STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK



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Mission Statement

We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ through a biblical school environment that prepares students to glorify God spiritually, academically, and socially.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETICS

The Calvary Athletics Department seeks to carry out the mission of the school through a **competitive** interscholastic sports environment. It should be the desire of every athletics staff member to be an example of how to engage a competitive environment from a godly perspective.

Athletic teams are composed of individual members working together for a common goal (victory). Romans 12 will guide our philosophy toward athletics and individual members of our program.

Attitude of Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 (NIV) *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*

Competitive athletic participation is a microcosm of life. A disciple of Jesus Christ has learned how to sacrifice. Healthy, productive spouses, parents, employees and citizens have learned to sacrifice their individual desires for the benefit of others.

For a team to accomplish its ultimate goals, each member (coaches, athletes, families) will be required to sacrifice their own desires. All parties are called to sacrifice time for practices, workouts, meetings and contests. The commitment of time may require the sacrifice of other activities. Each member must also give up their own personal desires for the team. Coaches are called to sacrifice in carrying the burden of leadership, deciding what is in the best interest of the group, knowing decisions will have a different impact on each member.

Distinctly Christian Athletic Environment

Romans 12:2 (NIV) *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

It is our goal to develop a distinct, Christ-honoring athletic culture that presents a stark contrast to the athletic culture at-large. The remaining verses lay out how that is accomplished.

Humility, Unity and Gifting

Romans 12: 3-10 (NIV)

> *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Humility is integral to the success of any team. Coaches, athletes and their families should not concern themselves with recognition of their own abilities. Athletes should promote their teammates and allow any recognition to come naturally from outside the team. All team members should be mindful of the potential for pride and selfishness to creep into their heart.

Each team member has unique gifts they must utilize to serve the team. **Role Recognition** and **Role Acceptance** are essential to team unity. Some gifts are readily apparent. Certain students have been gifted athletically; others have been gifted with leadership; and others may be called upon to serve the team. Coaches should seek to recognize and reinforce the value of each team member.

Compete Intensely with Integrity

Romans 12: 11-21 (NIV)

> *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it*

is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Calvary interscholastic athletic teams will compete with intense effort and pursue victory and maintain our Christian testimony with officials, our opponents and their communities. Inappropriate conduct from coaches, players and spectators is contrary to our mission and will not be permitted to continue.

CCA teams will be humble in victory, and generous in defeat. They will not instigate conflict nor retaliate to it. Our desire is to see every person who comes into contact with our athletic program to be encouraged to pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Athletics Administrative Personnel

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Administrative Supervision

All varsity athletic contests on campus will be supervised by a CCA administrator who is responsible for maintaining a safe and organized environment. Sub-varsity contests might at times be overseen by coaches. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Oversee gate and concession operations
2. Resolving facility issues
3. Crowd control
4. Public Address

Programs Offered

Competitive Interscholastic Athletic Teams

Fall Sports

Boys - Cross Country, Football, Golf, Swim & Dive
Girls - Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Swim & Dive, Volleyball (Indoor)

Winter Sports

Boys - Basketball, Soccer, Ice Hockey
Girls - Basketball, Soccer, Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Boys - Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball (Indoor)
Girls - Softball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball (Beach)

Intramural Program

The Intramural program is offered each quarter during the school year (see website for sports, days, and times). Parents must register online at www.ccaeagles.org. This program serves as an introduction and feeder program into the CCA athletics programs in which students will learn the basic fundamentals of each sport and gain valuable participation experience. CCA coaches and athletes will serve as coaches in teaching the basic skills and discipling these young student-athletes.

Summer Instructional Camps

CCA offers several exciting athletics summer camps for elementary and middle school students. These camps are directed by CCA coaches and varsity athletes and are designed to teach the basic fundamentals of the sport, while providing a platform to disciple young boys and girls. Information and registration opportunities will be posted on www.ccaeagles.org/summer.

GENERAL ATHLETIC POLICIES

Academic Eligibility

The FHSAA has mandated that student-athletes must meet the academics listed below in order to continue athletic participation. GPAs are calculated at the end of each semester. Students who do not meet the academic requirements below will be ineligible for participation for at least one semester and for each subsequent semester until the GPA requirement is met.

High School

Student-Athletes in grades 9-12 must maintain a **Cumulative Unweighted** Grade Point Average of 2.0. Calvary Christian Academy's report cards post a weighted GPA. To calculate an unweighted GPA, use the following point values for all high school courses taken.

A=4
B=3
C=2
D=1
F=0

The athletic administrative team, in cooperation with the school registrar, hand-calculates all GPAs below 2.25 at the end of each semester. GPA requirements are established by the Florida High School Athletics Association.

Middle School

Middle School student athletes in grades 6-8 must maintain a semester GPA of 2.0 or better on an unweighted scale. To calculate a semester GPA, use the number values above for each class taken in the semester.

Attendance

School Attendance

Student-athletes must be in school for at least half the day to participate in practices or competitions. Students are required to notify coaches of their absences and consult with athletic administration when potential issues arise.

Exceptions:

- District, regional and state tournament weeks
- Medical / dental appointments, funerals, etc. (cosmetic appointments not included)
- Early dismissal for approved school activities (field trips, athletic events, etc.)

See "Early Dismissal" for additional policies related to attendance.

Athletic Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. Those who sustain an injury are still a member of the team and should attend all team activities unless they are undergoing treatment. Every effort should be made to eliminate potential causes for missing team activities, including:

- Medical or Dental appointments
- Family vacations
- School disciplinary action

Excessive absences could result in removal from the team.

Clearance to Participate

Before athletic activity of any kind, all student-athletes must be cleared for participation by athletics office personnel. To begin the clearance process, visit www.ccaeagles.org/clearance. All documents, waivers and permissions are submitted electronically through the athleticclearance.com platform. Documents and processes required for traditional student athletes are as follows:

1. FHSAA EL2 - Preparticipation Physical Evaluation
2. FHSAA EL3 - Waiver of liability (E-Signatures)
3. CCA Waiver - (E-Signatures)
4. NFHS Certificate of Completion of Concussion in Sports Video Tutorial

5. GA4 - Affidavit of Compliance with FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting
    a. Required by all students who begin attending CCA after the start of 9th Grade.
6. Parent Commitment to CCA Athletic Participation Covenant
7. Student Commitment to CCA Athletic Participation Covenant

Coach, Parent and Player Relationships

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and Calvary staff co-labor to teach, train and disciple students. Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. Understanding the roles of your colaborers is imperative to successful discipleship. As parents, when your child becomes involved in athletic 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. Where expectations are unclear, direct communication with the coach is required. Face-to-face or phone conversations are highly preferable to written communication in these scenarios.

It is best to enter any conversation with the assumption of positive intentions from the other person. Ascertaining intent should always be done humbly and carefully. The benefit of the doubt should always be given until the opposite has been clearly expressed.

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, volunteer needs, expenses, 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

- Parents' commitment to be an agent of unity and community, not one of division or gossip in the community
- Notification, well in advance, of any schedule conflicts
- Medical or physical limitations of the child

As children become involved in the athletics 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.

Appropriate Matters to Discuss with Coaches

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

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.

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

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other student athletes

There are some situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedures to Follow for Parent/Coach Meetings

- Parent should call the coach to request a meeting.
- Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Waiting for 24 hours to pass allows all parties time to reflect and pray.

What to do if the Parent/Coach Meeting Does Not Provide a Satisfactory Result

Submit a Calvary Athletics Resolution Request Form located on CCA Athletics Community Group page (MYCCA). Links are available on each team page in MYCCA.

Communication

CCA athletics uses the **SportsYou app** as a means of regular communication within each team community. SportsYou is available for free on your Android or IOS device.

Conduct

Student-Athlete Conduct

Athletic participation is considered a privilege, not a right. Calvary student athletes are public representatives of CCA and Jesus Christ. Student athletes are expected to act appropriately. Behaviors that will not be tolerated include:

1. Fighting
2. Profane, derogatory and degrading comments or obscene gestures
3. Alcohol, tobacco or drug use or possession (including e-cigarettes/vaping)
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct
5. Defiance or disrespectful behavior
6. Taunting opponents or officials
7. Vandalism or destruction of property
8. Hazing, bullying, or intimidation of teammates

Student athletes who exhibit any behaviors listed above may be suspended from athletic participation pending an investigation.

Hazing, Bullying or Peer Harassment

Hazing or peer harassment that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with any team will not be tolerated. All athletes must be given the opportunity to compete without threat of any type of abuse. Coaches have a responsibility to maintain a safe and positive environment for all athletes. Students are encouraged to notify coaches or other school personnel of instances of hazing or harassment. Anyone engaging in these behaviors is subject to being dismissed from the team.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct or Contest Ejection

Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind will be dealt with swiftly by CCA coaching staff to prevent any further acts. Profanity, disrespect, and threat of or actual physical violence directed toward teammates, opposing athletes, coaches or officials may result in ejection from a contest by game officials. Ejection from an FHSAA contest will result in suspension from participation for one to six weeks and financial penalty. Egregious acts could result in permanent ban from high school athletic participation. Ejected parties will be responsible for paying any fines.

Team Dismissal Offenses

The removal of a student athlete from a team should be a last resort, and is a result of a coach who feels that keeping the athlete would destroy the team or his/her ability to advance with the team. Behaviors that could result in dismissal could include, but are not limited to:

- Stealing
- Lying
- Cheating
- Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco (includes vaping) or illegal drugs
- Behavior that undermines the coach or team (absence, attitude, etc.)
- Inappropriate behavior in the classroom or during the school day

To remove an athlete from a team, a meeting should occur with the coach, player and family to discuss the issue.

Spectator Conduct

Team meetings, practices and competitions are a part of the educational process at Calvary Christian Academy. Athletic competitions are unique in that they allow spectators to witness the educational process in action. The conduct of CCA spectators and fans is a reflection of Calvary and Christ to our community. Please observe the following guidelines when attending Calvary sporting events.

- All cheering should be positive and supportive of the athletes involved.
- Respond to and support the efforts of Cheerleaders.
- Contest officials, opposing players and coaches should be treated with respect.
- Never express disagreement with coaching decisions or player mistakes publicly.
- Diplomatically censor negative behavior.
- Treat all property (home or away) with respect

Administrative Discipline Process

- Discrete correction by CCA Administration.
- Removal from an athletic venue and possible consequences to student-athlete.
- Banishment from all athletic events and possible suspension of student-athlete.

Conflict Resolution

Calvary Christian Academy Athletics will seek to resolve conflicts through Matthew 18:15-17.

> *If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

CCA is a covenant school. We are all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. When a conflict arises between two parties in the athletics community, the following steps should be followed until resolution is reached:

Player-Coach Conflict

1. Player should spend one night in thought and prayer about the conflict.
2. Player should notify/approach coach with desire to speak privately about a concern. Coach should encourage athlete to speak freely and help them express their concerns. At the conclusion of the meeting, the coach should ask if the issue is resolved or if more conversation is needed.
3. Meet with Parent, coach and athlete
4. Meet with parent, coach, athlete and athletic director

Parent-Coach Conflict

1. Parent should spend one night in thought and prayer about the conflict.
2. Parent should contact coach and request a time to meet privately and provide a brief description of the subject.
3. Parent and Coach meet and seek resolution
4. Parent should submit a conflict resolution e-form located on the MYCCA athletics community group page.
5. Athletics office will arrange a meeting between all parties to seek resolution.
6. Athletics director will arrange a meeting with the head of school.

Player-Player Conflict

1. Player should spend one night in thought and prayer about the conflict.
2. Player should approach the peer away from team activities and express concerns.
3. If resolution is not found, the two players should meet together with the coach.
4. If resolution is not found, the players coach and parents should meet.

*For matters of conflict involving two teammates or parents, but not related to CCA athletics, families should seek resolution together. CCA will not involve itself in conflicts unrelated to school activities.

Cut Policy / Team Selection

Interscholastic competitive athletic participation is an invaluable discipleship tool. As such our desire is to retain as many student athletes as is reasonable considering the limits of facility space, finances for uniforms and equipment, and feasibility within the sport.

CCA desires to be as competitive as possible at the varsity level, so only the athletes with the highest skill level and the strongest work ethic are selected for varsity teams. Additionally, coaches must maintain a balance of (depending on the sport) 10th, 11th, and 12th graders on varsity teams in order to perpetuate an on-going strong competitive program. Coaches will give every student trying out for a team an opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability and skill level. At the conclusion of this process, the coach might have to make final cuts that may be hard for a student to accept.

As a student moves through middle school and the high school, the requirements for “making the team” become more stringent with each new level. Each year, a student must try out and meet a standard of competitive skill level in order to be selected for the team. The only criteria considered when evaluating student athletes for team selection are:

1. Competitive Skill
2. Attitude and character
3. Effort and work-ethic
4. Commitment

Cutting an athlete is the least enjoyable task for any coach. These decisions are not taken lightly and often weigh heavily on coaches.

Dress Code

Game Day Dress

Any game day dress attire that does not conform with the CCA dress code must be approved by the grade level principal or his designee.

- To maintain the quality of uniforms, jerseys may not be worn during the school day.
- All approved dress must be done as a team with 100% participation.
- Alternative to the long sleeve team T-shirt include team polos, shirt and tie (boys), appropriate dresses (girls), etc.

Athletic Activity

- Athletes are not permitted to wear jewelry, including body piercing, during practices or games.
- The CCA policy on facial hair and hairstyles will be followed; however, the coach may impose additional requirements.
- Undergarments may not be visible and are not acceptable as outer garments in any athletics facility.
- All bottoms should have an elastic waistband during athletic activity.
- Shirts must be worn at all times.
- Any compression shorts, spandex, etc. should be covered by shorts.

Early Dismissal

The Calvary Athletics Administration works hard to minimize the amount of class missed due to athletic activities. Several factors impact how and when contests are scheduled (daylight, travel time, safe warm-up time, weather, etc.). The “snake” schedule assists in limiting the amount of time missed from any one class/subject. Be aware of the following:

- Student athletes are responsible for all work missed due to early dismissals and absences as a result of athletic contests.
- All missed classes due to CCA athletic participation will be excused.
- Early dismissal times are published on the TWIS (This Week in Sports) located on the MYCCA athletics community group.
- Students should communicate in advance with teachers regarding upcoming conflicts.
- Gameday changes to the dismissal time will be communicated by school announcement.

Good Cause Policy

A good cause policy is required by the FHSAA to determine the eligibility of transfer students. Student-athletes who transfer during an academic year will be evaluated on an individual basis and decided by the Athletics Director in concert with the grade-level administrator and leadership team. The following factors may play a role in how a decision is reached:

1. Timeframe of the transfer and games remaining in the season.
2. Number of uniforms and equipment available.
3. Reasons for transfer
    a. Positive Reasons
        i. Full and Complete Move
        ii. Hardships outside of the student/family's control
    b. Negative Reasons
        i. Discipline imposed from previous school
        ii. Poor Academic Performance

Home School Athletic Participation

CCA is committed to ministering to home school families who desire to have their student athletes participate in a Christ-centered athletic program. To be accepted, homeschool student athletes and their families must go through the same admissions process as full-time students, including academic review and family interview. The administration will view home school student athletes no differently than fully enrolled students once they have earned a spot on a team and provided they meet the criteria below:

- Ratio Rule – One homeschool student may participate on a team for every six roster positions. The ratio is based on postseason state entry list limits set by the Florida High School Athletic Association or similar governing association.

SPORT	ROSTER	HOMESCHOOL LIMIT
Baseball	20	3
Basketball	15	2
Cross Country	15	2
Football	60	10
Golf	10	1
Lacrosse	25	4
Soccer	22	3
Swimming & Diving	60	10

Tennis	12	2
Track & Field	60	10
Volleyball - Indoor	15	2
Volleyball - Beach	10	1
Wrestling	40	6

- Senior Transfers – To transfer as a senior home school athlete, applicants must demonstrate that they were home schooled during their junior year.
- The annual participation fee of $1,250 is due prior to participation of any kind (pre-season, tryouts, etc.). Should a student not make the team, a refund will be issued upon written request.

**It is common to find discrepancies that may jeopardize a home school student's eligibility to participate in Calvary athletic programs. Completing the EL7 as soon as possible provides all parties the time to make any necessary adjustments.*

Hotels and Travel

- Hotel expenses and transportation are paid by:
    - Athletics Budget for all post-season/playoff competition
    - Parents for all regular season trips
- Student athletes will be responsible for food and any spending money.
- Parents are responsible for their own lodging reservations.

Disciplinary action for improper conduct while on an overnight trip may be intensified.

Inclement Weather / Lightning

The CCA Main Campus employs a Weatherbug Lightning Detection device. It is located on top of the two-story baseball support building. The system has two statuses with the following indicators:

Alert Status:
When lightning is detected within the threshold radius of the system, a single horn blast will occur and a strobe light will activate. All persons should seek shelter in a building or vehicle. The strobe will continue and outdoor activities will be suspended until no electrical activity has been detected in the threshold radius for at least thirty minutes.

All Clear Status

When thirty minutes has passed without electrical activity in the threshold radius, the system will sound three horn blasts and the strobe will deactivate indicate outdoor activities may resume if field conditions permit.

Monitoring Weather Conditions

Athletics administration, officials and head coaches will meet to determine the status of each game. It is understood that parents and spectators desire to know what decisions will be made. Please afford contest administration the time and space to make decisions. The lightning alert status can be monitored at www.ccaeagles.org/lightning.

Shelter

CCA will provide shelter to all game participants (officials, opposing teams, CCA teams). Spectators should seek shelter in vehicles. All athletic facilities will be closed when under lightning alert. CCA staff will announce lightning policies through the public address.

Injury

Injury is a risk in any activity. CCA has two athletics trainers on staff to handle all injuries to student athletes. The following policies must be adhered to concerning student injury:

- All instructions given by the athletics trainers must be obeyed by all coaching personnel.
- Should a trainer determine a student athlete requires medical attention, a doctor's note must be provided to the training staff to return to participation of any kind.
- Any injury requiring an athlete to miss more than one practice should be accompanied by a physician's note.
- The athletics trainer's decisions related to student injury and participation are final.

"Just Cause" Policy

Calvary Christian Academy views every student as a ministry opportunity. Interscholastic athletic participation is a tool used to teach and train students. While families choose CCA for a wide variety of reasons, our purpose is to teach, train and disciple students for God's glory. On occasion, students may transfer during the season of which they intend to participate. The administration of Calvary Christian Academy will evaluate these situations on a case-by-case basis. Several factors will be taken into consideration when determining if a student may participate on a sports team that has already begun practicing. These factors include:

- Timing related to how much of the season has passed and is remaining
- Personal hardship or difficulty
- Family move. Geographical change of residence.
- Did the sport of interest have tryouts and cuts?
- Did the student dress or participate for another school in the same season?
- Any other circumstances that may impact the culture, climate, or health of a specific team.

Multi-Sport Athletes

Multi-sport participation is a tremendous platform for raising a well-rounded child.

- **Physically**, different muscle groups are emphasized with different sports. Specializing in one sport can produce wear and tear injuries. Multi-sport participation helps prevent injury and consistent muscle development.
- **Socially & spiritually,** athletes often find themselves at different levels of performance. They learn humility in sports in which they are less advanced, and how to lead well where they are high-achieving.

In the state of Florida, sports seasons often overlap, and may do so significantly. Should a student-athlete desire to play two overlapping sports, clear and constant communication will be required between the student, both head coaches, and the parents. The general guidelines for multi-sport participation are as follows:

1. Coaches at Calvary will accommodate multi-sport participation as much as is reasonable. Sport specialization will not be encouraged by any CCA Coach.
2. With overlapping sports (fall & winter, winter & spring), the first season will be the primary until it comes to an end. Student-athletes should communicate with the second sport coach of their intentions to try out prior to said tryouts. Coaches can then plan to accommodate a delayed tryout if necessary.
3. The parents, student athletes and head coaches of the two overlapping sports must all meet prior to the start of the first season to lay out all of the factors and find agreement.
4. Simultaneous Sports - sports in the same season
    a. In the case of simultaneous sports, one sport will be labeled as the “primary” sport and the other as the “secondary.” If one sport is a team sport and the other an individual (i.e. Golf & Volleyball), the team sport must be the primary.
    b. The student-athlete desiring to compete in two sports at the same time requires a highest levels of organization and communication on the part of the family. Issues such as academic performance, behavior, and commitments outside of CCA athletics should be evaluated prior.

5. All three parties (coach, coach, and family) must work in good faith to seek a reasonable solution. It may not be possible, but all parties should enter the discussion with the heart of making

Music

Calvary Athletics seeks to promote a culture of community and friendship at all athletic events. Music played at sporting events may not always be Christian music, but is selected to encourage a competitive atmosphere, promote fan involvement and improve the overall atmosphere. Any music containing profanity, vulgarity or suggestive lyrics will not be played.

Name, Image & Likeness (NIL)

The Florida High School Athletics Association and Florida Legislature are in the process of adopting Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies for High School students in the state. Calvary Christian Academy, its faculty, and staff may not engage in the NIL process. NIL is a financial agreement between the student-athlete, his/her family, and the company/organization seeking services. Coaches, faculty, staff, and representatives of the school's athletic interest may play no part in the facilitation of NIL deals or relationships. Student-athletes securing an NIL deal may in no part represent Calvary Christian Academy in any way. The school's name, logos, uniforms, facilities, or programs may not be used in any promotional material. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or dismissal from the team for the student-athlete and termination of the employee. Student-athletes and their families are strongly encouraged to inform themselves on all of the policies set forth by the FHSAA related to NIL.

NCAA Clearinghouse

If you are a prospective student athlete at a Division I or II college or university, you have certain responsibilities to complete before you may participate. Information concerning who needs to register with the Clearinghouse and what documents need to be submitted can be found in The Guide for College Bound Student Athletes on the NCAA website; www.ncaa.org (click on "Eligibility Center"). It is the students' responsibility to begin this process and request items from the school as needed.

CCA guidance counselors are available to assist with this process.

Playing Time Philosophy

Calvary Christian Academy Athletics is committed to putting forth competitive teams. The value of any student athlete is not tied to their playing time. Each member of a team (coach, player, parent) is

asked to sacrifice their own personal wants and desires for the benefit of the team. The following guidelines have been put in place to delineate each person's responsibilities regarding playing time.

The Coach Should:

1. Coach with a goal of winning!
2. Never lose a competition due to being overly concerned about substituting.
3. Value playing every player and work toward that goal.
4. Push players to play with the type of intensity that requires substitution.
5. Go with impact players when the game is on the line

The Players Should:

1. Practice so intensely that the coach feels pressure to reward them with playing time.
2. Understand everything the team does, both offensively and defensively.
3. Develop knowledge of as many positions as possible.
4. Want to play, whether for long or short periods of time.
5. Be ready by staying mentally engaged in the game while on the bench.
6. If a starter, genuinely cheer for subs. If a sub, genuinely cheer for starters.

The Parent Should:

1. Be a "Big Picture" thinker, especially in the early part of the season.
2. Never be a "Sower of dissention" (Proverbs 6).
3. Encourage the athlete to talk with the coach FIRST on matters related to playing time.
4. Determine if the child understands why he/she is not playing and what they think about it.
5. Make any initial conversations with a coach a fact-finding event, based on positive assumptions about the coach's intentions.

Service Opportunities

Calvary Athletics represents so well due in large part to the servant-hearted nature of our community. Volunteers elevate the excellence of our events. Coaches have been tasked with finding volunteers to help run each of their team's contests. Opportunities to serve include:

- Team Mom
- Admission Personnel
- Concessions
- Public Address
- Score keeper
- Scoreboard operator

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact your student's head coach. If you are willing to serve outside of your child's team, please contact the athletics office.

Supervision

- Student athletes should be supervised at all times when engaged in athletic activities.
- Students should wait until a coach arrives to begin activities.
- Coaches will supervise student-athletes until they are picked up from school.

Practice Times

- Times of athletics practices will be set by the coach and explained in the parent meeting at the beginning of the season. Any variation or cancellation will be communicated through the Head Coach.
- NO Sunday meetings or practices are permitted.
- Vacation practices and tournaments are common for varsity and junior varsity teams. Middle school practices scheduled over school breaks should be optional.
- All **Wednesday** practices will be finished by 5:30 p.m. Coaches WILL make every effort to begin and end practices on time. This will allow parents to plan effectively and efficiently.
- When school is out because of hurricanes, or other natural disasters, all practices will be cancelled or postponed. Practices may resume prior to school when the campus and facilities are determined safe.

- A student athlete's loss of playing time or removal from the team may be used as forms of discipline for parents who demonstrate a pattern of picking up their athlete late after team activities.

Practice During Campus Closure

Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale has established several days each year when the campus is closed and gates are locked. These include, but are not limited to Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Monday through Friday after Christmas Services, New Year's, Monday after Easter, July 4th, etc. On days when the campus is closed, CCA high school athletic teams may still practice. If a coach schedules practice when the campus is closed, the following message will be communicated to the team in a manner that reaches all players and parents.

> *Dear [team] community, this coming [Day], [Date], we will be practicing. The campus is closed and all gates are locked. We will open the gate behind 6290 on NW 27th Way from [Time Open] to [Time Closed]. After practice, we will reopen the gates from [Time Open] to [Time Closed] for pick-up. Please be advised that all academic and church office building alarms are on. Anyone remaining on campus for this practice must stay by the athletic fields, Fieldhouse, or 6290 building. We are blessed to be able to practice on these days. Let's allow our incredible security team to have the day off without interruption.*

Team Meetings - Parent and Player

Each team will have a mandatory parent/player organizational meeting prior to the first game. Information covered in the meeting may include, but is not limited to:

1. Coaching philosophy and vision
2. Spiritual discipleship plan
3. Practice & game schedules
4. Team rules and expectations
5. Costs/fees/travel/spirit packs
6. Conflict resolution plan
7. Volunteer/service needs
8. Playing time

Transportation

- Transportation to all away games will be coordinated by the Athletics Department.
- Directions to athletics contests will be provided on the team page in MYCCA.
- During transport, seat belts must be worn (if available) and all students must remain seated. Luggage and equipment must be free of the doors and not blocking the aisles.
- Only team personnel and players are allowed to use CCA transportation (unless otherwise approved).
- While food and drink are permitted on buses, coaches and players are responsible for keeping buses clean and free from trash and debris.
- Music that is played should be free from profanity, violence, or suggestive lyrics.
- Parents should arrange for pick-up of their children in a timely fashion after games and practices.
- Coaches may not leave athletes unsupervised, whether on CCA campus or an away site, until all students have been picked up.
- Transportation during the off-season or summer must be arranged well in advance with the athletics administrative assistant. Buses will be reserved on a first come first served basis.
- Cost of this transportation will be at the expense of the team requesting the vehicles.

Uniforms, Equipment and Practice Gear

Uniforms

- Team Uniforms will be purchased every 3-5 years for high school sports, and every 4-7 years for middle school sports.
- Athletics uniforms are the property of CCA and must be returned to the head coach at the end of the season. Certain sports (golf, tennis, etc.) uniforms cannot be reused and will be purchased by the student-athlete.
- Any portion of the uniform that will not be collected will be paid for by the student athlete (spandex, polos, swimsuits, socks, etc.)
- On occasion, varsity athletes may purchase their uniform at the end of the season. The cost will be determined by the athletics director.
- Uniforms, whether owned by the school or the individual, should only be worn for athletic activities related to that sport. Once the season has ended, items owned by the athlete may be worn as desired.
- The parent is responsible for lost or damaged uniforms. Individual replacement of uniforms ranges from $100 to $250 per item.

Equipment

- Equipment necessary for practice and competition shall be paid for by the athletics budget. These include football helmets and pads, lacrosse helmets, pads and gloves, catcher's gear, etc. Batting helmets (softball/baseball) are considered a personal item and would be paid for by the family.
- Helmets and pads purchased by Calvary will meet or exceed safety expectations set forth by the FHSAA, NFHS or NOCSAE.
- Personally preferred equipment, specialty equipment, or equipment that cannot be collected and reissued shall be the responsibility of the parent (batting gloves, bats, personal helmets, etc).

Legacy Helmet Program

The legacy helmet program allows a parent to purchase a football or lacrosse helmet for their child that is at the cutting edge of safety technology. Once purchased, Calvary will ensure the child is issued the helmet chosen for the duration of their participation at CCA. Upon completion of their senior season, the helmet is gifted to CCA for continued use.

Practice Gear / Spirit Packs

Individual athletic teams have spirit pack items required for purchase. Items may include portions of the contest uniform (items that cannot be collected or reused for another athlete), shorts, T-shirts, hoodies, bags, practice gear, etc. All spirit pack items are paid for and kept by the athlete. Nature of each sport may necessitate different amounts for each spirit pack. Coaches should be mindful of the financial burden when selecting spirit pack items. Total cost of spirit packs are in the following ranges:

1. Varsity - $100 to $300
2. Jr. Varsity - $50 to $200
3. Middle School - $25 to $100

Team shoes are not considered part of a spirit pack.
Cheerleading spans two athletic seasons. As such, spirit pack fees may exceed the limits above.

Financial Collection

The following process will be utilized to collect funds toward spirit packs.

1. The coach staff will communicate the spirit pack contents and price along with a link for parents to make credit card payments. They will also create a deadline for payment.

2. Families will make the payment and forward the receipt to the coach as verification of purchase.
    a. Financial Hardship - Per FHSAA policy, Calvary Christian Academy is not permitted to give items to students. Families with financial concerns should contact adrienneh@ccaeagles.org to make arrangements for payment plans.
3. The coach will coordinate with the athletic office to order items and account for payments.
4. Families who have not paid for the spirit pack by the announced deadline may have the charge applied to their Smart-Tuition account along with a processing fee.

Weight Room

The weight room, located in the Health & Fitness Center (6290) is an open use facility. The room is supervised by physical education teachers during the school day and athletics personnel after school. All high school students are permitted to use the facility provided they have a weight room use waiver on file in the athletics office and follow all guidelines established by supervising personnel. The weight room is available from 3:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each school day. Special hours for holidays and special circumstances will be posted.

ATHLETICS AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Recognition Ceremonies

College Signing Ceremonies

The athletics department will host signing ceremonies consistent with the National Letter of Intent (NLI) established dates. To be eligible to participate in the signing ceremony, Calvary athletes must have played or be committed to play the sport for which they are signing during their senior year at CCA. Students signing an official NLI, celebratory signing letter (NCAA D3), or similar document may be recognized. The NLI signing dates are normally in November, December, February and April.

For information regarding the NLI, visit www.nationalletter.org.

Varsity Letters & Pins

Student athletes who make varsity sports and complete a season in good standing qualify for a varsity letter and pin. The athlete will receive one chenille letter for their high school career. They will receive

a sport-specific pin their first year and a service bar for each year after. To earn the letter and pin, the following criteria must be met.

1. The student athlete must be a freshman or older
2. Student athlete and parent must honor their respective commitments in the covenant.
3. A student athlete must have participated as a varsity athlete for at least 80% of the season.

Disqualifying Protocols

A student who does not complete the season will not be eligible to receive their letter and pin. A student athlete who completes the season, but does not demonstrate commitment may be disqualified from receiving these recognitions. The following protocols must be followed to disqualify a student athlete who completes the season.

1. During the season, the head coach must notify a student athlete in person of behaviors violating the student commitment. Should the behavior continue, they will not be qualified for a letter.
2. The head coach must contact the parent (phone or in person), notifying them of the warning.
3. The head coach must notify the athletics director that a warning was issued.
4. Should the behavior continue, the head coach, athletics director, student and parent(s) must meet to discuss the loss of letter and pin honors.

Letter & Pin Ceremony

At the conclusion of a season, the athletics administration will take time during a high school connection or similar school assembly to recognize varsity letter recipients. Athletes will be called up on stage to receive their letters and pins publicly in front of their peers. Due to the nature of high school connection, this may occur at two separate times.

Team & Department Awards

The Eagle Award

The Eagle Award is presented to the one athlete from each team that best represents the character of Christ. The Eagle Award is =CCA's highest athletic honor. It should go to the athlete who "sets the example in speech, in faith, in life, in love, and in purity." The recipient is selected by the head coach, but may be based on input of team members, assistant coaches, and CCA faculty, staff and administration. Eagle Awards will be presented at the appropriate awards ceremony at the end of the school year. Eagle Awards for Middle School student-athletes may be presented at an appropriate corresponding event in May.

Sport Most Outstanding Player

The player of the year is awarded to one student-athlete from each team who most influenced the team's ability to be successful. This award recognizes God-given athletic ability, work ethic and contribution to the program. The award is presented at the appropriate ceremony at the end of the school year.

Male and Female Scholar Athlete of the Year

The scholar athlete of the year award is presented to one male and one female each school year. Recipients must have an exemplary reputation in the classroom, maintain a GPA of 3.75 or above. Preference is given to multi-sport athletes and level of impact in the athletic arena.

The Best Moment of the Year

Student-athletes who perform exceptionally in a single contest may be nominated to receive this award. Preference is given to postseason performances under pressure. The recipient is selected by the athletic administration. A ballot will be distributed to the high school student body. The results of that ballot will be used to guide the decision.

Coach of the Year

Each year, up to five head coaches may be nominated to receive the coach of the year. To be nominated, coaches must lead their teams well, show significant improvement upon previous years or advance far into postseason competition.

Male and Female Athlete of the Year

To be nominated for athlete of the year, student-athletes must have received either first or second team recognition by the Sun-Sentinel or the Miami Herald and must have received at least one Player of the Year Awards that year.

Selecting Award Recipients

The awards recipients for the *Individual Performance, Coach of the Year, and Male and Female Athlete of the Year* will be decided through the following process:

1. An electronic ballot with each of the nominees will be sent to the high school student body.

2. The athletics administrative team will meet to discuss the nominees and provide insight and make recommendations. The results of the student ballot will be used to guide the decision.
3. The Director of Athletics will take into account the feedback from the athletics administrative team and the student ballot to decide the eventual recipient. If a decision is too close to call, he may bring the decision to the CCA leadership team for a final decision.

All persons involved in the selection process who possess a conflict of interest will recuse themselves from the discussion and selection of that award.

CCA ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION COVENANT

Definition: A solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Gospel (www.dictionary.com)

Creating a healthy culture within a competitive environment is a complex undertaking. Athletic participation requires a three party commitment (Coach, Athlete and Parent). It is important for all parties to understand what each other is committing. Competitive athletic involvement is the tool by which CCA student athletes will be discipled. Please carefully read the commitments below. Each party will submit a signed commitment prior to participation.

Student Commitment to CCA Athletic Participation Covenant

Accountability

- I will hold my teammates and other student athletes accountable to this commitment.

Attendance

- I will attend all team activities and arrive on time.
- I will personally notify my coach if I have a conflict (face-to-face, phone call).

Attitude

- I understand that athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.
- I will give maximum effort at all team activities.
- I will be humble and coachable.
- I will treat my teammates and coaches with respect.
- I will protect the property of my teammates and the school.

Behavior

- I will honor Jesus by being respectful and disciplined toward all teammates, opponents and officials regardless of their behavior toward me.
- I will not use profanity.
- I will lead by example in my behavior during the school day.

Conflict

- I will follow the Matthew 18 principle and take any concerns directly to the person.

Playing Time

- I understand that all players may not play in each contest.
- I understand that not all players will have equal playing time throughout a season.
- I will speak with my coach directly about concerns related to playing time, role or responsibility.

I understand and agree to abide by the commitments laid out. I will hold my teammates accountable, commit fully to my teammates and coach, honor and glorify God with my conduct, take concerns directly to the person with whom I disagree, and will do all of this regardless of how much I do or do not play.

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Parent Commitment to CCA Athletic Participation Covenant

Competition

- I understand that Calvary Christian Academy Athletics is a competition-based program.
- I understand that athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.

Conflict Resolution

- I will follow the Matthew 18 principle and will not publicly complain, gossip or criticize.
- I will encourage any others who express concerns to take them directly to the person.

Commitment

- I understand that my child is committed to a team and should attend all team activities.
- I understand that appointments, parties or other similar events are not an excuse for missing team activities.

Injury

- I understand that injury is a part of athletic participation and that my child is still a member of the team and should maintain their commitment.

Fees

- I will pay all athletic fees by the dates communicated. If finances are a concern, I will communicate with the business office to arrange payment.

Playing Time

- I understand that all players may not play in each contest.
- I understand that not all players will have equal playing time throughout a season.
- I understand that playing time discussions will not occur between coaches and parents.
- I understand that the coach will lay out a role for each athlete and it is my responsibility to encourage my child to fill that role.
- I will encourage my student athlete to speak to their coach if they do not understand their role.

Recruiting

- I understand that I may promote CCA as a school to the public, but may not “urge, entice, or influence” potential athletes to attend CCA for the sole purposes of athletic participation (FHSAA Policy. 37).
- I understand that student tuition may be paid only by family or approved financial aid processes overseen by the school (FHSAA Policy 38).

Spectators

- I will be a positive influence in the bleachers.
- I will treat opposing teams, coaches and contest officials with respect regardless of their actions toward me or my child on the field of play.

Serving

- I understand that I may be called upon to serve during my child's season and will do so to the best of my ability and availability.

As a parent, I understand and commit to adhere to the items listed above to the best of my ability. If I have questions or concerns about team processes, I will take those directly to the coach first.

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Coach Commitment to CCA Athletic Participation Covenant

Communication

- I will communicate efficiently with parents and athletes, keeping them up to speed on schedule updates, allowing them sufficient time to plan their day.
- I will be responsive and open to parents who have questions or concerns.

Discipleship

- I commit to regularly disciple student athletes under my supervision.
- I commit to be a witness to each opponent and will take acy steps necessary to represent Jesus well in each interaction.
- I will create a healthy competitive culture within my team.

Leadership

- I will take responsibility for my team's behavior.
- I will act quickly to address any unsportsmanlike conduct.
- I will treat contest officials with respect and expect the same from my athletes.
- I will keep my focus on the child, and use the sport to develop their character.

Player Instruction and Development

- I will work tirelessly to develop each athlete on my team.
- I will stay up to date on best coaching trends and practices.
- I will structure practices to efficiently engage each athlete.

Player Safety

- I will put player safety over all other motivations.
- I will support and follow the instructions of athletics trainers.
- As a middle school coach, I will supervise my athletes at all times.

Playing Time

- I will coach with the goal of winning
- I will never lose due to being overly concerned about substituting.
- I will value playing every player and work toward that goal.
- I will push players to play with the intensity that requires substitution.

As a coach, I will honor the commitments laid out above. I will seek to honor Jesus Christ and Him alone. I will treat each person I come into contact with has "image bearers" of God. I commit to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly" as I lead in Calvary Athletics.

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