FIDELES RANGERS

Athlete & Parent Athletics Handbook

Fideles Christian School
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STATEMENT OF FAITH

Introduction

This handbook explains the **mission, values, and policies** of the **Fideles Christian School athletic program**. Being part of a team is a **privilege** and a **great opportunity** to grow as a student-athlete. All athletes and parents are expected to **read and follow the policies** in this handbook and agree to the **Fideles Christian School Statement of Faith**. We pray that this program will **bless you**, help you **build strong connections** in the Fideles community, help you **grow as an athlete**, and most importantly, **strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ**.

Fideles Rangers Athletics

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a **transformative athletic experience** where sports serve as a powerful tool to cultivate **God-honoring character, discipline, teamwork, and heart** in our athletes.

Athletic Program Aims

We strive to:

- **Offer competitive interscholastic sports** that enrich the lives of Fideles athletes and their families.
- **Strengthen community connections** among Fideles students, families, staff, and supporters.
- **Empower skilled, mission-driven coaches** to invest in student-athletes both on and off the field.
- **Develop athletic skill, a championship mindset, and a deepening faith in Christ** through the discipline of sport.

Core Values

CHARACTER — Who I Am

The pursuit of truth and godliness prepares the way for bearing the fruits of the Spirit.

> *"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*
> — 1 Timothy 4:8

DISCIPLINE — What I Do

Training takes effort, endurance, and consistency. The degree of your discipline directly impacts your success. Be your best at whatever you are called to do.

"All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty."
— Proverbs 14:23

TEAMWORK — Where I Belong

You are part of something greater. Teams thrive when each member contributes with purpose. Develop your skills and embrace your role to build unity.

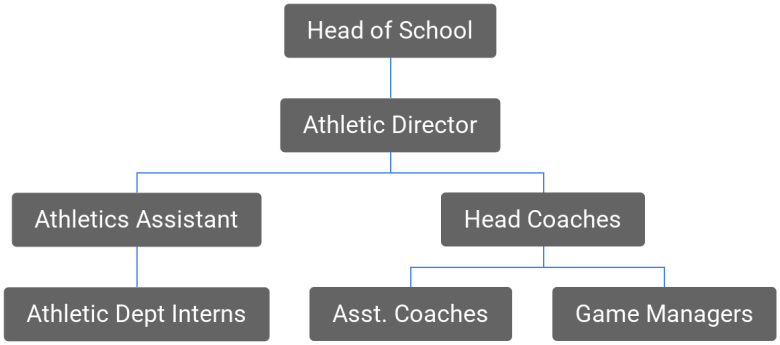
"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
— 1 Corinthians 12:27

HEART — Whose I Am

“All of me, all for You.” Your identity is found in Christ—not in any title, stat, or accomplishment. When your heart belongs to Him, your purpose becomes clear.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."
— Colossians 3:23–24

Athletic Department Staff



Head of School | Kristi Bailey
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(770) 888-6705

Athletic Director | Erin Brown
rangers.athletics@fideleschristianschool.com
(770) 845-9846

Athletics Assistant | Jessica Snead
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(678) 313-8045

Staff Responsibilities

Athletic Director (AD)

The Athletic Director provides leadership and oversight for the Fideles athletics program, ensuring alignment with the school's mission and all league and state requirements.

Key Responsibilities:

- Cast vision and provide strategic leadership for the athletics program in accordance with the school's mission, interscholastic sports principles, and league/state regulations
- Recruit, interview, hire, and support coaches; oversee compliance with all training and certification requirements
- Communicate program vision, expectations, and updates to staff, coaches, families, and the community
- Approve and manage the purchase of sports equipment, uniforms, and supplies
- Oversee scheduling, travel logistics, and game-day operations
- Coordinate the use of athletic facilities, officials, camera systems, and athletic trainers
- Collaborate with coaches and the Athletics Assistant to create and maintain game schedules
- Ensure adherence to school and league guidelines regarding branding, design, and uniforms

- Collaborate with administration to design, approve, and manage vendors for spirit wear
- Manage and monitor the Athletics Department's social media presence

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Athletics Assistant (AA)

The Athletics Assistant supports the daily operations of the Athletic Department and serves as a key communication and administrative liaison for coaches, athletes, and families.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist the AD in day-to-day department operations
- Manage athlete registrations, payments, and required forms through the designated registration platform
- Prepare and distribute team rosters to coaches and maintain updated rosters within the GAPPS system
- Create and regularly update social media content related to athletics
- Oversee uniform inventory and manage uniform distribution and returns
- Coordinate special events such as Sports Chapel, Signing Day, and team information meetings
- Upload and manage team game schedules on both the Athletics and Team calendars

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Athletic Department Interns (ADI)

Athletic Department Interns are Fideles students who earn class credit while gaining hands-on experience supporting the operations of the Athletic Department.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with preparation and organization of materials, uniforms, equipment, and supplies for teams, games, and events
  Update and monitor ticketing and concessions via GoFan; prepare GoFan devices for game days
- Learn and contribute to the inner workings of a school athletics program

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Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches

Coaches are the heart of the athletics program, guiding student-athletes in skill development, character growth, and sportsmanship.

Key Responsibilities:

- Complete the application and interview process with the Athletic Director

- Fulfill all required training and certifications as outlined by GAPPS, NFHS, the State of Georgia, and Fideles Christian School
- Create developmentally appropriate practice plans that prioritize player safety and skill growth
- Manage team rosters; oversee the distribution and return of uniforms, equipment, and supplies
- Report scores and input results into MaxPreps and/or the GAPPS system in a timely manner
- Actively support and promote the Athletic Department's mission and values
- Attend required events, including coaches' meetings, planning sessions, debriefs, parent-athlete info nights, and league meetings
- Nominate deserving athletes for GAPPS Varsity All-Region and All-State recognition

Sports, Teams & League

Sports offered by season (2025-2026)

Fall	**Winter**	**Spring**
**Cheer (ES*, MS, HS)+ Clay Target (MS, HS) Cross Country (ES*, MS, HS) **Flag Football (ES*) Football (MS, HS)^ Volleyball (MS, HS)+	Basketball (MS, HS) Wrestling (MS, HS)^	Soccer (MS, HS) Tennis (MS, HS) Track & Field (MS, HS)
+ Girls only / **^** Boys only * Cheer ES (K-5th), Cross Country ES (3rd-5th), Flag Football (Co-Ed, 2nd-5th) ***Cheer and Flag Football are not affiliated with GAPPS and are recreational programs. These will only be available to Fideles enrolled students.*		

Age/Grade Classification for GAPPS Sanctioned Sports

	Grades	**Age Range**	**Play Up with Permission**
Elementary (ES)	3rd-5th	8-12	
Middle School (MS)	6th-8th	11-14	5th grade
High School (HS)	9th-12th	14-19*	8th grade
*must not have reached age 19 prior to September 1 preceding the year of graduation			

League Affiliation

Fideles Christian School is a member school of **Georgia Association of Private & Parochial Schools** (**GAPPS**), a statewide athletics sanctioning organization that is governed by its member schools. *GAPPS Manual Constitution & By-Laws*. FCS may have academic or athletic policies that go above and beyond GAPPS policies. Where FCS isn't specific, it can be assumed that the GAPPS policy

is followed as written.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

Code of Conduct

Fideles student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, respect, and responsibility. As representatives of the school, they are called to demonstrate Christ-like character in all settings.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Remain in good standing regarding behavior and academic standards
- Show respect for coaches, trainers, officials, and staff members
- Commit to the team by attending all scheduled practices, meetings, and competitions
- Uphold good sportsmanship at all times
- Accept the responsibility of representing Fideles with pride and team spirit
- Show modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat, in both speech and conduct
- Be a gracious hosts and respectful guests
- Leave every place better than you found it (clean up, shake hands, serve, walk tall)
- Go the the extra mile to respect the facilities and those who provide them
- Adhere to the school and team dress code both at school and during travel
- Not use alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, or vape products

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Fideles Christian School holds a zero-tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike behavior from athletes, coaches, and fans.

Prohibited behaviors include:

- Taunting, name-calling, or threatening others
- Use of profanity or intimidating actions
- Fighting or physical aggression
- Singling out players, coaches, or officials by name or number
- Disrespectful or abusive language toward anyone involved in the event
- Intentional destruction of property

Consequences for Violations:

- Any player, parent, coach, or fan ejected or asked to leave an event or facility by an *official* for unsportsmanlike behavior will be ineligible to attend the next scheduled game for that team.
- A second offense will result in removal from all remaining games for the season.
- Ejection fines imposed by GAPPS will be the financial responsibility of the individual ejected
- *Officials* include referees, game managers, and facility or school staff.

Eligibility for Participation

Athletics at Fideles primarily exists for enrolled students; however, many of our sports allow for a limited number of Alternatively Educated Students (AES) to participate.

Interscholastic Participation Policy

Fideles Athletics participates in ***interscholastic* sports**, which are competitive athletic programs designed for students enrolled in **public school, private school, homeschool, hybrid, or blended** educational environments.

Eligibility Guidelines

- Fideles student-athletes are **not permitted** to participate in any other **public school, private school, or homeschool interscholastic sports program** outside of Fideles Athletics.
- The only exception to this rule applies to programs classified as **"Crossover"** by GAPPS (see *Crossover Participation* policy for details).
- **Violation of this rule will result in ineligibility** to participate in any Fideles sports for a period of one year.

Non-Interscholastic Activities

- Student-athletes **may participate** in **club, travel, or recreational sports** without prior approval.
- These activities are **not classified as interscholastic** and therefore do **not conflict with GAPPS or Fideles eligibility policies**.

Crossover Participation

- Students enrolled in a GAPPS member school that **does not offer a particular sport** or activity may request permission to participate with another GAPPS member school that does. This would be a "Crossover" situation.
- Before participating in a crossover program, student-athletes must obtain **written approval** from the Fideles Athletic Director and/or Head of School, in accordance with **GAPPS Bylaw 1.61**.
- Once approved, the crossover athlete will be classified as an **AES athlete** on the team they are joining and will be subject to all applicable AES league participation limits.
- Crossover applications are found at aes.gappsports.com and must be completed and submitted to the Fideles Athletics AD for approval.
- Fideles and the Crossover school retains the right not to approve applications.
- **NOTE**: Not all GAPPS member schools accept Crossover participation.

Transfer Eligibility

- In accordance with GAPPS regulations, high school students who transfer to Fideles from another GAPPS member school **without a bona fide change of residence** will be

considered **ineligible for Varsity-level athletic participation** for a period of **one calendar year** from the official date of transfer.
- During this ineligibility period, the student-athlete **may fully participate in team practices and compete at the sub-varsity (Junior Varsity) level**, but will not be permitted to compete in any Varsity contests or events until Varsity eligibility is reinstated.
- Parents or guardians with **questions** regarding what constitutes a bona fide move or the eligibility process are encouraged to **contact the Athletic Director** for clarification.

Homeschool / Alternatively Educated Students (AES)

Fideles, at its discretion, allows for limited participation of Alternatively Educated Students (AES) in many of our sports. AES athletes and their families partner with Fideles Christian's mission and goals the same way an enrolled student and family would.

AES must register directly with GAPPS annually prior to participation in any tryouts, practices or being rostered on a team. REGISTER HERE: aes.gappsports.com

GAPPS defines AES students as:

- Students in a **homeschool** program (home study) as defined by O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.
- Students enrolled in **virtual** public or private schools that do not provide interscholastic activities.
- Students enrolled in a GAPPS member school that **does not provide the desired activity** and request consent to participate with another GAPPS member school. This process is referred to as **"Crossover Participation".**
- Students enrolled in a GAPPS member school and taking less than 3 full time classes. These students are referred to as **"Part Time Students"**

Home Base School

The term "Home Base School" is used to identify the school which AES who are homeschooled are assigned to for interscholastic purposes.

- Once an AES is assigned to Fideles, **Fideles becomes their Home Base School** for the duration of their athletic eligibility.
- Homeschool AES must reside within a **30-mile radius** of Fideles to be eligible.
- Homeschool AES must meet Fideles' **admissions qualifications** to be eligible for assignment.
- AES athletes are subject to the **same interscholastic rules and regulations** as full-time enrolled Fideles students.

Academic Eligibility

Fideles students 6th-12th grade must pass 5 classes per semester with a 70% or higher in order to be eligible for the subsequent semester of sports.

- Must have passed the fall semester prior to spring sports.
- Must have passed the spring semester prior to fall/winter sports.

Additionally, high school students must accumulate credits toward graduation by the end of each

year in high school:

- 5 credits must be accumulated prior to the start of Sophomore year
- 11 credits must be accumulated prior to the start of Junior year
- 17 credits must be accumulated prior to the start of Senior year

AES must provide transcripts or grade reports to the Athletic Department from the previous semester to determine academic eligibility requirements are met. AES will be held to the same academic standards as enrolled students.

Limits of Participation in High School

A student has **eight (8) consecutive semesters** or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the **ninth grade** to be eligible for interscholastic competition.

Attendance & Participation Expectations

Participation in practices, meetings, and games/competitions is **required**. Commitment to the team includes being present, punctual, and fully engaged.

Practice Expectations

- **Practice is not optional.** Athletes are expected to arrive **on time** and be fully prepared for all practices, warm-ups, and games.
- **Tardiness** may result in a loss of playing time at the coach's discretion.
- Athletes who are **absent more than three times**, **excessively late**, or **fail to fully participate** in practices may be disqualified from competition or removed from the team at the coach's discretion.

School Attendance

- Athletes who miss **more than two class periods** in a school day may not participate in practices or games that day, unless the absence is due to a school-sanctioned field trip or event, or a doctor/dental appointment. **A written excuse from the healthcare facility is required**.
- Students who are **suspended from school** are also suspended from all athletic participation for the **duration of the suspension**.
- **Duration of suspension** includes the day(s) of suspension until the day the student may return to school in person. Therefore, if a student's suspension is on a Friday, the duration is until they return to school on Tuesday. If the student's suspension is on a Tuesday, the duration is until they return to school on Thursday.

Injuries and Communication

- Injured athletes are expected to attend practices and team meetings unless excused by the head coach.
- **Parents or guardians must notify the head coach in advance** if an athlete will be absent for any reason.
- Athletes will not be penalized for **excused absences**, which will be determined by the **head**

varsity coach and/or athletic director.

The Student-Athlete Balance

Due to the demanding schedules of our athletic teams and the responsibility of each student-athlete to maintain high academic integrity, student-athletes are encouraged **not to work** during the athletic season. Student-athletes will not be excused from practice or competition due to outside work responsibilities or academic responsibilities. Students are expected to manage their time to fulfill their commitments to both school and sport.

Playing Time, Commitments & Responsibilities

Playing Time

Playing time and position assignments are determined solely by the coaching staff and are **not guaranteed**. Coaches consider a variety of factors when making these decisions, including:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Attitude and coachability
- Work ethic and effort in practice
- Experience and skill level at a position
- The athlete's ability to perform safely and effectively in that role

Athletes are encouraged to speak directly and respectfully with their coach if they have questions about playing time.

Quitting a Team

Once team rosters are set, student-athletes who choose to **quit** or are **dismissed** from a team by the coach or Athletic Director become **ineligible to participate in any sport during the next athletic season**.
This includes:

- Fall-to-winter transitions
- Winter-to-spring transitions
- Spring-to-next fall transitions

UPDATE FOR 2026-27

Once team rosters are established, student-athletes who choose to quit a team, fail to finish the season (including postseason competition), or are dismissed from a team by the coach or Athletic Director will become ineligible to participate in any sport during the next athletic season. Leaving a team before the completion of postseason play will be treated the same as quitting the team.

- If an athlete quits a fall sport, they cannot play a winter sport.
- If they quit a winter sport, they cannot play a spring sport.

- If they quit a spring sport, they cannot play the following fall sport.

Multiple Sports & Extracurricular Commitments

When athletes participate in multiple sports or other extracurricular activities, they are expected to **honor their commitment to the first activity joined** through the end of its season.

In the event of scheduling conflicts, athletes should:

- Communicate early and clearly with **both coaches/directors**
- Work collaboratively to coordinate schedules if possible

Important: Before committing to any program, carefully consider scheduling demands to avoid overcommitment.

UPDATE FOR 2026-27

Participating in multiple sports and extracurricular activities is encouraged, provided the student-athlete can responsibly manage the commitment. Multi-sport participation is viewed as a valuable part of the student-athlete experience and is supported by the athletic department.

Student-athletes who participate in multiple sports are expected to honor their commitment to their current team through the completion of that team's season, including postseason competition. Athletes should not leave a team before the conclusion of its season in order to begin another sport.

When seasonal overlap or scheduling conflicts occur, student-athletes are expected to:

- *Communicate early and clearly with both coaches*
- *Work collaboratively with coaches to coordinate schedules and transition timelines*
- *Fulfill team responsibilities to the best of their ability during the overlap period*

Coaches are expected to support multi-sport participation and should not penalize, discourage, or unfairly limit opportunities for student-athletes who join a team after completing responsibilities with a previous sport season.

Early Release or Absence for Athletics

Due to travel for competitions, early dismissal or absence from class may be necessary occasionally. However, this **does not excuse** students from academic responsibilities.

- **Coaches** will work with Athletics Staff to approve and determine early release time and logistics , then coaches will communicate the agreed upon time with their team(s).
- **The Athletics Department will notify teachers/staff in advance** of any early release times, missed classes or school days due to approved athletic competitions.

- **Students** must **complete all classwork, quizzes, and tests** and coordinate on an acceptable timeline with teachers.
- A **student's failure to coordinate** with the teacher or follow the **agreed-upon timeline** may result in a **late or failing grade**.

Transportation

Unless transportation is provided by the school, athletes are **responsible for arranging their own transportation** to and from practices and competitions.

- Parents must give permission if their student will ride with someone outside of the family or in a **school-owned vehicle**
- All drivers of school vehicles must be **approved, insured, and listed** by the school

Uniform & Dress Code Policy

Uniform Responsibility

Uniforms are used for multiple seasons, so the following efforts should be made to preserve them and keep them in good, clean condition.

- Rangers uniforms are the property of **Fideles Rangers Athletics** and must be **returned in suitable condition** at the end of each season.
- A **replacement fee** will be charged for any uniform items that are lost, damaged, or not returned.
- **Team uniforms may only be worn by that team in competitions**.
- Team uniforms may **not be worn to school or to practice**.
- An effort must be made to change out of the uniform or at minimum cover the uniform after leaving the competition facility. For example, Uniforms should not be worn when eating out after a game.
- Uniforms must be **washed and dry** per instructions **within 24 hours** of each use.
- **Seniors are not entitled to keep** their uniform at the end of their season.
- **Uniforms will not be sold as commemorative keepsakes** until that version of the uniform is retired.

Dress Standards

- All uniforms must comply with **NFHS rules**, **league regulations**, and **school standards**.
- **Practice and game attire** should be **modest**, **sport-appropriate**, and worn as intended.

Specific Guidelines

- **Shirts or tank tops must be worn** during all practices and competitions.
    - For girls, **sports bras must be worn underneath**.
- **Shorts must be worn properly**—they may not be rolled at the waist or pulled down to expose undergarments.
- **Spandex uniform shorts** are permitted only for **Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, and**

Track & Field, in alignment with sport-specific norms.

Team Apparel & Spirit Wear Dress Code

- Athletes are required to wear their assigned practice and game uniforms for all scheduled practices, competitions, and team events as directed by the coach or Athletic Department.
- Team-issued apparel from each athlete's Player Pack (including short-sleeve shirts, long-sleeve shirts, hoodies, and other approved outerwear) **may be worn to school on Fridays throughout the entire school year—not just during the athlete's sport season.**
- **Jeans are now permitted** on **Fridays** at school.
- Player Pack apparel may **not** be worn to school on game or meet days unless the game or meet falls on a Friday or another designated Spirit Day.

Varsity Lettering Policy

Eligibility Requirements

To earn a Varsity letter in any sport, a student-athlete must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be rostered on a Varsity team.
- Be enrolled in grades **9–12**.
- Be in **good standing** with the team, coaching staff, and Athletic Department.
- Compete in **at least 50%** of the team's regular season games or meets.
- **Remain on the team** for the full season; students who quit or are suspended or expelled from the team or school at any point during the season are not eligible to letter.

Special Circumstances

- **8th Grade Participation:** While 8th-grade students may be permitted to play on Varsity teams, they are **not eligible** to receive a Varsity letter.
- **JV Call-Ups:** Junior Varsity athletes who are called up and participate in **50% or more** of Varsity competitions may be considered for a Varsity letter **at the coach's discretion**.
- **Injured Athletes:** If an athlete is injured during the season and unable to compete, coaches will work with the student to find meaningful ways for them to contribute to the team in a Varsity role.

Varsity Letters & Patches

- Athletes who earn a Varsity letter will receive:
  - **One Varsity "Letter F"** for the first sport in which they letter.
  - **One sport-specific chevron** during their first lettering season in that sport.
  - **One plain chevron** will be awarded for each additional year that varsity lettering qualifications are met.
- **Optional patches** (such as commemorative or decorative ones) are available for purchase at the athlete's expense.

All letterman patches will be presented at the **end-of-season awards banquet** as part of our celebration of the athletes' dedication and accomplishments.

Letterman Jackets & Accessories

Letterman jackets and accessories may be purchased directly by the athlete from:

A-Team Sports
176 Tri-County Plaza
Cumming, GA 30040
📞 (770) 889-9980

Athletic Fees & Financial Policies

Registration & Payment Process

- Athletic fees are assessed per sport and are not included in Fideles tuition.
- All **registration, required forms, and team fees** will be submitted through **FinalForms**, which includes a **4% payment processing fee.**
- Full payment is required in FinalForms. Partial payment schedules will only be considered with a financial hardship application.
- FinalForms significantly **increases efficiency** for both the Athletics Department and Business Office by **reducing manual tasks**.
- As a result, **cash and checks will not be accepted** for any athletic payments.

Athletic Fees

- Fees vary by sport and are determined by the **Athletic Department** in order to meet budgeted needs for that sport.
- **All fees must be paid in full** by the published deadline. Athletes with outstanding balances may be **withheld from practices or competition** until payment is received.
- **No refunds** will be issued once an athlete is registered and officially placed on a team roster.

Financial Assistance

- Families facing financial hardship are welcome to **apply for partial scholarships**.
- Please note that **full scholarships are not available.** Scholarships will be based on financial need and on available funds.

Uniform Fees & Responsibility

- Rangers uniforms are the property of **Fideles Rangers Athletics** and must be **returned at the end of each season** in good condition.
- Athletes are responsible for the **proper care** of all issued uniforms and gear.
- A **replacement fee** will be charged for any uniform items that are **lost, damaged, or not returned**.

Sport-Specific Costs

In addition to registration and uniform fees, athletes may incur **sport-specific expenses**, including:

- **Personal equipment or apparel** not provided by the Athletic Department (as communicated by the coach or team coordinator)
- **Travel and meal costs** for away games or tournaments
- **Tournament fees** for events outside the regular season or league-sponsored postseason
- **End-of-season banquets or team celebrations**, which are not covered by athletic program fees and are the responsibility of the athlete's family

Parental Involvement

Fideles Christian School views parents as vital partners in the success of our athletics program. Your involvement supports a positive environment for all student-athletes, coaches, and teams.

Parent Volunteer Requirement

To ensure smooth operations and a successful season, each family is required to **serve in a volunteer role** during their athlete's season. If a parent (or their designee) fails to register and complete their assigned volunteer duties, the athlete may be withheld from competition until the requirement is fulfilled.

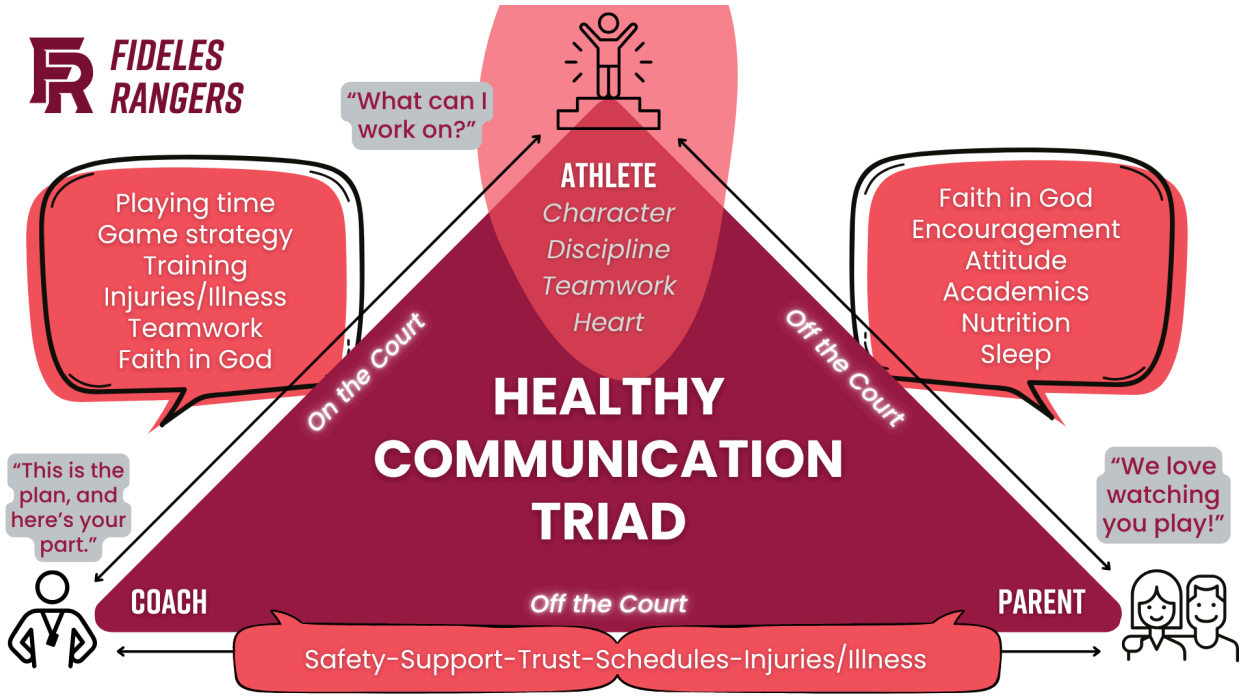
Volunteer roles include, but are not limited to:

- Game day setup and teardown
- Gate/concession stand
- Scorekeeper or clock operator
- Game manager or announcer
- Parking attendant
- Spirit wear or equipment manager
- Team communications and awards
- Fundraising coordinator
- Banquet/event planning
- Administrative and logistical support

Fundraising Participation

All fundraising initiatives must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director. Participation in team and program-wide fundraising is required to support the mission and growth of Fideles Athletics.

Healthy Communication & Conflict Resolution



The Coach–Athlete–Parent Partnership

Both coaching and parenting are deeply rewarding and occasionally challenging. When coaches and parents support one another and model healthy communication, athletes benefit from a stable, encouraging environment that promotes growth in Character, Discipline, Teamwork, and Heart.

Communication Between Athlete & Coach

Athletes are encouraged to develop maturity and accountability by communicating directly with their coach regarding:

- Practice/game schedules, strategies, and expectations
- Playing time (which is earned, especially at the Varsity level)
- Illness, injuries, or schedule conflicts
- Development goals, work ethic, and sportsmanship
- Team devotionals and Christ-centered growth
- Concerns or personal struggles affecting performance or engagement

Coaches will communicate clearly with athletes regarding:

- Their coaching philosophy and commitment to spiritual and athletic growth
- Expectations for each player and the team
- Pre-season meetings, season requirements, and discipline guidelines

- Procedures for injury and return-to-play protocols

Communication Between Parent & Coach

We recognize that, at times, concerns or questions will arise. Parents are strongly encouraged to speak directly and respectfully with the coach, avoiding gossip or division in the school community.

Appropriate topics for parent–coach discussion include:

- Spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being of the athlete
- Suggestions to help the athlete improve
- Medical or physical limitations
- Clarifying team expectations
- Notifying coaches well in advance of known schedule conflicts

Topics not appropriate for discussion:

- Playing time
- Team strategy or play calling
- Coaching decisions about other athletes

Resolving Concerns: A Four-Step Process

When a concern arises, Fideles Athletics encourages a respectful and structured approach to conflict resolution:

Step 1 – Athlete to Head Coach

Athletes are encouraged to first speak directly with their head coach regarding any concerns. Parents should support and guide their child in having this conversation respectfully.

Step 2 – Parent with Athlete to Head Coach

After the athlete has spoken with the coach, parents may request a meeting with the head coach. These conversations should reflect a calm and professional tone.
Important: Parents may not approach coaches with concerns immediately before or after a contest. Please observe the 24-hour rule. Failure to follow this protocol may result in the loss of participation privileges for the athlete.

Step 3 – Parent to Athletic Director

If the issue remains unresolved after Step 2, parents may request a meeting with the Athletic Director. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled with the athlete, parent, head coach, and Athletic Director present.

Step 4 – Parent to Head of School

If the matter is still unresolved after Steps 1–3, a meeting with the Head of School may be requested through the school office.

Reporting Unethical Conduct

If a Fideles coach engages in behavior that violates the Christian morals, values, or standards of the school, please report the concern directly to the Athletic Director. Such concerns will be taken seriously and addressed promptly.

Health & Safety

At Fideles Christian School, the **health, safety, and protection of every student-athlete** is our top priority. We are committed to maintaining a safe environment through proper training, required documentation, and clear communication protocols.

Required Forms & Documents

The following forms must be completed **annually** through **FinalForms** as part of athletic registration. All documents must be digitally signed and submitted **before** an athlete may participate in practices, tryouts, or games.

- Sports Physical (valid for 12 months
- Medical Release & Liability Waiver
- Concussion Awareness Form
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgement
- Heat Illness Safety Agreement

Coach Training & Certification

All Fideles coaches must complete mandatory training and certification prior to working with student-athletes. This ensures they are prepared to support both the physical and emotional well-being of every player.

Required training includes:

- Background Check
- Protecting Students from Abuse
- CPR/AED Certification
- Concussion Awareness
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training
- Heat Illness Prevention

- Football Tackling Certification (for football coaches)
- Review of **GAPPS By-Laws** and **Sport-Specific Rules**

Safe Coach–Athlete Communication

To protect the integrity of our program and the safety of all athletes, **coaches may not be alone with a student-athlete at any time**.

- Any **text, email, or online communication** between a coach and an athlete must either:
    - Include a **third party** (e.g., parent, another coach, or teammate), **or**
    - Be sent within a **group message** format

This policy reflects best practices for transparency and accountability in adult-minor interactions.

Mandatory Reporting Policy

All Fideles coaches and staff members are considered **mandatory reporters** under Georgia law.

In accordance with Georgia's **Mandated Reporter Law**, any coach, teacher, administrator, or school personnel who has **reasonable cause to believe** that a minor may be a victim of abuse is legally required to report it to the appropriate authorities.

This law is in place to:

- Prevent abuse and neglect
- Protect the welfare of children
- Preserve and strengthen family life wherever possible

Resources for recognizing and reporting abuse can be provided by the school or the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

Branding

Uniform Design

All team uniforms are selected and designed to follow NFHS and GAPPS guidelines. Final design and style approval is made by the Athletic Director and Fideles Branding Committee.

Spirit Wear

All spiritwear designs and apparel vendors must be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director prior to opening a Rangers spirit wear store. Spirit wear refers to apparel for students, families and fans. These are not actual team uniforms.

Social Media & Website

Social Media and Website accounts are owned and managed by the Athletic Department.

Statement of Faith

All families wishing to participate in the Athletics program must agree with the FCS Statement of Faith.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative, and inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26), His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His Resurrection (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:4); His Ascension to the right hand of God (Mark 16:19); His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).

4. We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; that men are justified by grace because of the shed blood of Christ; and that only by God's grace and through faith are we saved (John 3:16–19, 5:24, 25; Romans 3:23, 5:1, 8–9; Ephesians 1:3-5; 2:1, 8–10; Titus 3:5).

5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved receive eternal life and those who are lost receive eternal condemnation (John 5:28–29).

6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:12–13; Galatians 3:26–28).

7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13–14; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19–20; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

8. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either biological male or biological female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27)

    a. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union (Gen. 2:18-25; I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4)

    b. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10)