

Harvester Christian Academy

Parent & Student Handbook



Athletics Addendum

ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY

Participants in athletics at Harvester Christian Academy must demonstrate they are good students before they will represent the school as athletes. Participating in sports and extra-curricular activities at Harvester Christian Academy is a privilege that is earned. Students participating in Harvester athletics or other extra-curricular activities are expected to have passing grades (Cs or better) in all classes based on the prior quarter's grades and be in good standing in all dual enrollment classes.

A student who does not meet academic requirements at the end of a quarter will have a two week academic probationary period to work to improve their grade(s). For this two week probationary period the student may be eligible to practice, at the coach's discretion, but not play. At the end of the two week probationary period, the student's grade in any previously failed class should improve to a minimum of 70%. If at the end of the initial two week probation, the student's grade is not 70% or above, the student will enter a second academic probation in which they are not eligible to practice or play. At the end of four weeks of probation if the student's grade(s) in previously failed classes has not increased to a minimum of 70% the student is ineligible to participate in any Harvester extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the quarter.

Participation in the fall will be contingent on the prior quarter's grades from the previous year. Successful completion of summer school for the courses failed the previous quarter may restore eligibility for fall participation.

Withdrawal from a class due to poor grades after the normal two week drop period will be considered a failure for athletic eligibility purposes.

Absences and Sports/Extra-curricular Participation

In order to participate in a sporting event or extracurricular activity, a student must be present in school the day of the event for more than one-half of the school day. Students who have an excused absence for reasons other than illness may participate in extra-curricular activities for that day. Eligibility requirements are also mandated by HCA's governing athletic authority (Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association – GICAA).

Individual Team Guidelines

All sports and extra-curricular activities require orientation meetings for coaches, parents, and students to set expectations for the season. Each sport and activity operates under the rules of competition for that specific sport or activity. For this reason it is likely there will be a separate document specific to the sport defining its rules and regulations. This addendum to the Parent & Student Handbook is general in nature. The guidelines for each individual sports clarify and interpret for parents and students the principles found in this document. The athletic director is available to answer questions and clarify for all involved any perceived discrepancies between documents.

ATHLETICS – CONDUCT

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)

Hazing

Harvester Christian Academy has a No Tolerance Level for Hazing. If you see or learn of any hazing involving a team member, please stop the hazing immediately and report the incident to your coach and athletic director (Mr. Jermal McCoy).

Any hazing incident may result in suspension or expulsion from school activities.

The state of Georgia's current hazing law (G.S. 16-5-61) makes it "unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization."

Hazing means any situation or action which (1) recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or, (2) willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership

in, an organization operating under the sanctions of, or recognized as an organization by the school including, without limitation, fraternities and sororities.

1. Examples of prohibited hazing follow. These examples are merely illustrative of specific forbidden practices and are not intended to be all-inclusive.
 - Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, or exposure to the elements.
 - Forced consumption of food, liquor, drug, or any other substance.
 - Any activity which would subject the individual to mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, or conduct which could result in embarrassment.
 - Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property
 - Placing a member or prospective member in a situation of actual or simulated peril or jeopardy.
 - Undignified stunts or methods, either private or public, and/or any ordeal which is in any respect indecent or shocking.
 - Tasks of servitude, including errands and clean-up activities for active members, alumni, or any other HCA student;
 - Kidnapping or paddling.
 - Any activity not consistent with the policies and mission of the school.

Character Goals and Expectations

The following are some of the character qualities we are seeking to build in our student-athletes through HCA 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 one 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 you. Know how you tend to act under stress. Recognize areas of weakness, and train yourself to respond in a godly way.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and coaches must have an understanding of 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 in regard to 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 Harvester 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.

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 Harvester 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. Demonstrate 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 requirements. The student-athlete will know all of 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, trainers and all staff personnel. This includes the 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.

Parent Code of Conduct

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. Anything negative or insulting must be avoided.
2. Be positive and encouraging. Lift your student and others up. Let them know they are important. Let them know the importance of being a member of a team.
3. Never criticize the officials or coaches. They are representatives of authority. This is a great opportunity to teach your child how to respect a person in authority. All authority is God-given

and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God. Insist that your child address the coaches and officials with respect.

4. Never be involved in negative cheering. Cheer positively for your team. Avoid addressing the other team's players by name in negative type cheers.

5. Never speak negatively around the students or other parents about:

a. The School. Negativity can be contagious. Instead, create an atmosphere of gratitude.

b. Other students or parents. Speak to parents only about your students and their students.

Speak to other students only in an encouraging manner. The only time another student or parent's name will be mentioned is in a genuine complementary fashion.

6. Never criticize your child's teammates. Remember to teach your child team attitude.

7. Always resolve differences with your coaches out of sight and earshot of students and other parents. Call to set an appointment to speak with the coach privately. Pray about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.

Relationships: John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

1. Develop relationships and a good rapport with team and coaches. God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to minister and be an encouragement to others. If sports becomes all about you and your student, you need not participate.

2. Develop relationships and a good rapport with other parents. You will need their prayers and support as much as they will need yours.

3. Develop relationships and a good rapport with parents from other schools. Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. Promote your school and your students. The relationships you develop are a reflection on our entire ministry.

4. Develop relationships with the coaches. Get to know the coaches. Pray for them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Be open, honest, and use gentle words.

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 our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different roles and abilities. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Be busy fulfilling your role. Your example of being a unified school body is a valuable lesson for your students to learn.

2. 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 Harvester Christian Academy.

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

1. Maintain class and character. You are setting the example for your children. Realize that your every action reflects upon you, your family, HCA, and ultimately your Lord.

2. Always insist that your children follow instructions. Coaches must depend on a player's ability to follow orders immediately and without question. Questions will be raised at the appropriate time, such as at practice or after a game. Always dress appropriately. Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your child will be worn. Even in warm weather events a Christ-like appearance must be maintained.
3. Be an example and a guard. Set the standard high for behavior and appearance and do not be afraid to speak to those who are indifferent to our ultimate purpose.
4. Working with the officials...not working the officials.

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 as a tool to teach your students. Teach them that athletics is just a means to an end and not an end unto itself. "Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility." John Wooden
3. Teach your students to abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" will not be tolerated.
4. Use your child's experience as a chance to be involved in his or her life. Your relationship with your child as an adult will last longer than your relationship with them while they are in your home. If you want a relationship with them as adults you need to begin building that relationship now. Athletics affords you that opportunity.
5. Badgering an official to persuade a call our way comes with too high a price our testimony and our ability to influence those others for Jesus Christ. There is never a time at any contest where a parent is afforded an opportunity to say anything to an official other than "Thank You." Without these men and women, and their willingness to officiate, no one is playing ball.
6. Remain in the stands. Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench area, press box, score table or the officials before, during or after a ballgame. Socially visiting with the coach briefly after a game is encouraged. Game officials are off-limits.
7. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Coaches, students, parents and spectators will need to be strong in this area. Shake hands with our visitors before and after the game.
8. Recognize the success of your opponent. Compliment the good play of students from the other school. Congratulate their coaches on a well-coached game.
9. Teach your children that they have a special purpose from God. It is their responsibility to accept God's purpose for them. Do not compare or contrast them to others. This limits their ability to fulfill their own unique potential and purpose.
10. Have fun, touch lives and be yourself. You have the opportunity to be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives of your children and their peers. Games, plays and officials will be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your child forever.

Note: Conduct detrimental to the testimony of the school will result in removal from the athletic arena.

"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