

HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Welcome to Harvest Christian Academy Athletics!

We are excited and looking forward to having your child participate in athletics here at Harvest Christian Academy. We are committed to using athletics to disciple our student athletes in and for Jesus Christ, and are thankful for the opportunity to work with your students to that purpose. As a former athlete, some of my fondest memories and most positive life lessons and patterns came through my participation in athletics, and it is my prayer that your child would experience the same joy and growth in their years here at HCA.

The following handbook has been developed to provide you with the HCA Athletics goals for the school year and set expectations for HCA student athletes. My prayer is that now having this knowledge, we would be able to work together to facilitate the highest level of growth and enjoyment for your student athlete during their career here at HCA.

We look forward to working alongside you this year, continuing to build and create the athletic program here at HCA. Above all, we wish to strive to be THE example of all a school and athletic program should be, all for the glory of God.

God Bless,

HCA Athletics Department

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PHILOSOPHY

We believe in the use of Athletics for the purpose of discipling our student athletes in and for Jesus Christ. We believe that the principles and characteristics that we teach and are needed for success in athletics: discipline, responsibility, leadership, selflessness, sacrifice, work ethic, courage, perseverance and accountability, are the same principles that our students need to become leaders for Jesus Christ, in a world that needs strong leaders for Jesus Christ. We also believe that we, as believers in Jesus Christ, are to strive for excellence in all things for the Lord, and our performance and effort in athletics should be no different. Therefore, we will be tenacious and driven in our preparation and competition, but in victory or defeat, we will always exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship and integrity, that we may glorify our Father in Heaven.

ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

- Attendance to all practices and matches are mandatory.
- If an athlete is injured, they will **still attend all practices and games**.
- If an athlete absolutely cannot attend practice or competition, **the athlete must personally call or talk to the coach in person to explain**. Coach will determine whether absence is excused.
- Unexcused absence will result in athlete not starting and possibly participating in the next contest, and any absence the day prior to a contest will likely result in the player not participating in the next contest.
- Three strike policy: If three unexcused absences occur, the player will be removed from the team.

Behavior

The principles of how we carry ourselves are essential to our mission to glorify God, and make believers of all nations, and the world is watching. Be different, be set apart.

- **Self-Control** - Timothy 1:7, Philippians 4:11-12, Athletes will control what they can control, which is themselves. Negative attitude and responses to officials, coaches, or fans will not be tolerated.
- **Love** - Ephesians 4:15-16, John 13:34, We will live with one another in an understanding way, and will work to build up and encourage one another. "You before me" will be our motto with all teams.

- **Respect** - Do it, Do it immediately, Do it with a good attitude. We will accept coaching and teaching and be show respect and appreciation for our coaches and parents who are sacrificing to allow us to participate in athletics.
- **Witness** - Matthew 5:14-16, We are a Christian school, and the world is watching. Our behavior will be pivotal in sending a message and example to the world of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and we will either be a carpenter or a termite. Be a witness, example and light for Jesus Christ.

Criminal Activity

Any use of Alcohol, Drugs, or criminal activity will result in a student's removal from athletic competition for the remainder of current season. A second offense will result in the end of a student's athletic career at Harvest Christian Academy.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

This athletic program is not about your athlete individually; it is about your athlete as a part of the team here at Harvest Christian Academy. Please know that this is how this program will be run, and please curb your expectations accordingly.

Attendance

At least one parent of a student athlete is **required to attend the Athletics 101 meeting**. If both parents miss this meeting, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in an athletic contest until a one on one meeting with the parent and Athletic Director has been completed.

Behavior

The principles of how we carry ourselves are essential to our mission to glorify God, and make believers of all nations, and the world is watching. Be different, be set apart.

- **Self-Control** - Timothy 1:7, Philippians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 6:19-20-We must control our actions and our words. We cannot control others, but we can control ourselves.
- **Love** - Ephesians 4:15-16, John 13:34, We are here to
- **Respect** - Opponents, Coaches, Other fans, Referees, **other players**- Be an example to your children, your peers, our school and athletic program, and the world for Christ.
- **Speech** - Watch your mouth. Swearing is not acceptable, nor is talking about other players. Know that you are sitting next to other teams' parents and the HCA player's parents, and that swearing and negative talk about their kids will not facilitate great relationship or community, nor be a great witness for Christ. Be on your guard.

- **DO NOT** instruct your child during game; **Cheer the team.** Positive encouragement to the team only.
- **DO NOT** communicate disapproval of officiating or coaching during contests, or frankly ever in front of your athlete. The example and attitude you set will be the standard for your student athlete, and their respect for the coaches and program's leadership is at stake. They will model your attitude and opinions, and this can be good or very detrimental to the team and process. Please keep this at your forefront, and be on your guard in this area.
- **Witness** - Matthew 5:14-16- In all of the aforementioned attributes, let's keep a perspective of what our goal is, and act accordingly.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are building an elite level athletic program here at HCA that has a goal of discipling and training up your children to be leaders for Jesus Christ, and hopefully shine a light for The Lord in our community and world. In order to achieve this goal for the benefit of your children and Glory of God, we need your support.

Serving Requirements

Amount Required

Two serving sessions are required PER athlete PER season.

For example, if John Smith were to play soccer and baseball, then his family would be required to serve four sessions. However, if John Smith had a sister who played volleyball, then the Smith family would be required to serve six sessions.

If you cannot or choose not to volunteer, you can pay online or deliver a \$50 PER SESSION buyout check to the Athletic Department by athlete's first home game of the season.

If you have questions regarding how many sessions are required, please contact Sydney Doby at sdoby@harvestchristianacademy.org.

How to Sign Up

HCA uses Sign Up Genius to schedule all serving sessions. Here are the steps to sign up:

Go to HCA Essentials, scroll down to the Athletics section, and click on "Concessions and Gate Volunteer Sign-Up" (HCA's Sign Up Genius home page should open).

All available shifts will be listed by date and type. Hit the "Sign-Up" button.

Fill in your name, email, and phone number.

You should receive a confirmation, and your name will appear on the Sign Up Genius Home page next to the shift you signed up for.

Serving Options

- *Concessions:* Duties include, but are not limited to: set up, tear down, collecting money, giving change, running credit cards through the iPad, getting customers their purchases.
- *Gate:* For most home games we have a gate attendant that collects admissions. Duties include: collecting money, giving change, directing individuals, and answering questions.
- *Book:* Some games require a book record to be kept during the game. Book volunteers must be trained and do book for a Middle School game BEFORE they can sign up for a High School slot.
- *Scoreboard:* All indoor activities require a scorekeeper. Please show up 15 min early for this shift so you can be trained and help run the clock for warm ups.
- *Office:* Occasionally during busy seasons of the year office serving sessions will be posted on Sign Up Genius. Duties will vary for this position, but may include activities like organizing inventory and entering data into spreadsheets.

Booster Club

HCA athletics also depends on the continued and regular support of our Athletics Booster Club to grow, expand and improve the athletic program for the benefit of your children here at HCA. For more information about HCA's Booster Club, contact Sydney Doby at sdoby@harvestchristianacademy.org.

GRADES AND ELIGIBILITY

Policies

According to IHSA, students shall be doing passing work in at least twenty-five (25) credit hours of school work per week, per IHSA bylaw 3.021. This is the equivalent of passing 5 classes weekly at HCA.

HCA Athletic Eligibility Policy

A student may not have **more than 2 points** to be eligible to participate in athletics. A "D" grade is equal to 1 point, and an "F" grade is equal to 2 points.

- Grade reports are run at noon on Thursdays by the athletic director, and this information will be forwarded to the coaching staff to communicate and help remedy these situations with the students.
- It is the responsibility of students and parents to monitor and stay on top of their academic standing and progress.
- If a student is ineligible four times (4) over the course of their respective sport season, they will be removed from the team for the rest of that season to focus on academics.

Ineligibility Periods

If a student is deemed ineligible on the Thursday grade report, their period of ineligibility will run from the next Monday through the following Sunday. If an ineligible student is deemed eligible on the following Thursday's grade report, they will become eligible that following Monday.

Ineligible Student Expectations

Students who are found ineligible are:

- Not allowed to miss classes due to early release for travel with teams.
- Required to practice with their teams and attend all contests (provided they aren't required to miss class to attend due to early release), but will not dress in uniform at those contests, nor warm up with their team.

PUNCTUALITY AND TIMELINESS

- It is the expected and mandatory that our athletes are **15 minutes early** to every practice.
- It is also mandatory that every athlete is early to every event, or coach's stated arrival time for games.
- If a player is unable to be timely in their arrival, they must communicate this with the Coach. This does not mean that this tardiness is acceptable.
- Repeated offense of this rule will result in removal of the athlete from the team.

COMMUNICATION

Parent Communication Guidelines

Playing time

There will be **no discussion between parents and coaches regarding playing time** of any athlete in our program. This is a very subjective call that a coach must make in managing a team, and there is confidence in our HCA coaching staff's ability to do this fairly and effectively.

The HCA coaching staff welcomes the opportunity to discuss with parents what their students can do to improve on their athletic performance and contribute more for the benefit of the team, however immediately prior or after a game is not an appropriate time for these conversations. Please schedule a time with the coach to discuss these things after a practice or at another time.

Complaints

Please follow the principles given in Matthew 18 in resolving conflict. Please go directly to the coach, do not go to other parents or fans. If this matter cannot be resolved at that level, please

do not hesitate to contact the Athletic Director. If we still cannot settle this dispute I encourage you to follow it up with the High School and Middle School Principal.

Conflict

Conflict may and often does arise during the course of an athletic season, and over the course of time will assuredly arise. Again, please follow the principles found in Matthew 18 when dealing with conflict. How we deal with that conflict will determine how strong we become as a school, athletic program, family and community. A team that divides itself, is a team that is easy to defeat. It is important that we are honest, open and willing to resolve conflict.

Athlete Communication Guidelines

Absence

As stated previously, students must personally talk to their coaches to inform them of a lateness or absence, prior to this situation taking place. **If a child is sick**, please have them email the coach through SchoolWay, so that they may be prepared for a practice, or to set a lineup and game plan for a contest.

Questions, Comments, and Concerns

If an athlete has a question about what is expected of them or what their role is on a team, we encourage the student to go to their coach to receive these answers. This communication and process is an essential part of a child's growth and is an opportunity for our student athletes to develop and grow in this essential life skill.

If a student is unclear after their conversation with the coach, a meeting with the parent and coach can be arranged. However, these meeting and conversations should never occur the day of, or 24 hours after game-days.

Conflict

If the student has any conflicts on the team, please follow the principles found in Matthew 18, and try to work the problem out with the person directly, not talk to other athletes about the problem. If the problem cannot be resolved, please have all parties meet with the coach in person.

Communication Platforms

SchoolWay

Available on IOS, Android, and computer based platforms, SchoolWay will be the MAIN form of communication between coaches, parents, and players. All parents are required to have a SchoolWay account and subscribe to their team "channel." Please ask your coaches for help if needed.

8to18

All team schedules, rosters, and results can be found on 8to18 at to <http://il.8to18.com/harvest/>

UNIFORMS

Distribution

At the beginning of an athlete's season, they will be assigned uniform pieces according to which sport they play (jersey, jackets, etc.). Each uniform piece has a number either written on the tags of the uniform or on the uniform itself. When uniforms are given out, the Athletic Department will immediately record the numbered piece that was given, and athletes will sign the documentation.

Athletes are NOT allowed to switch any uniform pieces on their own, even if they ask their coach. Athletes may ask the athletic department staff for permission to switch uniforms. If there is fault (tear, stain, etc.) with the uniform, it is the student's responsibility to report that to the Athletic Department staff WHEN they get the uniform.

Athletes are responsible for making sure they leave practices/games with the uniform pieces originally assigned to them. [Ex: if another athlete accidentally grabbed your student's jacket or pants, it your student's responsibility to retrieve the missing uniform piece.]

Care and Washing

During the season, it is important for uniforms be properly cared for to avoid rips and peeling prints. If uniforms are damaged while in the care of your athlete, you will receive a fee for the individual uniform piece damaged. Below are the guidelines for uniform care:

- Uniforms must be washed on COLD.
- Uniforms MAY NOT be placed in the dryer.
- Uniforms must be AIR DRIED.

Return

When an athletes season has ended, uniforms must be handed in to the coach or to the assistant athletic director. *Do not hand in uniforms to the front desk.* Athletes are responsible for ensuring they hand in *the number uniform they were assigned*, and will receive a \$75 fee if their uniform does not get handed in. If a student accidentally switches uniforms, it is their responsibility to find the uniform. Students will not be able to participate in another sport/season until uniform is returned or payment has been submitted for lost uniform.

Uniforms must be handed in as follows:

- Uniforms must be washed and dried.
- Uniforms must be folded in a clear plastic Ziploc bag.
- Bags must have the following clearly written on the front
 - Student Name
 - Bag Contents and number

HCA Families,

We are very thankful for you and your student athlete, and look forward to a great season and athletic career for that student athlete here at Harvest Christian Academy. It is our goal to make their experience the best it possibly can be, and to maximize the impact in their life for Christ through that experience. We also want to always make sure that we guard our relationship and maintain focus on growing and building with a strong relationship together. A great model for this is what Paul says in Ephesians 4:1-3: "I Paul, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you've been called. With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace," and this is our goal.

This model will promote a strong relationship and mindset that will facilitate us working together well throughout your student's career here in HCA athletics. This is always going to be a work in progress, as every relationship is, and always want to be working to make sure that we become better as a community and family in our athletic program.

We are thankful for your trust in and patience with our staff in leading your student-athletes in the upcoming year. We look forward to a very exciting and successful 2018-2019 campaign alongside you all.

WE ARE LIONS!!!

God Bless.

HCA Athletic Department