

New Life Christian Academy Athletic Policy

2023-2024

Purpose

The purpose of Athletics at New Life Christian Academy is to consistently portray the image of Christ with our God-given talents and abilities, encourage growth in the whole person, spiritually and physically, while building character and developing community.

New Life Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, birth gender, ethnic origin or age in its employment or admissions.

Character Education and Athletics

We expect our student-athletes, parents, and coaches to exemplify the character of Christ as we compete in athletics. In order to accomplish this, there must be a higher level of accountability. Student-athletes have both the privilege and the responsibility of representing our school. These students are always representatives of Christ to those who see them. This increased visibility demands that the students be held to a higher standard of conduct that is glorifying to God, both in school and out of school. “So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” (Philippians 2:15-16a)

Character Goals and Expectations

The following are some of the character qualities we are seeking to build in our student-athletes through New Life Christian Academy Athletics. Each is drawn from God’s Word. Our expectation is not that of achieving perfection, but of growing in conformity to Christ in very visible and very practical ways.

Respect for Authority

Obey and cooperate with your coach; honor the official. Recognize that they are placed in their positions of authority by God, and as such are owed your respect.

Humility

Don’t boast; don’t act proud. Show forth the attitude that God is the one who is ultimately responsible for your abilities and successes.

Endurance

Persevere in the face of pressure, hard work, and discouragement. Keep your eyes fixed on the higher goals. Don't quit; don't let up!

Intensity

Play on the edge of your limits. Give everything you've got at all times. Focus your total attention on the job at hand and put forth every effort to execute it perfectly. Don't be content with mediocrity; strive for excellence!

Enthusiasm

Carry out each task promptly and eagerly. Enjoy the game!

Faith

Show that you know the Lord is in control of every situation and is carrying out His will in your life—even when things don't seem to go your way.

Respect for the Opposition

Be courteous. Don't let up on them. They deserve your best effort, regardless of the score. Commend an opponent's excellence. Shake a hand!

Responsibility

Be where you need to be when you need to be there. Do what is expected of you even without direct supervision. Choose to work and to make wise decisions on your own initiative.

Integrity

Be honest! Earn a good name as one who is trustworthy. Play by the rules of the game. Have a sense of fair play that comes from a real commitment to the truth.

Teamwork

Don't be selfish; conform your personal goals to team goals. Spur each other on to excellence. Cheer for each other. When someone's struggling, stick with them. Be a team!

Servanthood

Look for ways to serve your teammates, your coach, and your school. Remember Jesus' example.

Self-control

Know yourself. Know how you tend to act under stress. Recognize areas of weakness, and train yourself to respond in a godly way.

Athletic Consequences for Student Disciplinary Issues

Disciplinary Write Ups

After a student receives a write up the parent will be notified by the Head of School to discuss the disciplinary write-up.

Parental Notification and conference with parents and Head of School and forfeiture of all extracurricular activities will occur after the 6th write up.

If a student is suspended for one day (after 3 write ups), the following consequences will occur: The student shall not participate in any athletic events on the day suspended and may not attend an activity without administrative permission. The final decision on when and how long the suspension from athletic activities will last will be determined by the school administration and athletic staff.

A suspension of two or more days or a second one-day suspension (after 6th write up) results in automatic suspension from participation in sports for a probationary period to be determined by the administration.

Athletic Department Chain of Command

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The AD works with the Head of School to provide a quality program. Each Assistant/Volunteer Coach reports directly to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to your son/daughter's coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment with the Head of School. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the AD/coaches. While you may not agree with every decision of the AD/coach, how and when you express your feelings may have a negative effect on your child and on the team. The time immediately following a game is an emotional time, so please refrain from approaching a coach with issues at that time. A good standard to follow is "right time, right place, and right spirit."

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and coaches must understand the expectations and philosophies of one another. Clear communication is important.

Communication you will expect from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for the team members.
3. Locations and times of all games and practices.
4. Approximate return times for all away games.
5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
6. Procedure to follow for injuries.
7. Discipline that would affect playing time.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
2. Specific concern regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

Sportsmanship Standards

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31, “whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Athletics can be used to develop many positive qualities in student-athletes, parents, and spectators. We must maintain a Christ-like testimony while in the midst of competition. The following guidelines have been developed to help us maintain a godly walk and testimony.

For the Coach...

1. Exemplify godly character, behavior, and leadership at all times.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual student-athlete.
3. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials. Show respect to the officials.

For the Student-Athlete...

1. Accept the responsibility of representing New Life Christian Academy.
2. Treat opponents and teammates with self-control and respect.
3. Avoid actions and words that demean or taunt opponents.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
6. Shake hands with opponents after the game. Treat the competition as a game, not a battle.

For the Spectators...

1. Remember that you are at an athletic contest involving school students. They are not adults or professionals.
2. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and cheerleaders.
3. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials.
4. Avoid personal contact with the officials.
5. Avoid booing, taunting, and sarcastic and personal comments directed at opposing players and referees.
6. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
7. Do not use noisemakers during the contest.

Speech:

Proverbs 16:23 “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”

1. Choose your words and your timing wisely. Questionable language or “slang” words will not be tolerated. The student-athlete will never engage in any language that can be termed “trash talking” or profanity.
2. The student-athlete will address the coaches and officials with respect. The student-athlete will address the coach as “Coach” or “Mr., Miss or Mrs.” and will take concerns or complaints directly to him/her. Insubordination and divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. The student-athlete will address officials as “Sir” or “Ma’am”.
3. Never criticize the officials or coaches. Coaches and officials represent the authority figure. Obedience to authority is not optional and is not predicated on whether or not you agree with it. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God.

Unity:

I Corinthians 12:12 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

1. Develop unity within your team. “It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.” -John Wooden
2. Develop unity with our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different responsibilities, abilities and roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else’s role. Be busy fulfilling your role.
3. Develop unity within the Kingdom. We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for New Life Christian Academy.

Motives:

I Corinthians 10:31 “...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

1. Be motivated by the love of God. Live for Him because He gave His life for us.
2. Strive for victory in order to glorify God. Athletics is just a means to an end and not the end itself. “Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility.” John Wooden
3. Demonstrating Christ in our lives by abiding by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair “gamesmanship” will not be tolerated.

4. Committed to excellence. Be committed to excellence in all areas: faith, practice, academics and game preparation. “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” Proverbs 16:3
5. Play and act like a CHAMPION!

Behavior:

I John 2:6 “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

1. The student-athlete will maintain a good reputation. The student-athlete’s character will be in good standing with the administration, faculty, and staff. The student-athlete will refrain from the use of profanity, suggestive or threatening language, or innuendos. The student-athlete will not be under the influence of, possess, or sell alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. Any student who is suspended for illegal use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco will be ineligible for the next two scheduled athletic contests. The student-athlete will not be involved in any immoral sexual activity or be in possession of any pornography or illicit pictures or literature.
2. The student-athlete will meet all eligibility requirements.
3. The student-athlete will know and understand all the requirements. The student-athlete will know all the expectations of their team and will follow them both in action and in spirit.
4. The student-athlete will show respect for all coaches and all staff personnel. This includes game plans, methods, and philosophies.
5. The student-athlete will show respect for their teammates. The student-athlete will respect the seriousness of their commitment by attending all practices, meetings, and games as prescribed at the beginning of the season and by working together to accomplish a common goal. Help to hold your teammates accountable for their actions.
6. The student-athlete will maintain a high standard of appearance. He/she will adhere to the strictest interpretations of the school dress code and the team dress and uniform code while at school and on any school trip.
7. The student-athlete will demonstrate Christ-like character. Both in and out of the arena showing respect in speech and in actions for game officials, opponents, and all those associated with our opponents.
8. The student-athlete will never engage in fighting. The student-athlete will maintain self- control at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct, penalties, and technical fouls will not be tolerated and will be penalized. Penalties include, but are not limited to, suspension or dismissal from the team.
9. The student-athlete will know and understand our philosophy. The student-athlete will respect the eternal effects of their speech and actions as they represent themselves, their families, their school, their church and ultimately their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Practice and Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. Student-athletes with an unexcused absence from practice or games are subject to athletic suspension.

Academic Requirements

New Life Christian Academy believes that participation in co-curricular activities is part of the student's educational experience. However, when involvement in a co-curricular activity interferes with his/her academic performance, in the best interest of the student, he/she must set aside the co-curricular activity to concentrate on their academic studies.

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must meet or surpass academic standards. Each semester's grade report determines eligibility for the following semester. If a student has a failing grade in more than one class, he/she is ineligible to participate for the duration of the following semester.

An athlete who is struggling academically may be placed on academic probation at the end of a quarter or semester and may be suspended from athletic participation for a period of time as a means to encourage greater academic success. Any decision involving a suspension will be made jointly by the athletic department and administration.

Athletic Theme Verses:

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

“And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable.” I Corinthians 9:25

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13