



**BETHEL**

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**CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

Athletic Handbook

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Philosophy .....	4
Sports Programs Offered .....	7
Affiliations & Conferences.....	7
A Word to Our Fans & Spectators .....	8
Requirements & Fees .....	9
Academic Eligibility .....	10
Attendance Requirements .....	10
Dress Requirements .....	12
Athletes Code of Conduct.....	13
Sportsmanship.....	14
Quitting .....	15
Transportation.....	15
Uniforms/Equipment/Facilities.....	17
Lettermen Awards .....	18
Special Awards.....	18
Philosophy of Coaches .....	20
“Tid Bits” for Parents.....	21
Miscellaneous .....	22

# PHILOSOPHY

## MISSIONS STATEMENT OF BCA

In pursuit of excellence in education, the mission of Bethel Christian Academy is:

*To assist Christian parents by helping equip students to embrace Biblical truth, strive for academic excellence, and model Christ-like leadership to influence their homes, churches, and communities for Christ.*

## PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The athletic program at Bethel Christian Academy exists for the purpose of developing physical, personal, and spiritual skills of the student-athlete that will have lifelong benefits. In providing opportunities for interscholastic competition, the athletic department seeks to support the overall mission of the school, and to promote the Biblical ideal that everything should be done to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31)

In the context of athletic activity, the student is exposed to the following spiritual concepts which are profitable for each participant:

1. Obedience – Do what your coaches and others whom God has put in authority over you tell you to do with a good attitude. If you have a question, do not be afraid to ask for clarification.
2. Diligence – Use all your strength and ability to complete each part of your task, whether it be cleaning up, doing drills, conditioning, competing in a game, or any other activity.

3. Responsibility – Do everything that is expected of you, whether being directly supervised or not. Do not make the coach “baby sit” you.
4. Determination – Make up your mind to accomplish all of God’s goals in His time, regardless of the opposition.
5. Confidence – Remember, as you give totally all you have to Jesus, you become a winner in God’s sight.
6. Intensity – Give a “total release” performance at all times, focusing your attention on the job at hand, putting forth every effort to complete it perfectly.
7. Perseverance – Always do your best and try to win, as this is the object of competition. **If you have done your best, there is nothing to regret.**
8. Respect – Following the Golden Rule, learning to congratulate other teammates and opponents when appropriate. Loving others is the second greatest commandment.

## WINNING AND LOSING

As a popular sports program states, athletic competition always ends in the “thrill of victory or the agony of defeat.” While the victor can be humble there is still that thrill that goes along with the victory, and though his opponent may have given his best effort there is still that agony that goes along with defeat. The differentiating factor that separates the Christian from the secular is the attitude of the contestant, both in victory and defeat.

Athletics can be an excellent opportunity to put Christianity in the spotlight. In fact, athletics will put Christianity in the spotlight; the important part is the direction in which the shadow

falls. Any contest worth participating in is worth winning. Good losers are still losers. It is not the contest itself that is good or bad, it is the participants that determine its value to the cause of Christ. It is the attitude of the participant that makes it a victory or a defeat.

The world tends to look at only the final outcome of a contest. The Christian athletic program should be more goals oriented than won-lost directed. Therefore here are two good definitions to keep in mind:

### **Winning**

-doing everything possible to prepare for the competition and then putting forth the very best effort to win the contest within the rules and with the right attitude.

### **Losing**

-not performing up to the prescribed standards.

## SPORTS PROGRAMS OFFERED

### FALL SEASON

#### *BOYS*

Varsity Soccer  
J.V. Football  
Varsity Football  
Cross Country

#### *GIRLS*

J.V. Volleyball  
Varsity Volleyball  
Cross Country

### WINTER SEASON

#### *BOY*

Middle School Basketball  
J.V. Basketball  
Varsity Basketball

#### *GIRLS*

Middle School Basketball  
J.V. Basketball  
Varsity Basketball  
Cheerleading

### SPRING SEASON

#### *BOYS*

Middle School Baseball  
Varsity Baseball  
Varsity Golf  
Shooting Team

#### *GIRLS*

Varsity Soccer  
Varsity Softball  
Varsity Golf  
Shooting Team

## AFFILIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

North Carolina Christian School Association  
2A Division, Section 4

North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association  
1A Division

## A WORD TO OUR FANS AND SPECTATORS

BCA students are all aware of the standards set forth by the school, but oftentimes are unaware of what we expect from our spectators. Therefore, we have listed a few things to keep in mind when you attend a BCA athletic event.

1. Do not criticize. Fans sometimes feel that they are able to do it better, but that is not their job. Support the players and coaches; **build them up – don't tear them down!**
2. Never under any circumstances “yell at” the opposition, coaches, referees or home team. (In basketball – never yell or attempt to distract a player shooting a free throw)
3. Realize that the word Christian means “Christ-like”. We as Christians are always testimonies, whether good or bad. BCA wants to portray a good testimony always, **but especially to the public and private schools we compete against and the referees who may or may not be Christians.**
4. Each year our athletic program strives to win the NCCSA Eddie Blalock Sportsmanship Award.
5. LONG AFTER THE SCORE IS FORGOTTEN, OUR BEHAVIOR AND REPUTATION IS REMEMBERED.
6. No pets allowed at any school function.

**Thanks for your help!**

## REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

1. Each athlete must be currently enrolled and have a new or updated physical before each school year. The BCA Physical Exam form can be found at the school office. The athlete cannot compete in tryouts, practice, or games without a new or updated physical. One physical per school year takes care of all sports for that school year.
2. A “Player & Parent Agreement” form and a “Permission to Participate” form must be filled out and signed for each student.
3. All students who participate in athletics will be charged an athletic participation fee. The purpose for this fee is to reduce the amount of money used from the general fund to cover athletic expenses. For specific fees, see Sports Fee section on Tuition Rate Sheet.
4. All families with children participating in athletics are strongly encouraged to join the BCA Booster Club. The BCA Booster Club provides financial assistance to the athletic department in order to continually improve facilities and athletic equipment. The BCA Booster Club covers the cost of our yearly Athletic Banquet. Contact the school office for more information.
5. Athletic fees are expected to be paid at the beginning of each season. Failure to do so may result in a loss of participation privileges. In the event of a financial difficulty, contact the business manager to discuss other arrangements.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Each athlete must be currently enrolled and have a new or updated physical before each school year. The BCA Physical Exam form can be found at the school office. The athlete **cannot** compete in tryouts, practice, or games without a new or updated physical. One physical per school year takes care of all sports for that school year.
2. Students must maintain a minimum of an overall “C” average with no subject average that is failing. Grade checks are 7 times a year. (4 progress reports and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-weeks)
3. Students with ineligible grades on their report card will be given until the next grade check to bring their grades up. If their grades have not been brought up to eligibility standards, they will be declared ineligible.
4. Students must attend at least a half day of school on the day of the game or they will not be allowed to participate in that particular game/practice.

Ineligibility eliminates both athletic practices and game participation until eligibility is granted by the administration.

The administration along with the athletic director and coaches will discipline any student guilty of manifesting a poor attitude or unsportsmanlike conduct as well as general athletic standards.

Students must ride to and from the away games by school provided transportation. They are not to ride with other students or adults, or parents of other participants. Parents must contact the coach prior to a game if special arrangements are to be made.

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

### Practices and Games:

1. Once you have joined a team, you have committed yourself to that team until the last game is completed.
2. Players must be at every practice or game unless excused for one of the following reasons:
  - doctor or dental appointment
  - personal sickness
  - death in the family
  - previously scheduled church commitment
3. We do not have practices scheduled on Wednesdays.
4. BCA is supportive of the many local churches whose members make up our student body. We would never schedule a game on Wednesday or a practice or game on Sunday that would interfere with a regularly scheduled worship service. We try to schedule as few Saturday events as possible. We encourage our families to be actively involved in the local church. However, any athlete who misses a practice or game may have to make up practice activities and face the team's policy for reduction in playing time. This is not meant as punishment for an excusable absence, but a reward and incentive to those team members who were present. A team member who **must** miss a practice or game may return to their former status as soon as they have fulfilled the team's policy for absences.
5. Each coach will announce their discipline procedure for missed practices or games. Multiple unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

6. All athletes must be on time to practices and games. Coaches will announce their discipline procedures for tardiness.

### **School Attendance:**

Students must attend at least a half day of school on the day of the game or they will not be allowed to participate in that particular game/practice.

## **DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

1. All team members must wear the appropriate team uniforms for whatever sport they are participating in. If the student is injured or unable to play for another reason they must either be in uniform or school dress.
2. At home games the students must be in school dress until they change into their team uniform at the time prescribed by their coach.
3. After home games the students must either change back into school dress or remain in their team uniform. If “warm-ups” or wind-suits are available students need to be in these instead of uniforms.
4. At away games all team members must be dressed in the same manner. This will either be school dress, team “warm-ups” / wind-suits, or team uniforms.

5. Student athletes may not wear headphones or earbuds on game days in the gym or in any building in which the team is traveling - ex. Restaurants, opponents gym floor area, and bleacher area. May be used on team bus and in locker rooms.
6. We must remember that we are always representing our families, our school and our Lord. Therefore, whatever we are wearing it needs to be neat and clean.

## **ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT**

It is considered a privilege to represent Bethel Christian Academy as a member of any athletic team. In order to keep that privilege, each athlete will be expected to set a good example for others to follow.

1. Every athlete is expected to maintain a good Christian testimony. At any time, an athlete not maintaining a Christian testimony on or off the field or in the classroom may be suspended or dismissed from the team.
2. Any student who receives multiple detentions or a suspension may be removed from the team as well.
3. The use of profanity will not be tolerated. The use of profanity on or off the field will result in a suspension or removal from a team.
4. Fighting during athletic events will result in a suspension from game play as well as suspension from school.

5. Bethel Christian Academy does not condone and will not tolerate “hazing” or “initiations” of athletes by other athletes. Any such actions will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic team.
6. Any athlete or coach that is ejected from a game will be suspended for the next game. If the athlete or coach receives a second ejection, he/she will be suspended for two games. A third ejection will result in dismissal from the team and forfeiture of athletic privileges for remainder of the school year.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

For the Christian, sportsmanship requires participating in any activity in a way that honors the Lord Jesus Christ. It involves an attitude of not looking on our own interests, but also on the interests of others. It involves self-control in spite of real or perceived unfairness. It involves actions that are noble, which give no appearance of evil and that are well within the rules of the activity. It involves wholesome speech that gives no offence. It involves submission to the authority of the officials and to the coaching staff. Sportsmanship is Christianity applied to the games of life.

Athletes and coaches at Bethel Christian Academy are to be exemplary in their display of sportsmanship during games and practices. Team members should congratulate opponents after a game with a customary handshake and kind word. Physical and/or verbal abuse aimed at an opponent, official, coach, or teammate will result in immediate discipline by the coach, and possibly, the administration. Taunting and/or inappropriate

language directed toward an opponent or teammate is not “part of the game,” and is inconsistent with the mission of Bethel Christian Academy.

Athletes are to demonstrate sportsmanship and an attitude of cooperation with coaches and teammates. An athlete who has a grievance with the coach or another player should attempt to resolve the problem with that individual first, in private, in accordance with Biblical principle. Matters of disagreement and dispute should be kept confidential between the individuals involved. If the situation remains unresolved, the athletic director should be informed.

## QUITTING

1. Character is not built by quitting. Trying times are not times to quit trying.
2. A student may drop off the team anytime before the day before the first game without penalty. After that period of time no student may quit the team without penalty. There should be a strong sense of belonging to the team even when personal injuries would restrict the individual’s participation in practices and games. An injured player is expected to be at all practices and games as if he were healthy.
3. Any athlete who quits a team will sit out the next sports season. (Example: an athlete who quits soccer must sit out basketball that winter)
4. An athlete who quits or is removed from the team roster will forfeit any post-season rewards such as team pictures, letters, awards, etc. Participation fees are non-refundable.

5. Exceptions to this rule would be for family hardships, severe injury, or serious academic problems. The athletic director and the principal will decide any exceptions.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

This policy applies to all off-campus games and tournaments when the school provides transportation. It does not apply to activities for which the school does not provide transportation.

1. Students must ride to and from the away games by school provided transportation. They are not to ride with other students or adults, or parents of other participants. Parents must contact the coach prior to a game if special arrangements are to be made.
2. At the discretion of the school, a team member living in the vicinity of an away game may be allowed to drive to the game if the school is provided with written or verbal permission. No student or team member other than a member of the driver's immediate family will be allowed to ride with the student.
3. A team member may ride home from an off-campus game with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian provided that the coach has been notified by written or verbal communication from the parent(s) or legal guardian prior to leaving the game.
4. A team member is not allowed to ride home with someone else's parents/family. The only exception would be if that team member's parents received prior approval to allow their child to ride with someone else's parents/families due to some family hardship. This will be the exception, not the rule.

5. Bethel Christian Academy is not responsible for lost or stolen items on our away games. Be very cautious with what items you bring with you to away games.
6. No food is to be carried onto the travel bus. Only screw-cap bottle drinks are allowed on the travel bus/van.
7. The back of the bus is off limits to couples. On the bus, during day travel, each gender will sit on different sides of the bus. During night travel, the groups will be divided front and back.
8. Players should see that the bus is clean and tidy after each trip. Certainly, we expect each coach, player, and other riders to help by not littering and not damaging the property. Immediate dismissal from the team may result if a player is found to be damaging the property/vehicle. Let us all commit to protecting our property.
9. Players should make sure all equipment, balls, coolers, cups, etc. are removed from bus when bus arrives home..
10. Hats/Hoods are not permitted on game days inside of any building.

Our student athletes are the greatest ambassadors for Bethel Christian Academy. In all our dress and behavior we must remember that we not only represent ourselves, but we represent Bethel Christian Academy and most importantly our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT / FACILITIES**

1. All equipment and uniforms used by athletic teams at BCA are the property of the school.
2. Any uniforms or equipment issued to an athlete are the athlete's responsibility to return in good shape.
3. School uniforms are only to be worn for games, not practices or other functions.
4. Replacement cost for lost or damaged uniforms or equipment will be charged to the athlete.
5. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach. Coaches are responsible for uniform inventory.
6. Facilities of Bethel Christian Academy should be protected and maintained as diligently as possible.
7. Dirty shoes or cleats should never be worn inside any building.
8. Goals, bases, fences, lockers, locker rooms, bleachers, chairs, etc. should be treated with care so that they will last as long as possible.

## **LETTERMEN AWARDS**

1. The school will have an athletic banquet at the conclusion of the school year. At this time all athletic awards and letters shall be presented. Student Athletes receive letters at the discretion of the coach.
2. First year Varsity lettermen will receive their letter (one time award) and a pin for each sport lettered.

3. Every subsequent year that an athlete letters he will receive a service bar for each sport the letter in.
4. Managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers will receive letters, pins and service bars each season according to the above guidelines.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

1. Only athletes who finish the season still on the team roster will be recognized at the awards banquet.
2. Middle School teams will award no more than 3 individual trophies for each sport. Junior Varsity and Varsity teams will award no more than 4 individual trophies for each sport. The coach for each particular sport will determine the categories.

Possible Trophies:

Most Valuable Player	Best Offense
Best Defense	Coaches Award
Most Improved	Christian Leadership

3. An athlete who has been suspended from the team during the season will not be eligible for an individual award.
4. The following awards will be awarded as well:

Stephen Jerome Smith  
 Junior High (6-9) Male Athlete of the Year  
 Junior High (6-9) Female Athlete of the Year

Damon Jones  
 High School (10-12) Male Athlete of the Year  
 High School (10-12) Female Athlete of the Year  
 Scholar Athlete - (12<sup>th</sup> grade award)

5. To be eligible for an “Athlete of the Year Award,” athletes must have participated in at least two sports, but higher consideration will be given to those who participated in three sports. Cheerleaders will also be considered for the female athletes of the year. The “Athletes of the Year” must not have been placed on academic or behavioral probation at any point during the year, and must be a Christian example both on and off the field.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF COACHES**

In all aspects of life, whether occupation or recreation, Christians must realize that they are to put Jesus Christ first in every situation. The Student-athlete and coach are no exceptions to this rule; they should not place athletics before their relationship with God. The athlete and coach should find time to study God’s Word and pray as they strive to know Him and make Him known. The prayer is that our athletes become more like Christ because of the daily example of the coach, administration and teachers.

The student-athlete should develop a thirst to be the very best with his/her God-given talents. The coach performs a critical role in this development. The student-athlete should discern the difference between a prepared and unprepared coach. The prepared coach is enthusiastic about each day’s practice and has a schedule of events to develop all student-athletes to their fullest potential. The coach should help student-athletes gain exposure and possible scholarships as they make the transition from high school to college.

During the battle of competition the student-athlete may feel cheated by an official's decision which the athlete assumes is unfair. The coach demonstrates leadership at this time by displayed attitude, actions, and communication to the officials. The coach should be in control of the team during all circumstances relating to competition and the school.

Winning is of great importance to the program; however, to sacrifice Christ-likeness qualities to win a physical victory does not achieve the goal. The student-athlete and coach should realize there are two victories: the spiritual and the physical. The goal should be to attain the spiritual victory at each practice and competition. The physical victory should be the next goal, and its meaning is made valid though the spiritual victory.

The student-athlete and coach have an awesome responsibility of maintaining Christ-like qualities. The athlete and coach are looked upon as leaders by the administration and are constantly being observed. They should set the example in all the areas of living the Christian Life. Any coach or helper that is not exemplary to our standards will not be allowed to lead or help any of our teams. Everyone serving in BCA's Athletic Department will serve under the discretion of the AD and Administrators. These qualities are difficult to maintain unless Christ is the motivation. The student-athlete and coach may often feel pressure to perform for friends, but this is not the motivation that should enhance a Christ-centered athletic program. Colossians 3:23 tells us that we are to do all as unto the Lord rather than men. Athletics is an opportunity to practice the principles of God's Word, such as subjecting one's self to authority, working together as members of the body of Christ, and controlling the emotions that arise in competition. Athletic competition offers an arena for the demonstration of our faith in Jesus Christ and opens doors for active ministry.

## **TID BITS FOR PARENTS**

1. The best way to help your athlete is to provide encouragement and to be positive, both at home and in the stands. If there is a problem, have your child talk to his coach. If the problem is not resolved or if it is of a serious nature, then call the coach yourself. If no solution can be reached at that point, then call the athletic director to set up a meeting with all parties involved.
2. Know that you are the most important person in your child's life, and that he wants you to be proud of him. Be in the stands, rain or shine, and cheer.
3. Give the coach the benefit of the doubt. They have many players to consider.
4. Playing time is based on the coaches' discretion.
5. Be realistic in your expectations. Expect your child to do their best. Not everyone will be the star.
6. Praise your child even if he only plays a little. Their main contribution to the team may be the practice time. Teams that succeed always have those players who push "the starters" in practice and make the team better.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The athletic director and administration will decide any questions or issues not discussed in this handbook. The policies outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook supersede the Athletic Handbook if a difference should be found.

