



Faith Christian Academy Student-Athlete Handbook

Faith Christian Academy
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Article I. Faith Christian Academy Athletics

FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

“Faith Christian Academy exists to provide excellence in education with a biblical perspective for effectiveness in serving God and others.”

Coaches are to read and uphold the standards set in place by the Faith Christian Academy (FCA) Athletic Department. The standards are not set in place to restrict the coaches’ ability, but rather to ensure the safety of all participating in interscholastic athletics. These standards also help to promote optimal performance of each athletic team.

At Faith Christian Academy, we believe that athletics serve to enhance the overall experience for students while attending the institution. It is important that we give the proper perspective of athletics to the lives of the students we coach, as well as in our interactions with parents/guardians, officials and members of opposing institutions.

Sports Offered at Faith Christian Academy Athletics

Season	Middle School	High School
Fall	Girls Field Hockey Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Girls Volleyball	Co-Ed Cross Country Girls Field Hockey Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Girls Volleyball
Winter	Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Wrestling	Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Wrestling
Spring	Baseball Softball Co-Ed Track & Field	Baseball Softball Co-Ed Track & Field

Personnel Contact Information

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Article II. Student-Athlete Policy and Responsibilities

Section 1. Requirements for Participation

In order to participate on an athletic team at FCA, the following items must be submitted and/or signed in the Student Central Portal

1. Submit a completed PIAA CIPPE physical
 - a. Must be filled out after June 1 of each school year by a physician
2. Complete registration for competition through the Student Central portal
3. Satisfy all eligibility requirements.
4. Remain in good academic standing for the duration of the season.
5. Pay athletic fee through SmartTuition

Section 2. Academic and Attendance Policies

In accordance to the Faith Christian Academy Middle School and High School Handbook, a student-athlete must comply with the following measures:

- a. A student-athlete cannot be tardy more than once to school following game day competitions.
 - i. If a student-athlete fails to meet this standard, they will not be able to start in their next competition and will have to sit out for a portion of the game as specified by the Athletic Director and Administration.
- b. Three or more tardies for any student will result in detention.
- c. In order to be eligible to participate, a student-athlete must be in school by **10:00am** on the day of a competition or they will be considered absent and will not be able to compete.
- d. A student-athlete must remain in good academic standing in order to compete with their team. Grades will be monitored throughout the course of the season. If a student-athlete has an F or two D's, their Head Coach and parents/legal guardians will be notified and the student-athlete will have to sit out for a week or until they improve their grade.

The PIAA requires that student-athletes must be passing at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent. Eligibility is cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, must be reported on a weekly basis and must be filed in the Principal's Office.

Disclaimer: PIAA member schools, including Faith Christian Academy, may adopt higher academic standards, but **may not** have lower standards.

Section 3. Age

A student-athlete may not have reached their 19th birthday by June 30th immediately preceding the school year. In addition, a student may not represent their school in interscholastic athletics if they have been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade.

Section 4. Athletic Fee

A sports fee is to be paid per student-athlete. Every student will pay for every sport played. This fee includes uniforms, cost of officials and coaches, transportation, facility usage and upkeep, on-site trainer/physical therapist, etc. A student-athlete who quits their team will not be refunded the athletic fee.

Section 5. School Issued Equipment and Uniforms

All FCA issued equipment and uniforms must be returned within the week following the end of the season. Failure to return equipment and uniform pieces may result in fines to SmartTuition account, holding of report cards/transcripts/diplomas, and/or detentions.

Section 6. FCA Transportation

All FCA student-athletes are required to travel to away contests through FCA transportation. Student-athletes are not permitted to travel on their own to away contests without prior approval from their head coach, athletic director, and principal.

Student-athletes that travel to away contests without approval from all above authorities will face disciplinary consequences such as detention and/or sitting out for a determined number of contests.

Spectators are not permitted to travel in team vehicles. Team managers are permitted to travel with the team following consent by the parent at the beginning of the season.

Section 7. Expected Conduct of Students and Parents

- a. Parents and student-athletes are encouraged to display good sportsmanship. If a problem occurs at a home or away event, please inform the Athletic Director.
- b. Ensure that all practice apparel of all student-athletes is modest and appropriate for the given activity. Shorts, sweats, and shirts should not be too tight, too loose, or too short. Modesty is mandatory.
- c. Student-athletes should not swear, make obscene gestures, or act in any way that does not promote good sportsmanship or the mission statement of FCA Athletics.
- d. Music played must be approved through the Administration and Athletic Office. Students are not permitted to control the sound equipment. Head coaches should control music selections during practice and games.
- e. Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are prohibited on school grounds and use will not be tolerated.
- f. Make every effort to build team unity and watch for bullying within the team.

- i. If any bullying arises, notify the Athletic Director who will deal with the matter immediately.

“Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.” ~1 Timothy 4:12

Article III. PIAA By-Laws and Regulations

The following information is sourced directly from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Constitution and By-Laws Handbook. There is a page number listed next to each heading that locates each ruling in the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws Handbook. Any and all of this information is available for further review online under the “Resources” tab at www.piaa.org

PIAA Equal Opportunity Statement

“The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) believes that all boys and girls should have equal opportunity to participate in all levels of interscholastic athletics regardless of race, color, sex, creed, religion or ethnic background.”

PIAA Athletic Courtesy and Sportsmanship By-Laws

“Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, teams, spectators and officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated. PIAA reserves the right to address any unsportsmanlike conduct and impose supplemental discipline as appropriate under the circumstances.”

The following conduct, and any conduct of a similar nature may subject the following actors to any and all remedial measures available to PIAA and Faith Christian Academy:

Student-Athletes

1. A student-athlete engages in conduct intended to injure an opponent or contest officials.
2. A student-athlete uses profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language immediately before, during or immediately following a contest.
3. A student-athlete seeks to provoke opponents, contest officials, or spectators to engage in improper conduct.
4. A student-athlete uses race, gender, ethnicity, religion or disability to bait, intimidate, or denigrate an opponent.
5. A student athlete who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior/conduct during medal/award ceremony.

Amateur Status

To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest at Faith Christian Academy, a student must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof and does not receive monetary or similar or equivalent compensation or remuneration for such participation.

Consent of Parent or Guardian

Consent of a student-athletes parent or guardian is necessary before the student-athlete begins practice. Except as otherwise provided in the PIAA Handbook, a student is eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests in each sport only when there is on file with the student's Principal, or the Principal's designee, a certificate of consent, which is signed by the student's parent or guardian. **The only valid certificate of consent is the PIAA Parent's/Guardian's Certificate.**

Definition of Transfer

A Transfer occurs in any situation in which a student seeks eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at a school other than the one at which the student was either enrolled or otherwise eligible.

Transfers which are motivated in some material way by an athletic purpose are those which would not have transferred but for a desire of the student or the student's family (1) to gain additional playing time; (2) to play for a particular school, coach, or team; (3) to avoid either playing for, or athletic sanctions imposed by, a particular school, coach, or team; and/or (4) to gain increased media or college exposure.

The following is an illustrative list of situations which may indicate an "athletic purpose for transfer":

1. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, is dissatisfied with the student's position or the amount of playing time which the student receives.
2. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, has a problem with a Coach or school athletic administration at either a personal or professional level.
3. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator or teacher relating to sports.
4. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks to avoid or nullify the effect of actions or anticipated actions by the previous school relating to sports eligibility.
5. There is no team in the particular sport at the school from which the student has transferred.
6. The student follows the student's coach or other student-athletes to another school to which the coach or athletes have transferred or seeks to play for a particular coach or with a

particular athlete due to a prior relationship with the coach or athlete (such as through club or AAU participation) or because of the reputation of the coach.

7. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a less successful, smaller enrollment classification and/or lower profile team in order to be ranked higher among the students on that team.
8. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a more successful, larger enrollment classification and/or higher profile team to gain a higher level of competition and/or more exposure to college scouts.
9. The student moves with one parent, one guardian, or one or more siblings, into a residence in the new public school district, especially where the student and/or the parent, guardian, or sibling returns to the family home in the evening and/or on weekends.
10. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks out athletic personnel and/or student-athletes at the transferee school.
11. The student transfers in the middle of a marking period and/or immediately before or after a sports season.
12. The student transfers immediately after being cut from a team in a particular sport.

Summer Conduct by a Transfer Student-Athlete

Following the completion of a school year, a student may enroll at another school but not be deemed to have “transferred” unless:

1. The student practices with a team from another school.
2. The student attends at least one fall semester class at another school.
3. The student, through the student’s school has requested a determination of eligibility at another school and the applicable District Committee or Regional Panel has ruled on such request.

Once a student practices with another school's team or attends a fall semester class at another school, the student will be considered to have “Transferred” to that school. A District Committee’s or Regional Panel’s determination of eligibility cannot be avoided by re-enrollment back at the prior school, which would be viewed as a new transfer.

Period of Participation

Generally at the high school level, students are provided the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for a **four-year period which begins at the conclusion of their eighth grade year and ends four years later**, regardless of whether the student advances academically or actually participates in interscholastic athletics during this period. Students are limited to six seasons of participations beyond the sixth grade or four seasons of competition beyond the eighth grade.

The purpose of this limitation:

1. Provide basic equality to potential eligibility among athletes as each student is afforded the same basic number of semesters of potential athletic eligibility without regard of the number of years it takes the student to complete the high school curriculum.
2. Permit a greater number of students the opportunity to start and play interscholastic athletics.
3. Discourage athletic red-shirting (the purpose of holding students back in grades so that they will gain more experience, size and ability before graduating from high school.

No team, no individual member or members of such team, and no individual representing Faith Christian Academy, may practice or participate in an inter-school practice, scrimmage, contest and/or open gym on **more than six days** in any calendar week during the preseason and regular season.

In-Season and Out-Of-Season Rules and Regulations

Each sport has a defined-season which includes the first Practice day, the first Inter-School Practice or Scrimmage day, the first Regular Season Contest day, the last Regular Season Contest day, the District Deadline, the dates for PIAA Championships, the maximum number of Regular Season Contests and the maximum number of Regular Season Practices or Scrimmages. **All PIAA member schools must comply with the defined-season established for each sport.**

1. Out-of-Season Activities

- a. Faith Christian Academy may **not** sponsor teams in that sport.
- b. Faith Christian Academy as an institution, coaches and/or students may be involved with sports activities such as training programs, recreational activities, open gyms, clinics, and camps provided that any participation by coaches and/or students is as **private citizens** and is **voluntary**.
- c. Coaches and/or students acting as **private citizens**, and on a **voluntary basis**, may participate on teams that are not affiliated with PIAA member schools (ie travel teams, AAU basketball, etc.). Coaches and other Faith Christian Academy personnel may not require a student to participate in a sport or a training program for a sport outside of the PIAA-defined sport's season. The participation of students in any sports activity that occurs outside of its defined season must be **voluntary**.
- d. Faith Christian Academy's name, nickname, interscholastic athletic uniform, interscholastic athletic equipment, and interscholastic athletic health/first-aid supplies may not be used by community organizations and groups. Faith Christian Academy's name, nickname and interscholastic athletic uniforms may not be used by students; **however**, the Principal, may permit students to use the school's interscholastic athletic equipment and the school's interscholastic athletic health/first-aid supplies.

2. Conclusion of Regular Season

Except as provided below, all activity in a sport, including practice, must terminate by the last Regular Season Contest day in that sport unless the team is entered into District or Playoff Championship Contests. If the team is entered into those Championship Contests, all activity in the sport must terminate on the day of elimination from such Championship Contests.

With the approval of the District Committee, Regular Season Contests which have been postponed may be rescheduled and played between the last Regular Season Contest day in that sport and the District Deadline in that sport.

Any and all questions regarding the interpretation of this manual should be directed to the Athletics Office.