and parents as soon as possible. Parents or students that can drive are responsible to provide transportation to and from practice. Parents are expected to be punctual when picking up their athletes from practice.

Athletes are expected to ride to the games with their team. Appropriate behavior is expected on the bus at all times. If an AES student lives closer to the event they may not be required to ride the team vehicle if approved by the head coach. However, they are expected to be at the event at the time the coach designates.

After a game, students may ride back on the bus or ride back with a parent or approved adult after notifying the coach.

Boys and girls will not be allowed to sit in the same seat while on the bus.

Teams are responsible for cleaning out the bus upon returning to the school. In the event a bus is left unclean, the last team that used the bus will be required to clean it during their next scheduled practice time.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Most sports issue uniforms purchased by CCS. Each athlete is responsible for their school issued

equipment and uniforms. The school views the care and maintenance of uniforms and equipment as a serious responsibility.

Guidelines for uniform care:

- Coaches may request that uniforms laundering be completed by a parent team
- Wash and care for uniforms after each game. Launder colored uniforms separately from whites. Turn uniforms inside out before washing. Wash all uniforms in cold water. Never place uniforms in the dryer except on low heat.
- Athletes may only wear their uniform for games or other special events as requested by the coach.
- Students must wear the jersey tucked in and must keep it on for the entire game
- At no time may a student alter or change the original shape or form of the uniform
- If an athlete returns their uniform in poor condition due to neglect of care, their will be a \$150 fine prorated at \$25 depreciation per year of the age of the uniform
- Any uniform not turned in by the designated date established by the coach will result in a hold on all post season awards and recognition

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Any student interested in the below program should contact the athletic director for more information.

Athletic Trainers. Once per school year the athletic department will host a one day course on basic athletic trainer skills at no cost to the student. Students who attend will serve as trainers for assigned sports.

Team Managers. Managers assist the coaches in practice and game preparation, care of equipment, and other tasks as designated by the coaches.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

CCS athletics are a community program. Parents play a vital role in supporting and encouraging student-athletes. Our athletic program cannot function without parent involvement.

Expected Behavior by Spectators at CCS Athletic Events

- Verbal criticism and disrespect from parents to athletes, coaches, referees, CCS staff, or opponents will not be tolerated.
- Focus on appreciation and encouraging the team and coaches.
- Parents should not coach athletes from the stands during game, time outs, or half time.
- Do not step onto the court or field during a game.
- If you see or hear something inappropriate, respectfully encourage the offender to follow Christ-like spectator etiquette. If the issue is unresolved, please report to game administrator
- Any disrespect from a student or family member in person, in writing, or on social media will not

be tolerated and may result in the student being removed from the program.

- Smaller children must be under direct parental supervision during athletic events.
- The game administrator has the authority to escort any parent, student, or fan from the event site that does not uphold behavioral expectations.

Conflict Resolution

If a conflict arises the offended party should:

- Adhere to the 24-hour rule. All parties will not discuss issues or offenses before a 24-hour period with coaches, athletes, or administrators. Parties are encouraged to pray about the situation first and reflect individually on how they can help reconcile. Exceptions to this rule are situations when physical harm or legal matters may be involved.
- With a spirit of reconciliation, approach the offending party in person before speaking with any other party about the situation.
- If a resolution cannot be reached, they may request a meeting with the athletic director or head of school

Parent Team Volunteers

Parents of CCS athletes will form a team for the purposes of providing logistical and operational support. All parents are *required* to serve on a volunteer team in an effort to provide support and build community in our athletic programs and school. It takes an enormous amount of manpower to host athletic events. Contact the head coach to find out where you can serve. Here are some areas where parents can serve:

Concessions	Score Book
Score Board	Shot Clock
PA Announcer	Chain Crew
Statistician	Water and Hydration
Video Recording	Site set up
Clean up after events	Uniform laundering
End of Season Banquets	Van/Bus Driver
Pre-game meals	Half time drinks/snacks

PLAYER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

PLAYER

As a member of this team, I agree to follow this code of conduct:

- I will respect the game by playing fairly and to the best of my ability.
- I will lead by example, practice good sportsmanship and demonstrate self-control.
- I will not criticize calls made by officials and will allow my coach to handle any issues with them.
- I will always support and encourage my teammates and prioritize the team's success over my own.
- I will represent my team with class, handle winning and losing with grace, and ensure that my behavior always reflects positively on my teammates, coaches and school.
- I will accept that mistakes are a part of sports and will use them as opportunities to grow.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

As a team parent/guardian, I agree to follow this code of conduct:

- I will encourage my child to play fairly and to the best of their ability.
- I will practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans and officials.
- I will not criticize calls made by officials and will allow the coach to handle any issues with them.
- I will prioritize the emotional and physical well-being of my child above any personal desire to win.
- I will do my best to make high school sports fun for my child and help them enjoy the experience.
- I will remember the game is for the players and not for the adults.

We will always do our best to follow this code of conduct because we know it is meant to help students become better players, teammates and people.

PLAYER SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

BANQUETS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

All teams will host individual sports banquets within 30 days of the end of the season to recognize team and individual accomplishments. Any athlete that does not complete the season due to academic or disciplinary reasons will forfeit their privilege to attend the banquet and receive awards.

- Varsity Letters - The official CCS varsity letterman jacket must be sized and purchased through Jonstens. The athletic department will arrange for a Jonstens rep to come to the school twice per year (fall/spring) for sizing and purchasing. Coaches will determine who will be awarded a varsity letter based on the following criteria:
 - The student must be in 9th through 12th grade.
 - The student must have participated in a varsity sport.
 - The student must finish the season in good standing.
 - The student must have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following areas:
 - Athletic Ability
 - Christian Leadership

- Senior Night - Senior night is a night set aside to honor athletes and their parents during home games. The program will be held before or between games.
- Senior of the Year Award - One boy and one girl. Given close to graduation to athletes who have contributed to the CCS athletic program, excelled in athletics, academics, and consistently displayed christ-like characteristics.
- Athletic signings - The athletic department will host athletic signings in the school gym. As soon as a collegiate bound senior knows they will be signing, they should contact the athletic director to coordinate details.

COACHES

Role. The role of the coach is to be Christ's ambassador in each practice session and each competition.

Goals.

- To conform yourself and the athletes to the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- Direct the players in the skills of the sport so that each player aims toward reaching their potential for their age and maturity.

Community Coaches

- CCS may employ persons who are not teachers or faculty as coaches.
- Community coaches must sign and agree to the CCS Statement of Faith, CCS Employee Code of Conduct and a background check every two years.
- Community coaches must complete the GAPPS Coaching Certificate

Responsibilities

Spiritual

- Conduct team devotionals.
- Conduct team prayer before and after each game and practice.
- Encourage athletes to be the leaders of the team devotional and prayer.
- Be an example to the athletes. It is very important that the life of the coach be consistent with his/her teachings.

Facilities/Equipment

- Coaches are responsible for the condition of our athletic facilities, equipment, and apparel.
- It is your job to see that the facilities are kept clean, and that it is locked or secured after you have finished.
- The coach should always be the last one out of the facility after use
- It is the coaches' responsibility to see that the facilities are ready prior to a practice or game. This does not mean that you must do the work, but only that you see that it gets done.
- The coach shall issue equipment, maintain records of issued equipment, and be responsible for storage of the equipment.
- Coaches are responsible for the collection of all uniforms after they have been cleaned.

- Stipends will not be issued until all uniforms and school-owned equipment are turned in.

Players

- The coach needs to ensure proper conduct of players at all times during practice, games, or trips.
- Coaches must supervise all players until they are picked up after games and practices.
- The coach is responsible to notify all players of times and places of games and practices.
- The coach shall handle any discipline situations that occur on the team and may seek the assistance of the Athletic Director if necessary.
- Head coaches are responsible for hosting a postseason team gathering to hand out postseason awards and varsity letters.

Communication

- A schedule of all practices must be given to the Athletic Director at the beginning of the season and any further changes must be cleared with him.
- Parents must be given a schedule of athletic events and details of trips.

Transportation

- The coach is responsible for making sure that all athletes have the proper transportation to and from the games when special transportation needs arise (i.e., when athletes need to be dismissed early from school).
- When boys and girls are traveling together to an away game on the same bus, they will not be allowed to be seated together.

Athletic Purchases

- The athletic director must approve all purchases
- Each coach is responsible for submitting a list of needed items at the end of the season so that needed items can be ordered
- Coaches can make a purchase request via the Financial Requisition Form.
- Coaches will be responsible for any purchases made without getting proper approval of the Athletic Director.

AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PRACTICES/WORKOUTS

- Wednesdays after 5pm and Sundays are to be free of any athletic activity and reserved for families to attend church.
- Students may dress at 3:15 for practice participation. However, all students will be supervised before participating in an activity.
- Students are not to be in the gym, weight room, or locker rooms without supervision.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND INJURIES

- Report any injuries as soon as you are aware of them. Serious injury can be avoided if appropriate action and/or treatment is taken.
- For all outdoor sports, please follow the school's heat index policy.
- All Coaches must complete the following NFHS courses:
 - Concussion in Sports
 - Heat Illness Prevention

Coaches Pledge of Support

I have read the Central Christian School athletic handbook and agree to abide by the policies and criteria that are listed.

Please sign and date
