

JAGUARS CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPORTS Sports Handbook

JCHSS
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PHILOSOPHY/MISSION

The purpose of athletics at Jaguar's Christian Home School (JCHSS) is to provide a context for students to use the God given talent in the forum of physical competition. While athletics chiefly cultivate the physical element, they also produce excellent "teachable moments" opportunities to build mental, social, and spiritual areas. The intent is to use athletics to bring a well-rounded "Luke 2:52" experience to the student who participates.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52

The JCHSS Board

Testimony: Most importantly, we desire to recognize Jesus Christ as the source and Lord over this organization and to the conference to which it belongs. Therefore, part of the testimony in this organization is to always display sportsmanship, honesty, fairness, truthfulness, and a high standard of competition grounded in Christ's love.

Fellowship: Secondly, we seek to provide fellowship for Christian athletes from participating schools. This fellowship made possible by our common "born-again" experiences in Jesus Christ, is manifested primarily through our athletic interaction.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:9-10

Scheduling: Thirdly we serve to meet the needs of the teams we field in the area of scheduling. Membership in the ACSWC (Association of Christian Schools of Western Colorado) provides us the opportunity to schedule games, races, or meets in those athletic events held in common.

Summary: ...train yourself to be godly. For physical training is some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance and for this we labor and strive, that we have put our hope in the Living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:7b-10.

JCHSS BOARD MEMBERS

JCHSS is a member of the Association of Christian Schools of Western Colorado (ACSWC). The Board meets monthly to discuss new policies, to address problems which may arise, and to approve coaches and new board members. Board members serve a minimum term of two years on a completely volunteer basis. One member is required to serve as the JCHSS representative to ACSWC meetings held at times throughout the year. The JCHSS holds one vote on the ACSWC executive board.

GOALS

- To represent the person of Jesus Christ and his character in a genuine manner in the spirit and arena of athletic competition.
- To provide athletes with the opportunity to discover and develop their physical skills through participation in structured and controlled athletic practices and competition.
- To develop athletes who are playing for the glory of God, with disciplined and self-controlled attitudes, and with passion out of love for God, their coach, and their teammates.
- To challenge athletes to strive for excellence in all phases of life: respect for parents and family, commitment to academics, relationships with friends, and daily improvement in athletic skill.
- To teach athletes the positive benefit and value of lifelong physical fitness, training, and competition as a means to care for the body as God's temple.
- To teach athletes about character growth and maturity and how they are affected by the experiences of winning, losing, and competition.
- To assist parents by providing an environment that will strengthen and reinforce the investments that they are willing to make in the lives of their children.
- To encourage and strengthen coaches while providing them with the opportunity to influence and teach others.
- To cultivate a community of athletes and fans that will bring pleasure and enjoyment to the participants and will bring glory to God by earning the respect of those who observe their actions.

Decisions concerning coach selection, policies and rules affecting the JAGS exclusively, finances, disciplinary actions up to and including termination of participation, selection of new board members are to be approved or rejected by a simple majority of the Board. Board meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, or as needed.

FEES/FUND-RAISING/SCHOLARSHIPS

Fees for each sport will be noted on the registration forms. The monies collected are used to pay for rental facilities, printing, postage, referees, equipment, insurance, gratuities and miscellaneous items throughout the season. A financial statement is made available at the end of the season. Fees that are collected include the cost for team pictures.

The Board is hopeful additional monies will be raised through fund-raising activities. The major needs typically include new equipment, medical supplies and gym facilities. Contact a board member for details.

Partial or full scholarships are granted if funds permit. Petition to the Board is required prior to beginning of season; however, all efforts should be made to secure funds through other sources that may be available to the participant.

TAXES AND INCOME

JCHSS is organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

REGISTRATION

Registration forms for Volleyball and Basketball may be found on the Jags website at jags-sports.com. Other forms needed are also posted on the site. The website will detail due dates for returning registration forms. Forms must be postmarked by the due date to be considered. Fees must accompany the forms, checks made out to JCHSS. The Jags address is P.O. Box 3956, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

A copy of the athlete's birth certificate must be provided upon request.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

The Executive Committee of the ACSWC has established rules that will apply to all members.

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1. A particular student may play for only one academic institution per year.
2. No athlete may participate in a sport for more than four consecutive years from the time they enter high school. (9th grade is considered high school)
3. Middle School will consist of MSA and MSB brackets. The MSB bracket is meant for 5th-6th graders and must consist of at least 50% 5th-6th graders, but may have some 7th graders on the team. 8th graders may play in the MSA bracket or play on High School.
4. 5th – 8th graders should play Middle School; 9th graders should play on the High School team. Students aged 14 by September 1st must play High School.
5. **Once the first game is played the rosters are fixed.**
6. A violation of the age requirement would result in forfeiting all games, races, or meets.
7. High School will consist of HS A, B, and C brackets.
8. Schools that have multiple teams in the same level must clearly designate them as "HS A, B, C", "MSA1, MSA2", etc., when they turn in their team count for the season.
9. Once rosters have been set, athletes may not play "down" to a lower level team.
Rosters should be exchanged at the score table, not attached to the score book.
10. Athletes may play "up" only from MS to HS, not MS to MS, or HS to HS with the approval of JCHSS coaching staff.
11. Unless a team has no other substitutes available, athletes that are playing "up"

are not allowed to start or to play in more than two quarters in a single basketball game.

12. A student must take a minimum of 50% of his core classes with the particular school or home school organization for which he or she plays.
13. An athlete must have been on the official roster of the team for at least 50% of the regular games, races, or meets to participate in the tournament, race, or meet. A major injury being the exception which must be approved through the sports director and the coordinator.
14. If an ineligible athlete plays in any league games, races, or meet, his/her team shall forfeit all games, races, or meets in which he/she plays.
15. MS athletes are allowed to “play up” on their school’s HS team in order to start with a minimum roster on the HS team to avoid a forfeit for not having the minimum number of athletes to begin the game. Once the game has started, the roster in the book is set- no additional athletes may be added to the roster for any reason (injury, fouling out, etc.).
16. A student who transfers mid-year to another member school in ACSWC conference may not participate in league games, races, or meets for a (6) calendar day period to begin with the first day a student attends classes at that school (homeschool). No hardship cases will be considered.
17. It is up to the discretion of JCHSS as to how many practices a transfer student must have participated before they are eligible to compete in league games, races, or meets.
18. Member schools not fielding a team with the league may allow their students to play for other ACSWC schools pending the approval of those schools without the need for an exception.

PLAYING TIME

One important aspect of working with youth is preparing them for life after high school. Most of our education, academic and otherwise, is geared toward that end. After high school, our kids will enter a world that includes competition for almost everything including social and academic standing, employment opportunities, raises and promotions, etc. In preparation for that world, a competitive environment in high school sports teaches that things of value are usually earned through hard work, dedication, perseverance, and the humility that accompanies an unselfish view of teamwork. **An unmerited expectation of game playing time teaches just the opposite.** Such a self-centered attitude usually comes at the expense of others and undermines the Jags primary mission of building Godly character.

Middle School level participants will play for some time during each regular season game (assuming there are no attendance, participation, and character issues). Equal time is **not guaranteed** by the Jags and, therefore, should **not be an expectation** by athletes and parents. During any tournament games, playing time will be left completely to the discretion of the coaches.

At the High School level, there is **no guarantee** by the Jags and, therefore, there should be **no expectation** by athletes and parents, of game playing time. We are in a competitive league and some may get no playing time in close games. But your son/daughter will be an important part of every game, enhancing his/her knowledge of the game whether or not he/she plays. **Team success (aside from winning) can only be achieved by parents and athletes realizing the importance of supporting one another and accepting that every athlete contributes to that success whether he/she starts, substitutes, or actively participates on the bench.**

SELECTION OF COACHES/PARTICIPANTS

The selection of sports head coaches will be made by the JAGS sports board members. Assistant coaches shall be the responsibility of the head coaches. Applications for all coaches are available on the JAGS web site, and must be turned in to meet deadlines. All coaches will have successfully completed a background check prior to starting each season. A lack of coaching applications may mean no teams fielded, or limited participants. Coaches will choose athletes from the available pool of applicants. Athletes not chosen will have monies refunded. The Board reserves the right to deny any coaching application. Comments received from parents, league personnel, and end-of-season evaluation forms may be considered in this decision. The Board also reserves the right to limit team size and have the final say in participant selection.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The colors of JCHSS are forest green and black. Any uniform that is lost must be replaced at the current cost to replace that uniform. The athlete furnishes black shorts

that have no logo or colored designs. Shorts must be of a modest length of no less than finger length when placed at the side of the thigh. No spandex. White or black shirts may be worn underneath the jersey. Knee pads for Volleyball are strongly advised and must be purchased separately. JCHSS does possess practice volleyballs and basketballs.

STUDENT I.D. CARDS

All athletes of a JCHSS team will receive a JCHSS student identification card. This card allows them to enter games free and is valid for the entire school year.

Non-graduated siblings of the athletes are also eligible to receive student identification cards. These cards are handed out at the Parent/Athlete meeting.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes will need transportation to all games, races, meets, and practices. JCHSS does not have any vehicles to accomplish this. Carpooling is suggested. We play games in Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction. Other venues may present themselves. All practices are held in the Grand Junction area unless otherwise arranged by coaches or the JCHSS Board.

DRESS CODE

1. In addition to the wearing of the uniform as outlined previously, the following regulations shall also be adhered to:
2. No jewelry may be worn during practice or games, races, or meet times.
3. Braces or wraps must be devoid of any metal or sharp plastic parts. Hats may not be worn during games, races, or meets.
4. Bobby pins, bandannas, and hair barrettes are prohibited at all times. The option encouraged is soft hair ties, rubber bands or string.
5. No glitter or temporary hair dyes may be applied. Colors applied should be approved by coaches before application.
6. For females, hair must be braided or bound if shoulder length or longer.
7. For all athletes, no excessive or distracting hair styles are permitted. Exposed Mohawks may not be more than 2" in length. Longer lengths must be approved by the coach of each team and the referee and will be covered with the use of a skull cap. Designs shaved into hair should be modest and non-distracting. Colors applied should be approved by coaches prior to application.
8. Final say on accessories, casts and other body protection will belong to the referees who will enforce CHSAA rules. When a referee disapproves of an item, it will be removed immediately.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Students

The student shall:

1. Exhibit proper reverence during flag salutes and pre-games, races, or meet prayers.
2. Always speak courteously to teammates, other coaches, opponents, referees, and race officiants.

Responsibilities:

1. All athletes are expected to have good attitudes and behavior.
2. Athletes are expected to support one another. At practices and games, races, and meets there will be no wandering in and out of buildings or to areas set off limits by that facility including but not limited to classrooms, kitchens and remote hallways, etc.
3. In order to have an excused absence, athletes need to notify the head coach and/or team mom in a timely manner if they cannot make a practice. Any athlete with an unexcused absence may be deemed unable to play in the game that week or participate in a race. Moreover, the privilege of playing in the tournament, races, or meets will be forfeited if an athlete has excessive unexcused absences.
4. Athletes will treat officials and opponents with respect. They will thank the officials and greet the opponents in a sincere appropriate manner following a victory or defeat. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may be grounds for removal of the offender from the games, races, meet and /or team at the discretion of the coach and the Board. League rules also state that if an athlete or coach receives a 2nd technical foul, that person will be required to leave the building immediately and be prohibited from attending the next games, races, or meets as well. Play will not resume until the offender has left the building. There will be no refunds.
5. In addition, athletes who demonstrate an abusive attitude towards said officials, other coaches and athletes, judges, parents, coaches, spectators and parents will be subject to disciplinary action and may be subject to suspension/dismissal from that sport as determined after review by the Board.
6. All athletes will help with various jobs of setting up and taking down of chairs, volleyball nets and sweeping and mopping post game/practice, and trash removal.

Parents

In addition to above, parents are responsible for the following:

1. Parents are to encourage responsible and punctual attendance at all practices, games, races, and meets. Please pick up athletes, etc. promptly after practices.
2. All parents are needed to volunteer to help the JCHSS sports program function

effectively. Volunteer positions vary within each sport and sign-up sheets will be distributed each season for each sport.

3. **Each parent** needs to volunteer for **each** team in which **each of your children participates a minimum of 3 times each season**.
4. 24 HOUR RULE FOR COMMUNICATION - we graciously request that parents and coaches respect a 24 hour rule for communication after a game, race, or meet. This is beneficial for a variety of reasons, including:
 - A time for all to reflect in prayer
 - A more solution focused discussion
 - The ability to identify issues more quickly and clearly
 - This lends itself to a more productive opportunity to listen and discuss

Spectators

1. Spectators are to encourage all athletes by positive cheering.
2. Spectators will respect officials, coaches and athletes at all times.
3. Spectators are to refrain from using profane or abusive language or gestures at all times.
4. Spectators will respect properties and maintain self-control at all times.
5. Spectators who are disruptive and behave in a disrespectful manner will be removed from the area.

Coaches

1. Coaches should become familiar with the rules and regulations of the ACSWC and those pertaining to his/her sport.
2. Coaches must attend mandatory coaching clinics when offered.
3. Coaches will need to attend the mandatory meeting necessary for their particular sport. There will be one meeting with JCHSS parents at the beginning of the season and two with other coaches of the ACSWC. The first meeting is to get acquainted with the other coaches and to discuss the season and any rules that may be an exception for the league. The second meeting is to discuss the tournament, race, or meet policies.
4. Coaches will help determine practice and games, races, or meet schedules. They will coordinate scrimmages, extra tournaments, races, or meets, etc. with the sports coordinator. Good communication is necessary for good organization.
5. Coaches need to be aware of the tremendous influence they have over the student athletes entrusted to them and to help them become more Christ-like as they learn teamwork, good attitudes and athletic skills.
6. Coaches are to keep track of attendance at practices and to enforce the rules concerning unexcused absences.
7. Coaches are to refrain from reprimanding athletes in an abusive manner and from making derogatory remarks about them.

8. Coaches are to set an example of good sportsmanship for athletes and spectators, while winning or losing, and to encourage the athletes and spectators to be polite, courteous, and fair to the visiting team.
9. Coaches will ask a willing athlete to lead the teams in prayer before a home game, race, or meet.
10. Coaches are expected to shake hands and the opposing coaches before and after the game, race, or meet.
11. Coaches need to respect and support officials at all times and to contact them for interpretations only during time periods allowed by the rules.
12. Coaches will concentrate on controlling their team in a Godly manner.
13. Coaches are expected to take proper care of all equipment and to return it at the end of the season.
14. In basketball, a press is not allowed if ahead by 20 points.
15. A coach who uses profane language, is abusive to participants, referees, other coaches and other athletes, scorekeepers, timekeepers, judges, meet/race officials, or parents and spectators will be subject to immediate removal from the facility/area if during a game/race or practice and subsequent disciplinary action will ensue up to and including suspension from coaching a JAGS team and barred for a minimum of one year from participating in the JCHSS program. A review of the incident by the Board will determine the course of discipline.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALL SPORTS

1. Official game, race, or meet rules will be those established by the Colorado High School Activities Association unless otherwise noted in the regulations of the ACSWC. (Some rules may be altered to accommodate the facilities and size of the schools belonging to the league).
2. The “Home Team” of each sporting event will have at the scorer’s table a copy of the NFHSA rulebook or CHSSA rulebook.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SPORTS COORDINATOR

- Management and responsibility of the sports season and communication with the key people in each position listed below.
- game, race, or meet day facility coordination which includes opening the home game gym, set up and making sure there are people filling all of the necessary volunteer positions for the games that night. Closing the gym, putting away all of the equipment and making sure that everyone has left the building.
- Familiarize yourself with the Game Scheduler, Equipment Coordinator, and

Referee Coordinator's job responsibilities; meet with them, and follow-up to ensure that all job duties are fulfilled.

- Coordinate with the Jaguar's Board Treasurer for any financial needs during the season (including, but not limited to gym rental, equipment purchase, jerseys, referees, etc.).
- Team rosters need to be collected from the head coaches and turned into the ACSWC League Coordinator before the first game.
- Ensure that all final game scores get forwarded to the League Coordinator.
- Maintain and manage the cash receipts for our home games, documenting revenue generated and expenses for referees. Admission is typically administered by volunteers organized by the team moms, but the monies should be managed by the Coordinator.
- Administer the coaches evaluations for each team and deliver to the Board.
- Send Thank You notes to the Game Scheduler, Referee Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator, and Team Mom Coordinator.

GAME SCHEDULER

- Work with schedulers from other teams in the league to create the game schedules for all of our teams.
- Work with the Referee Coordinator to ensure all home games have referees.
- Jaguars typically use the Bookcliff Activity Center or the Bookcliff Middle School facility for home games. It can only be used on Friday nights during the school year and must be reserved through the Facilities Coordinator.

TEAM MOM COORDINATOR

- Responsible for distributing team rosters, communicating pertinent information to team mom's such as schedule changes, distributing team mom booklets which will include: team parent responsibilities, tournament, race, or meet responsibilities, team scheduling responsibilities and team party responsibilities.
- Work with Team Moms to arrange for a photographer to take team pictures.
- Responsible for ordering new 'J' Letters (one for the very first season of High School participation in either Basketball or Volleyball) and Varsity Bars (one for each season of High School participation) through the Board Treasurer.
- Distribute year end party funds from the Board Treasurer to Team Moms.

TEAM MOM

- Work with the Team Mom Coordinator to ensure team rosters are correct with accurate contact information, jersey numbers, ages and birth dates for each athlete prior to the first game, race, or meet of each season.

- Coordinate with the treasurer of the Jaguars Sports Board to insure that all medical releases for every athlete are in the coaches' possession prior to or on the first day of practice.
- Communicate the game, race, or meet and practice schedule along with any changes to team athletes and parents.
- Maintain communication with the coach for any needs they might have through out the year, such as 1st aid kit supplies that need to be re-stocked (requests go through the Team Mom Coordinator), uniform requirements and others as they arise.
- Schedule parents into volunteer positions of line judge (volleyball), scoreboard operation, scorebook and admissions. Scheduling of volunteers will need to take place during tournament, race, or meet play as well.
- Promptly pass on scores of all games to the Team Mom Coordinator via email or text.
- Communicate scorekeeping clinics and any other helpful information as the season progresses.
- Plan year end party for the team and secure awards. The funding for this will come from parent contributions. Obtain letters, bars, and captain pins from the Team Mom Coordinator to give out during this party.
- Responsible for collecting jerseys that have been loaned out for the season and returning them to the Team mom coordinator.

SCOREKEEPER AND TIMER TRAINER

- Responsible for training new people (and refreshers) for scorekeeping and timing. A signup sheet will bear the names of scorekeepers and timers and line judges (Volleyball) for each game or match.

SCOREKEEPER/TIMEKEEPER

- Keeps score and time for season and tournament games. Most facilities have electronic boards.
- Training will be provided.

LINE JUDGE (VOLLEYBALL)

- Responsible for accurate determination of in-bounds or out-of-bounds volleys. Fair and impartial judgment is required. Training is provided. One judge per game is required for each team and that judge will serve all games in that match.

REFEREE COORDINATOR

- Be the liaison for communicating and scheduling referees for all Jaguar home games. Follow up with reminders prior to games and make sure they get paid for scheduled games. (Having a backup option is a good idea.)

- Work with the Jaguar's Board Facilities Manager and/or the Jaguar's Game Scheduler to schedule a gym for parent training on the rules, scorebooks, and scoreboard.
- Inform the team moms of your scheduled training date and time so that they can get all their parents to the meeting.
- Work with the Game Scheduler to schedule Referees and two teams to scrimmage during training.
- Organize and deliver training to parents explaining rules, scorebook procedures, and scoreboard operations and responsibilities.

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR

- Pull out game balls from storage unit (key may be obtained from the Board) and remark them as needed (e.g. Varsity Boys, JV Girls)
- Refurbish the first aid kits at the beginning of the year and ask coaches during the year what they need for the kits. These kits are shared with the Volleyball, Track, and Cross Country teams.
- Make sure each ball bag has a hand pump, clipboard (with new dry erase marker) and a score book with enough pages for the year.
- Buy a couple of spare score books for the year
- Buy the most current National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) basketball/volleyball rules book for each team.
- Supply a 3-ring binder with the roster, Jaguars rules, list of parents names and a copy of the medical permission slip for each coach. The coach must have this in his possession for practices and games, races, or meets.
- Buy a nice game ball before the first game for each team.
- Collect bags, balls, score books, clipboards and first aid kits at the end of tournament, race, or meet day and return to the storage unit.

JERSEY COORDINATOR

- Assign numbers to new athletes. Give the athlete the option to select a number, but it cannot be used by another girl or boy athlete at the High School OR Middle School level.
- Bring examples of different sized jerseys to an early practice so athletes can try them on.

FACILITIES COORDINATOR

- Coordinate the Practice Gym Schedule
- Secure gyms for practice and games, races, or meets as soon as possible.

- Send Thank You notes and/or flowers to all facility contacts.

GAME MANAGER

- Responsible for the gym, spectator behavior and set-up (if first game played) and clean-up (if last game played). You will be responsible during the time your child is playing unless otherwise traded.
- Recruit clean-up crew which should consist of parents and team members to assist.