



# **Junior High/Elementary Basketball Parent Information**

Christian Life Preparatory School  
2026-2027

# COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

As an athletic department, we recognize that athletic competition provides an arena for important formative experiences in a student's life that can be appropriately transferred into the spiritual life of a Christian as he or she matures into adulthood.

As the Apostle Paul says:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

— Ephesians 6:12

Ultimately, CLPS sports programs seek to foster student and family formation among the school community.

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## Profile of an Athletic Graduate

The Profile of an Athletic Graduate aligns with the CLPS Profile of a Graduate.

By graduation, the student already:

- Cultivates the heart, soul, mind, and body.
  - Grows in learning to work well with others through honorable, effective communication, both verbally and non-verbally.
  - Develops the ability to work well under authority.
  - Cultivates self-discipline and perseverance in the face of adversity.
  - Develops a healthy perspective that sports are primarily a means of human formation toward spiritual maturity into adulthood and not an end in themselves.
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## Athletic Department Team Goals

Our athletic department is guided by a philosophy that emphasizes growth, community, and spirituality. Below are the core goals that shape our programs and activities.

## **Excellence**

- Programs are centered on discipleship that honors God.
- Ensure our activities are well managed and well executed.
- Strive for high standards in both character and ethics.

## **Success**

- Define success as growth and development toward a Christ-like life, in and through the game of basketball.
- Encourage personal growth while fostering a strong team culture.

## **Sacrifice**

- Instill a culture of sacrifice by creating a posture of humility and selflessness.
- Mentor and grow teams to be sacrificial in their attitude and actions toward peers.

## **Accountability**

- Hold the team and each other accountable to the standards set by the school.
- Players, parents, and coaches are accountable for their actions, words, and decisions on and off the field.

## **Community Participation**

We desire that our athletic community — coaches, players, and parents — engage in ways that:

- Honor God and reflect the values we uphold.
- Convey a positive witness to those around us.
- Demonstrate modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.

By integrating these goals, our athletic department aims to build a strong, cohesive community that thrives on mutual respect and shared goals.

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# Academic Requirements

Participating in sports provides students with valuable experiences, such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership. However, maintaining academic standards is essential to ensure that students prioritize their education while enjoying extracurricular activities.

## Minimum Grade Requirement

Students must maintain a minimum grade of **70% in all classes** to participate fully in sports activities.

## Restrictions on Sports Participation

A key consequence is the limitation of sports participation for those who do not maintain the required grades, highlighting the importance of becoming well-rounded students.

## Initial Ban Period

If a student's grades drop below the required average, the student will sit out of games for two weeks to allow time to focus on academics.

## Ongoing Grade Checks

Bi-weekly grade checks will follow the initial ban to ensure continued academic focus.

## Reinstatement to Full Participation

After the two-week period, if a student's grades rise above 70%, the student may fully participate in sports again, rewarding academic improvement.

This policy aims to foster an environment where students can excel both on and off the court, becoming well-rounded individuals.

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# **Team Attendance, Behavior, and Participation Guidelines**

## **Attendance Requirements**

Players must attend all scheduled practices, scrimmages, games, and other team activities, such as banquets and team dinners at the school.

## **Absence Notification**

### **Advance Notification**

All absences from scheduled activities must be communicated in advance with the respective team coach.

### **Emergency Notification**

If advance notification is impossible, contact the coach directly via email or text as soon as possible.

### **Inadequate Notification**

Notification by another player or parent is insufficient and does not give the coach adequate time to prepare for practices or games.

## **School Attendance**

If a player is absent from school, a parent or guardian must contact the coach directly via email or text as soon as possible.

On days when a player does not attend school, he will not participate in practices or games.

## **Consequences of Missing Activities**

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences are communicated and approved with the coach ahead of time.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences are not communicated and/or not approved by the coach ahead of time.

### **Missing Practice Before a Game**

If a player misses a practice unexcused, he will not start the next game.

### **Missing Multiple Practices**

If a player misses multiple practices in a week unexcused, he will be ineligible for any playing time in the next game that week.

There are situations where a student may be absent for an excusable reason. Our coaches will use their best judgment in these situations.

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## **Tardiness Policy**

### **Penalty for Lateness**

Players who are late to practice will be subject to “reminders” either before or after practice at the coach’s discretion.

**Reminders** are a way to make up for missed conditioning and serve as a reminder of why it is important to be on time.

### **Continued Tardiness**

- If tardiness occurs a second time, the coach will contact the student’s parents.
- After the third offense, the student will be held out of the next game.

There are situations in which a student-athlete may be tardy for an excusable reason. Our coaches will use their best judgment in these situations.

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# Behavior Policy

As basketball is an athletics “class” at CLPS, students will be held to the school’s standards while on the field or while traveling to games.

If a behavior issue arises:

- Parents should be notified by the coach.
- A behavior report will be filed through RenWeb.
- The Dean of Students, in collaboration with the coach and Athletic Director, will determine the consequences of the behavior.

Consequences may include suspensions from games and school days.

Please adhere to these guidelines to ensure a successful and cohesive team experience.

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## Physical Requirements

Each student wishing to participate in any athletic program must undergo a physical examination every year. This assessment is crucial for identifying any health concerns that might affect the student’s ability to engage in sports safely.

The examination includes:

### Medical History Review

This involves a detailed discussion of the student’s past and current health issues, family medical history, and any previous injuries or surgeries. The electronic form is located on Rank One.

### Physical Assessment

A healthcare professional will conduct a thorough examination, including checking vital signs, evaluating joint flexibility, and assessing overall physical fitness.

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# Playing Time

## Elementary Basketball Program

### Grades 4–5

The Elementary Basketball Program encourages participation and experimentation while helping students establish a love for the game of basketball.

The fundamentals of the game will be strongly emphasized. Elementary athletics will work to develop basic skills and techniques while introducing the concept and importance of teamwork.

### Playing Time

Every athlete in the elementary program will play in every game unless the player fails to maintain expectations regarding:

- Behavior
- Academics
- Practice attendance

Coaches will do their best to provide as much playing time to each athlete as possible. However, each player is not required to play the same amount of time.

### Program Goals

At this stage, athletics provides students with the first-time excitement of wearing Christian Life Prep school colors in sports.

The program is designed to help athletes grow in skill, teamwork, confidence, and love for the game.

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## Junior High Basketball Program

### Grades 6–8

The Junior High Basketball Program strives to further develop a love for the game while continuing to build fundamental skills.

Athletes will also begin learning and executing more advanced-level strategies and schemes.

## **Playing Time**

Every athlete in the junior high program will play in every game unless the player fails to maintain expectations regarding:

- Behavior
- Academics
- Practice attendance

Coaches will do their best to provide as much playing time to each athlete as possible. However, each player is not required to play the same amount of time.

## **Skill Development and Excellence**

Junior high athletics will work to develop and improve skills and techniques while encouraging players to strive for excellence.

This stage of the program helps athletes grow in discipline, teamwork, competitiveness, and understanding of the game.

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# **Communication**

Listed below are steps to enhance parent/coach communication.

It is important to remember that the first link in the communication network is the one established between coach and player. Encourage your child to exercise the opportunity to speak directly with their coach about any topic, preferably before a parent/coach conversation is scheduled.

## **Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach**

- Philosophy, rules, and procedures of the CLPS basketball program.
- Evaluation of your child's strengths and weaknesses.

- Recommendations for improvement of basketball skills.
- Location and times of all practices and games.
- Procedures if your child is injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in denying your child's participation in an opportunity.

## **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

- Concerns about their child expressed directly to the coach.
- Specific health concerns or injuries dealing with your child.
- Notification of any practice or game schedule conflicts.

## **Issues Open for Discussion with Coaches**

- The spiritual, mental, and physical treatment of your child.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Concerns about your child's relationship with other players.

It can be difficult to accept that your child may not play as much as you, or perhaps he or she, hoped. As professionals, our coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for the team.

As you have read in the list above, certain items are open for discussion with your child's coach. Other decision-making must be left to the coach assigned to your child's team.

## **Issues Not Open for Discussion with Coaches**

- Playing time
- Individual position assignments
- Team strategy
- Other players

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## **Parent/Coach Conference Procedures**

Situations may require a conference between the coach and parents, which is encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

When conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a timely resolution to the issue of concern.

## Procedures to Follow When Discussing a Concern with a Coach

1. Contact the coach by email to set an appointment.
2. Describe your specific areas of concern.
3. Limit your discussion to your own child's issues.
4. Do not discuss other athletes' or parents' issues unless they involve your child.

## 24-Hour Rule

Do **not** confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional moments, and such meetings are unlikely to promote resolution.

Exercise the **24-hour rule**: wait 24 hours before contacting the coach to give your emotions a chance to dissipate.

## If the Meeting Does Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, email the Athletic Director to set up a meeting to discuss the situation.

At this meeting, the next appropriate steps can be determined.

Parents should never contact opposing schools or officials to complain about athletic contests, opposing players, coaches, fans, or officials. All concerns and/or opinions should be communicated directly to CLPS's Athletic Director.

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## Practices

### Accessing Schedules

The official schedules for practices and games are conveniently listed on multiple platforms to ensure families stay informed.

Schedules can be accessed through:

- **CLPS Sports Calendar:** Check all upcoming events at [clpsfamily.com](http://clpsfamily.com).
- **CLPS Athletics Website:** Visit the website for detailed schedules and updates.

- **RankOne App:** Download this app for the latest schedules and notifications directly on your mobile device.
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## **Practice Guidelines**

### **Arrival Time**

All athletes are expected to be on the court 15 minutes before practice begins. This allows time to dress appropriately and assist in setting up the nets.

### **Team Water Breaks**

Hydration is crucial, and water breaks will be taken collectively to promote team unity and ensure everyone stays refreshed and ready.

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## **Team Values and Conduct**

### **Kindness and Respect**

We emphasize the importance of treating each other with kindness and respect, both on and off the court. This fosters a positive and supportive environment for all athletes.

### **Witnesses to Christ**

As representatives of our faith, it is crucial to treat others in a manner that honors God. Our actions and words should reflect the values we uphold.

By following these guidelines and embracing our principles, we create a nurturing and respectful atmosphere that benefits everyone involved in CLPS Athletics.

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# **Code of Conduct for Athletic Events**

In the spirit of fostering a positive and respectful environment at athletic events, we have established the following guidelines to ensure that all participants, including players, coaches, officials, and spectators, experience a welcoming and sportsmanlike atmosphere.

## **Respectful Cheering**

### **No Derogatory Remarks**

Cheering should always be positive and supportive of your own team.

At no point should there be derogatory comments or chants directed at the opposing team or specific players. Let's celebrate our team's accomplishments without putting others down.

## **Respect for Officials**

### **Respect at All Times**

Officials play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the game. It is vital to treat them with respect at all times, regardless of their decisions.

### **Communication Protocol**

Only the head coach may approach an official to discuss or question a call. This helps maintain order and respect on the field.

## **Sportsmanship and Character**

### **Players**

All players are expected to compete with integrity and sportsmanship, embodying values that honor and please the Lord's way. Playing fair and with heart is a priority.

### **Parents and Spectators**

Parents and spectators are expected to uphold the same standards of character and sportsmanship. Their behavior sets an example for players and reflects on the community.

## **Treatment of the Opposing Team**

## Guests, Not Enemies

In sports, while competition is essential, respect and camaraderie should not be overlooked. The opposing team should be treated with the same respect and hospitality as one would extend to guests.

## Fostering Goodwill

Always remember that the essence of sports is not just in winning, but also in fostering goodwill, respect, and mutual understanding among all participants.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can create a positive and enjoyable environment for everyone involved in our athletic events. Let's work together to make our sports experiences memorable for all the right reasons.

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# Attire

## Practice Attire

All players must wear or have the following at practices:

- Appropriate undergarments
- A T-shirt; tank tops are not permitted
- Loose-fitting athletic shorts with a **5-inch inseam**
- Athletic shoes
- Hair pulled back
- All jewelry removed

Shorts with an inseam of less than **3.5 inches** are not permitted.

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# Games

## Home Games

### Game-Day Uniform

All players must wear or have the following for home games:

- Game jersey provided by CLPS
- Solid black shorts provided by CLPS
- Athletic shoes
- Hair secured in a ponytail, braids, or a bun; hair may not be worn down
- No necklaces, earrings, bracelets, or other jewelry

Players may also bring:

- A bottle of water
  - A towel, if needed
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## Basketball Program Volunteer Opportunities

The success of our basketball program relies heavily on the invaluable support and involvement of parents. We invite parents to serve in various volunteer positions throughout the season.

Your contribution will enhance the experience of our athletes and foster a strong sense of community within our teams.

Each team requires a **Parent Volunteer Coordinator** who is responsible for managing the volunteer sign-up process for games. Responsibilities include:

- Creating and maintaining a sign-up sheet for game-day tasks
  - Ensuring all volunteer positions are filled for each game
  - Communicating with other parents to encourage participation
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# Organizing the Volunteer Sign-Up

To keep the process simple and organized, we recommend using Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets to create the volunteer sign-up sheet. The document can then be easily shared with and accessed by all team members.

## Recommended Steps

1. **Create a Spreadsheet**  
Use Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets to set up the document.
  2. **List Volunteer Needs**  
Include columns for the date, time, task, and volunteer's name. Tasks may include working the gate, operating the clock, scorekeeping, or line judging.
  3. **Share the Spreadsheet with the Team**  
Distribute the spreadsheet by email or through a shared link so parents can sign up for available positions.
  4. **Monitor and Update the Spreadsheet**  
Regularly review the spreadsheet to ensure all positions are filled. Contact parents if additional help is needed.
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## Gatekeeper

The gatekeeper must arrive **30 minutes before the game** to relieve the previous volunteer.

## Free Admission

The following individuals receive free admission:

- CLPS students
- CLPS parents and family members
- CLPS staff
- Grandparents of CLPS students
- Visiting-team bus drivers
- Visiting-team coaches
- Visiting-team players

## Cash-Box Procedures

- The gatekeeper or coach must ask the Athletic Director for the cash box.
  - The gatekeeper working the final game of the evening must return the locked cash box to the Athletic Director.
  - If the Athletic Director is unavailable, the gatekeeper may give the locked cash box to the coach so it can be secured in the Athletic Director's office.
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## Clock Operator

The clock operator must arrive **15 minutes before game time**.

The computer requires only a small number of commands in addition to starting and stopping the clock. A first-time volunteer can usually learn the process in approximately five minutes. A reference sheet is also generally available until the volunteer becomes familiar with the system.

### Clock-Table Rules

- Only the clock operator and official scorekeeper are permitted at the score table.
  - Children are not permitted at the score table.
  - One parent is needed to keep the official scorebook at every game.
  - Cellphone use is not permitted at the score table. Officials may address volunteers who use their phones while performing their duties.
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## Scorekeeping

The official scorekeeper must arrive **15 minutes before game time**.

### Score-Table Rules

- Only the clock operator and official scorekeeper are permitted at the score table.
  - Children are not permitted at the score table.
  - Cellphone use is not permitted at the score table. Officials may address volunteers who use their phones while performing their duties.
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# Cheering Guidelines

## Respectful Cheering

- No one may deliberately make a loud noise at the moment a player serves in an attempt to distract the player.
- Derogatory cheering directed at the opposing team or a specific player is not permitted.
- Cheering should be positive and supportive of our team without putting down the opposing team.

## Respect for Officials

- Officials must be treated respectfully at all times.
- Only the head coach may approach an official or question a call.

## Sportsmanship and Character

All players are expected to compete with a heart and attitude that please and honor the Lord. Parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the same standard of sportsmanship and character.

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# Away Games

## Team Transportation Policy

For away games requiring more than a **30-minute drive under normal traffic conditions**, CLPS will provide transportation for the team to and from the game when requested by the coach.

This arrangement helps ensure that all players have a safe and organized means of transportation.

## Post-Game Pick-Up Procedures

At the conclusion of an away game, parents who wish to take their child home directly from the venue must sign their child out with the coach before leaving.

This requirement ensures the safety and accountability of all students.

If a parent or guardian does not pick up the student at the game, the student will return to CLPS with the team and may be picked up from the school parking lot.

## **Late Returns and Meal Arrangements**

If the team is expected to return to CLPS after **7:30 p.m.**, the coach will stop at an appropriate location so athletes may purchase food.

Parents who do not want their child to purchase food should provide a packed dinner.

This arrangement ensures that students have access to a meal after a long day of athletic activities.

## **End-of-Day Protocol**

All players must be picked up by or released to an authorized parent or guardian before the coach may leave the facility.

This policy ensures that every student is safely accounted for and supervised until placed in the care of an authorized adult.

Parents should communicate any specific transportation or meal needs to the coach in advance to help ensure smooth coordination.

# **CONFERENCE POLICIES**

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, also known as TAPPS, plays a significant role in enhancing the educational experience for students in private and parochial schools across Texas.

By organizing various programs and events, TAPPS aims to cultivate an environment that supports academic excellence, athletic prowess, and artistic creativity.

## **Purpose and Mission**

The primary purpose of TAPPS is to organize, stimulate, encourage, and promote programs in academics, athletics, and fine arts.

This diverse range of programs is designed to foster:

- **Fair Play:** Encouraging an honest and respectful approach to all competitions and activities.
- **Good Fellowship:** Building a sense of community and camaraderie among participating schools and students.
- **True Sportsmanship:** Instilling values of integrity, respect, and fairness in competitive environments.
- **Wholesome Competition:** Ensuring a positive and healthy atmosphere for all participants, focusing on personal growth and development.

## Academic Programs

TAPPS provides a platform for students to showcase their intellectual talents through various academic competitions.

These events encourage students to excel in subjects such as mathematics, science, literature, and more, fostering a love for learning and critical thinking.

## Athletic Programs

Athletics form a vital part of TAPPS, offering students numerous opportunities to engage in sports.

From basketball and soccer to track and swimming, these programs help students develop physical skills, teamwork, and discipline.

TAPPS ensures that all athletic competitions are conducted in a spirit of fairness and respect.

## Benefits of TAPPS

By participating in TAPPS programs, students gain valuable life skills such as leadership, resilience, and collaboration.

The association's commitment to fair play, good fellowship, and sportsmanship ensures that all students can thrive in a supportive and nurturing environment.

More information about TAPPS can be found on their website: [TAPPS](#) or [CSAE](#)