

## ***Clarksville Christian School Athletics***

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*Student-athletes at CCS must abide by all rules and guidelines as outlined in the Clarksville Christian School Athletic handbook. Each year, all athletes and parents will be asked to sign a statement indicating they have read and understand the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. In addition, student-athletes must abide by all rules and guidelines set forth in the Clarksville Christian School Student Handbook. Athletes are held accountable for the team rules each head coach has established for their individual sport as well.*

## **Mission Statement**

Centurion athletics will aim to glorify Christ in the classroom, on the athletic field/court and in the community by competing the Centurion Way. We will work to develop athletes academically, socially, athletically, and most of all spiritually.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*  
(Colossians 3:23)

## **Competing the Centurion Way**

- Establish and maintain a Christ-centered culture
- Create opportunity for spiritual growth
- Do the next right thing
- Consider others before yourself
- Control the controllables and manage the uncontrollables
- Build resilience and increase our ability to handle adversity
- Lead by loving and serving others
- No blaming, no complaining and no excuses

## **Philosophy**

Athletics is considered a privilege. Athletes and coaches are expected to be respectful, hardworking and act with integrity. Our purpose is to influence athletes to speak, act, lead and think (S.A.L.T.) like Christ.

## **Sports Offered at CCS**

### Fall Sports

- o Cross Country
- o Girls' Volleyball
- o Golf

### Winter Sports

- o Boys Basketball
- o Girls Basketball
- o Cheer

### Spring Sports

- o Baseball
- o Clay Sports
- o Golf
- o Soccer (Co-ed)
- o Softball
- o Tennis

## **Membership**

The [Tennessee State Independent Athletic Association](#) (TSIAA) is an association of private schools existing to assist member schools by providing leadership and coordination for the administration of interscholastic athletics, which will enhance the educational experiences of student-athletes.

## **Required Forms for Participation**

- o Read Athletic Handbook
- o Submit a completed and signed [Athletic Handbook Statement of Commitment](#)
- o Submit a completed and signed Athlete Information and Emergency Release
- o Submit a completed and signed [Physical Form with a Medical history Release](#)
- o Submit a completed and signed [Permission to Transport travel form Release](#)
- o Parents who plan to transport other students submit a completed [CCS Volunteer Driver Application Release](#)

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

Athletes will abide by all school policies, team rules, the rules and policies of TSIAA, in addition to state and federal laws.

### *Character*

- Abide by all government laws, school rules, and athletic department rules
- Exercise self-discipline on and off the playing surface
- Own up to the responsibility of being a good role model that peers and younger students can look up to
- Exhibit pride in dress and behavior while traveling to and from sporting events
- Show respect for members of the school and the community, opponents, officials and opposing fans

### *Academics*

- Be a responsible student, which includes being prepared, and completing assignments on time.
- Follow the school's policies regarding academic integrity and honesty.
- Be respectful to teachers, administration, and fellow students.

### *Sportsmanship*

- Competitive rivalries and fearless competition are encouraged however, athletes are expected to compete with class.
- Respect oneself, teammates, coaches, officials, opponents and property.
- There will be no taunting, fighting, looking to the stands, unsportsmanlike conduct or profanity of any kind.
- Players, parents and fans are expected to positively represent Christ and CCS.

Go above and beyond what is expected; for example, hand the ball to officials, thank the crowd for their support, and clean up the bleachers and bench area. Go the extra mile, exceed expectations and leave places better than you found them.

### Consequences

Inappropriate behavior will result in reduced playing time, game suspension or dismissal from the team. IN accordance with TSIAA rules, any team member being ruled out of a contest by an official because of unsportsmanlike behavior shall be disqualified from athletic competition for the given game and an additional two (2) games. The athlete will also be required to meet with the head coach and athletic director to ensure our high standards of conduct are re-established.

### School Suspension

Any student on suspension from school is ineligible to participate in practice sessions or to represent the school in any extracurricular activities. Suspended students may not attend extracurricular activities. Suspension through a given day is considered as being through to the beginning of the next school day.

### Drug and Alcohol Policy

The athlete will not use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or attend parties or other events where these are present. This policy is in effect for the entire calendar year, including summer. This policy applies to any athlete at any time whether the sport is in season or not.

*CCS athletics is committed to help students find restoration and healing when dealing with self-destructive behavior. The athletic administration will handle offenses with privacy and discretion and will help direct students to appropriate help and professional services if needed.*

### Self Reporting

Athletes and parents are asked to self-report if their student has violated the drug and alcohol policy. If the violation is self-reported, the athlete will be suspended for 15% of total contests. If the drug and alcohol policy is violated and the student and parent fail to self-report, then the athlete will be suspended for 30% of the total contests at minimum (which may include games in the next season).

A second offense results in immediate suspension from all sports for the entire calendar year. The possibility of future sports participation will be a collective administrative decision. A third offense will result in dismissal from the athletic program.

### Hazing

Hazing is any act committed against someone joining or becoming a member or maintaining membership in any organization that is humiliating, intimidating or demeaning, or endangers the health and safety of the person. Hazing will be reported to school authorities and legal authorities if warranted. Hazing will result in disciplinary consequences and could result in dismissal from athletics and CCS. No administrator, employee or faculty member of any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private, shall permit the hazing of any person. Clarksville Christian School has a zero tolerance for any type of hazing activity.

The following is taken from the NCAA definition to determine the difference between hazing and team building.

Hazing	Team Building
Humiliates and degrades	Promotes respect and dignity
Tears down individuals	Supports and empowers
Creates Division	Creates real teamwork
Lifelong nightmares	Lifelong memories
Shame and secrecy	Pride and integrity
Is a power trip	A shared positive experience

### *Bullying and Harassment*

Please refer to the CCS Student Handbook for policies regarding bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and sexual harassment. In addition to school disciplinary action, athletes may incur additional consequences regarding athletic participation. Any team found to be partaking in or allowing hazing, bullying, or harassment of any kind will face immediate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include documented warning, detention, in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion. Harassment will be reported to law enforcement officials when appropriate.

### **Medical Coverage and Injuries**

#### *Injuries*

It is extremely important to report any injury to your coach immediately and to your doctor as soon as possible. Medical expenses resulting from any injury must be submitted to your own insurance carrier.

#### *Insurance Coverage*

Clarksville Christian School does not assume responsibility relative to doctor, ambulance or medical expenses in case of a medical emergency. Athletics are a voluntary, co-curricular program in which students may participate if they desire, but do so at their own risk. Parents or guardians must obtain adequate insurance coverage for their students through a family insurance policy. Any liability or cost incurred is the responsibility of the family of the student athlete.

## Academics

A student must pass all classes (term grade) in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Term grades are due the last day of the 9 weeks by 4:00pm. At that time, any student whose final term grade is failing in one or more subjects will be deemed ineligible the following Monday. Semester averages will not be considered for eligibility purposes except for those enrolled in dual enrollment classes.

Administration will submit a list to faculty and sponsors of students who failed the term and are ineligible. The student will be required to meet with the coach and teacher to develop a plan to regain eligibility. The plan may include study hall, tutoring etc.

Any student who is failing one or more courses will be ineligible for three weeks, during which time he or she will have the opportunity to raise those failing grades to passing by the three-week progress report.

Students deemed ineligible will be prohibited from participating in any school sponsored extracurricular activities and can only participate in practice. Ineligible students are not allowed to miss school to travel with the team or suit out.

Coaches and sponsors have the option to remove a participant if they are ineligible two or more times during that sports season.

Parents are asked not to withdraw any athlete on their own (outside the outlined eligibility guidelines) from participating in a sport for the reason of grades. Coaches will assist in assigning study hall, tutoring sessions, etc. If an athlete is removed by parents as a parents' disciplinary measure, please do not expect them to regain their position on the team.

## Equipment, Apparel and Facilities

### Equipment

Students are responsible for all equipment checked out to them and will be charged for lost, stolen or unaccounted equipment. All uniforms, warm ups, and sports equipment (unless otherwise specified) are the property of CCS. These items are to be returned to coaches within **1 week of the completion of the season**. If items are unaccounted for, a player's transcript or report card may be held until equipment has been returned or the school has been reimbursed.

### Facilities

Be respectful of our facilities and our opponents' facilities. Put away equipment, throw away trash and be mindful of other teams' practice times. Students are to leave all facilities (including locker rooms) better than they found them.

### Practice Gear

All CCS athletes are required to wear CCS athletic clothing purchased from BSN or issued by coaches while participating in athletics.

To help brand and further give a strong identity to CCS Athletics, student athletes at CCS will wear school issued practice attire. Athletes are to wear CCS athletic shirts (cardinal, black, white or grey) with either cardinal, black or grey shorts.

All issued apparel and equipment are the property of Clarksville Christian School. Each student is responsible for the care of apparel and equipment issued to him/her. It is expected that students will not loan uniforms/equipment to someone else. Players who wish to exchange uniforms/equipment with another player must notify the coach. Practice gear should be clean and in good repair.

### Uniforms

Athletes will be issued uniforms. Uniforms are to be worn only for games/contests or on special occasions as designated by the coach.

### Additional Purchases

The purchase of personal items needed for participation in a number of sports may be required. These items will be made available to team members for purchase through the athletic department

### Selecting and Purchasing

Only head coaches may select and purchase school issued team uniforms and apparel (after approval from administration).

### Appearance

Tattoos must be kept covered at all times without drawing attention to him/herself. Students will be well groomed and clean shaven during the athletic period and while participating in games and practices. Religious medals must be taped to the body and under the uniform. Medical medals must be taped to the body, so they are visible.

## **Participation, Practice and Competition**

### Practices

Weekly practices will include regular devotionals, warm-up, strength and conditioning, agility and sport-specific skill practice.

### Attendance

Practices will be mandatory and some practices and contests may take place during school vacations. Excused absences include illness, college visits, school trips, and death in the family. Please schedule vacation, doctor and dentist appointments so as not to conflict with practice or games. Even excused absences may result in makeup workouts while excessive absences could result in dismissal from the team. Students are to meet with the coach after their 3<sup>rd</sup> absence. After 5 absences the athlete will meet with the athletic director and coach. The coach will have the option to remove the athlete from the team with no credit and no opportunity for participating in any extracurricular activities.

### Absence due to Emergency

Emergencies do occur and can be excused. Examples of an emergency are death in the family or athlete illness. The athlete or parent must notify the coach of absences in the cases of emergency as soon as possible. There will be no consequences or makeups for missing due to an emergency.

### School Absences

The athlete will not be allowed to participate in an athletic event on any day in which they are absent for more than half of the school day. School administration may make exceptions to this rule.

### Athletic Period

The athletic period will be considered a regularly scheduled class period and part of the everyday curriculum of CCS. All high school athletes assigned to the athletic period are required to attend every day. High school students are expected to be dressed and ready to participate 5 minutes after the tardy bell. Middle school students must be dressed and ready by the tardy bell. All athletes must be supervised by a school official at all times. Student-athletes will wear school issued athletic gear and appropriate athletic shoes. Students who are late or absent will face disciplinary action and may be suspended or dismissed from the team. In-season practices may be continued after school hours at the discretion of the coach.

### Cut Policy

Cutting or the elimination of a student-athlete from an athletic team, can occur for any one of the reasons below. (Cuts may occur for disciplinary reasons.)

- o When the number of student-athletes trying out for a particular sport exceeds the roster

size as decided by the Athletic Director and Head Coach. This number will be determined to maximize practice and playing time. Competitive ability also entails the intangibles such as desire, persistence, coachability, attitude, and potential.

- o If players do not possess the physical ability to experience success at that level of competition in the estimation of the Athletic Director or Head Coach.
- o Cuts may occur if a player is at personal risk of serious injury by continuing to participate in that sport as decided by the Athletic Director or Head Coach.

### Playing Time

Equal playing time is neither a requirement nor a goal. It is the intent of the coach to help develop player skills in order to increase playing time for each athlete.

We strive to Conform to Christ (Romans 8:29) and grow to be more like Him because of our involvement in athletics. Let us all strive to keep the main thing the main thing.

### Leaving a Team (Quitting)

Individuals leaving a squad forfeit all awards and may not participate on any other athletic team until the previous sports season has concluded. The student may, at the discretion of the athletic director, be prohibited from playing during the next season as well.

### Multisport athletes and coaches

We will encourage our athletes to participate in as much as they can as long as they can. This participation includes multiple sports and our non-athletic programs as well. This will give students the benefit of serving in different roles and developing traits to work with people of diverse backgrounds, thought processes, and talent levels. It also should be a benefit to each student's spiritual growth to learn from various coaches and sponsors throughout the year.

### Snow Day Policy

If a "snow day" or "emergency day" is called on the day of an athletic contest or practice, the following policy is in effect:

- o The athletic contest or practice is considered canceled unless the Athletic Director and Administration determine it is safe to continue with the contest.
- o In the event that school is closed for inclement weather, no athletic practices or events will be held on those days. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of administration.
- o If bus transportation is required, the Athletic Director makes a decision after communicating with those involved with transportation.

### Wednesday and Sunday Play

Teams sponsored by Clarksville Christian will not schedule games on Wednesday evenings or Sundays. Exceptions to this policy as approved in writing by the Clarksville Christian School Athletic Director can be end of season tournament games or tournament games that have been postponed. Also, to honor Wednesday evenings for local church attendance, all practices will

end by 5:30 PM. In addition, teams sponsored by Clarksville Christian School will not schedule practices on Sundays. Exceptions to this policy as approved in writing by the Clarksville Christian School Athletic Director can be made to accommodate team needs on a case by case basis.

### Media Coverage

All athletes, at any time in or out of season, can have their names and or photos published in local newspapers (both electronic and print), the MTAC website, TNCAA website, the Clarksville Christian website, and/or on other websites and social media outlets. If a parent or guardian does not wish to have their athlete's name and or photo released, a written request must be submitted to the Athletic Director.

### **Conflict Resolution**

#### Conflict Resolution - Player/Coach

Disagreements and misunderstandings may occasionally arise between coaches, players and parents. Inspired by Matthew 18, when such conflicts may occur, conflict resolution should begin at the most direct point. Accordingly, players are expected to first communicate with their coach before involving third parties. Coaches should encourage student athletes to be advocates on their own behalf so that they can better learn to communicate in a world where we are preparing them to be well-equipped adults. If the coach is unable to achieve an acceptable solution, the problem should go to the next level progressively until resolution is met. The following is the CCS student-athlete conflict resolution process:

- Athlete will meet with coach; if resolution is not achieved
- Athlete will meet with coach and athletic director; if resolution is not achieved
- Athlete, parents, coach and athletic director will meet; if resolution is not achieved,
- Athlete, parents, coach and athletic director will meet with the principal; if resolution is not achieved
- Athlete, parents, coach, athletic director, and principal will meet with the president. The decision of the president is final.

For example, a problem with an assistant coach should be directed to that coach first. If further assistance is needed it should be directed to the head coach at that level, but only after communication with the assistant coach has taken place. The organizational flow chart will then be followed progressively to the head varsity coach, the Athletic Director, and the school President. *The child in question needs to be present for each of these meetings.* Remember the goal is unity and peace. \*John 13:34, Romans 12:10, Hebrews 12:4, Romans 15:5, Philippians 2:3, 2 Corinthians 13:11

Parents and coaches are prohibited from discussing conflict at any time on game days. Please wait until the following day to schedule a meeting. Coaches are not allowed to discuss any matter related to another player.

Do not allow parents to schedule a meeting with the athletic director, principal or president until after the issue has been addressed directly with the parties involved and has followed the organizational flow chart.

Parents and players who continually cause conflict without following the proper channels may result in the student being dismissed from the athletic program.

*Coaches must document all meetings and send a copy to the athletic director.*

The following items are not to be discussed with a coach at any time:

- An athlete's playing time.
- Challenges or disagreements with a coaches philosophy as it relates to the game.
- Confidential matters relating to any other player.

### **Travel**

When a team bus or van is used, all players are to ride the bus or van to and from events. The coach is also to be present on the bus. However, the coach may release an athlete to ride with his/her parents from an event once they have provided the coach with written permission.

Athletes may not ride with another athlete unless written permission is obtained.

Coaches may transport groups of athletes when necessary, but a coach may never transport an individual athlete.

All student-athletes will travel to and from athletic contests in school approved travel attire. Students traveling with athletic teams should always be easily recognizable as Clarksville Christian students.

### **Awards**

#### Earning a varsity letter

- o Be in good athletic and academic standing
- o Injured players may receive a letter, according to the discretion of the head coach
- o Attend all practices, games, meets or matches unless excused by the coach with documentation
- o Regular member, player, and contributor to the varsity team
- o At the discretion of the head coach and approved by the Athletic Director

#### Special Awards

The Centurion Athlete Award

Coaches will recommend varsity athletes (juniors and seniors only) who fulfill the following criteria: exemplifies Christ during competition, team leader, spiritual leader, hard working in and out of season, dedicated to athletics, demonstrates a Christ-like attitude, dedicated to Clarksville Christian, scholastically on track. The Centurion Athlete Award will be given to one male and one female athlete at the conclusion of the school year.

### **Parents and Fans**

Spectators are to treat our coaches and players, opposing coaches and players, and the referees and officials in a respectful Christ-like manner.

#### Expectations

- Realize you are a part of a team and community: recognizing your role and the role of others in the body of Christ: Ephesians 4:16
- Resolve conflict Biblically: Matthew 18:15
- Encourage each other: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-12
- Submit to and respect the established patterns of authority: Hebrews 13:17
- Maintain peer, student and parent relationships in a Christ-like manner: Matthew 18:15
- Show proper respect to everyone: Ephesians 6, Romans 13, 1 Peter 2:16-17
- Handle all communication in a biblical and professional manner: Colossians 4:6, James 1:26
- Let no unwholesome talk come out of our mouths: Ephesians 4:29-32
- Learn to rejoice in our struggles and suffering: Romans 5:3-4, James 1:3
- Exhibit loyalty to CCS, our staff, and one another
- Control what we can control (actions toward officials, fans, and opponents)  
James 1:19 “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry”

#### Game Behavior

- May be ejected from the contest for inappropriate behavior.
- Parents and /or fans finding it difficult to “honor the Lord in word or deed” in the stands can expect to be contacted by the Athletic Director to ensure our high standards of conduct are re-established or may be asked not to attend future contests.

- Persistent violations will result in that parent/fan being asked not to attend future contests.

**Statement of Commitment**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of a Clarksville Christian athletic team, do agree to abide by the rules and standards of conduct as stated in the CCS Athletic Handbook. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment.

By signing below, I, the student-athlete, and we, the parents/guardians, agree to the stated responsibilities in the Athletic Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Student-Athlete Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian Signature**

**Date**