

THE VILLAGE

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

“Committed to God...Committed to Excellence”

Athletic Handbook



*“Sing to the Lord a new song;
play skillfully with a shout of joy!*

Psalm 33:3

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INTRODUCTION

Athletics are an integral part of a student's educational experience and contribute positively to the school environment. This handbook is organized to provide helpful information about The Village Christian Academy (VCA) athletic program, as well as, the responsibilities and privileges of our student-athletes. It is important that each student-athlete and their parent/guardian familiarize themselves with the handbook as they will be held accountable for its content. Any questions concerning the athletic handbook or policies of the athletic department should first be addressed to the Athletic Director and then to the Superintendent. We encourage our student body to be involved in our athletic program through active participation and support of their classmates.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

VCA is committed to the value of a well-rounded Christian education as expressed in our school mission statement. The development of Christian character through competition is the focus of our athletic program. The athletic department strongly supports the spiritual, academic, physical, and social development of all students. Athletics serve as a foundation for building school pride and school spirit. VCA coaches and student-athletes have the obligation to draw others to the Lord through their testimony on and off the field of competition.

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

GOALS OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. Cultivate Christ-like character
2. Value winning and understand the aspect of losing
3. Teach submission to authority on and off the court
4. Apply the lessons learned from athletics to the spiritual growth of the athlete
5. Teach honesty, dependability, self-control, and sportsmanship
6. Value the essence of teamwork in relation to service

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

School Superintendent - Dr. Toby A. Travis
Secondary Principal - Kevyn Brown
Athletic Director - Harold Morrison, Jr.
Head Coaches - Varsity
Head Coaches - Junior Varsity and Middle School

The Athletic Director is responsible for the overall operation and development of the athletic program. The Athletic Director meets with all coaches on a regular basis to provide assistance and encourage the development of their respective programs

VCA SPORTS TEAMS

VCA offers a full sports program to students in grades 6-12. Fall tryouts will be held in early August, winter tryouts are held in late October, and spring tryouts are held in mid-February. Cheerleading tryouts are held in the spring of each year.

Students in grades 6-8 may participate in the middle school teams. Students in grades 7-10 are eligible for participation on JV teams and students in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate in varsity teams. Listed below are the sports and teams offered.

Season	Sport	Middle School	Junior Varsity	Varsity
Fall	Co-Ed Cross Country			X
Fall	Boys' Soccer	X	X	X
Fall	Girls' Tennis			X
Fall	Volleyball	X	X	X
Winter	Boys' Basketball	X	X	X
Winter	Girls' Basketball	X		X
Winter	Cheerleading	X	X	X
Spring	Baseball	X		X
Spring	Girls' Soccer	X	X	X
Spring	Softball	X		X
Spring	Boys' Golf			X

CONFERENCE AND STATE AFFILIATION

VCA is a member of the Sandhills Athletic Conference (SAC) in all varsity sports and a member of the South Eastern Middle School Athletic Conference (SEMSAC) in all middle school sports. VCA is a 2A member of the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (NCISAA), which is the governing body of independent school athletics.

“KNIGHTS” CODE OF CONDUCT

The scripture that serves to guide the VCA athletic competition is Matthew 5:16:

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Conforming ourselves to Christ’s image and openly expressing Christ-like character through athletic competition is the foundation of VCA athletics. “KNIGHTS” is a symbol of honor and humility. Student-athletes are expected to represent their Lord and King and conduct themselves as His representatives in every aspect of their behavior. Student-athletes should seek to bring honor to Christ, their school, their team, and their parents in every aspect of their life. A Knight’s commitment is the basis of our Code of Conduct:

**Virtuous
Christian
Athlete**

SPORTSMANSHIP

All student-athletes, parents, and spectators must realize that our actions reflect our Christian testimony. The principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition must guide our actions and works. We ought to exhibit Christ-like character by showing respect and integrity toward all with whom we come in contact during athletic competitions. VCA athletics presents an invaluable opportunity for our athletes to witness and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Behavior inconsistent with the goal of the VCA athletic Program and beliefs of The Village Baptist Church may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, expulsion from events.

Should conduct unbecoming of a VCA Knight occur, the student-athlete will be removed from the athletic contest immediately and will not return until the head coach is convinced the athlete understands the serious nature of his/her actions and that it will not be repeated. A second offense during the same contest will result in the student-athlete being removed for the duration of the contest and being declared ineligible for the next contest. The head coach is responsible for managing this situation and must keep the Athletic Director informed. Additional disciplinary action may be taken after discussions with the Athletic Director.

The role of VCA parents and spectators is to encourage and support VCA teams while appreciating the abilities and efforts of our opponents.

Remember your responsibility as a Christian role model and realize that your actions directly reflect upon our Lord, our teams, your child, and the reputation of VCA. Conduct unbecoming of a VCA parent or spectator will be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director and VCA Administration and disciplinary action may be taken.

FACILITIES

Every coach and athlete share in the responsibility of keeping our facilities and fields properly secured and in orderly condition. VCA facilities should be treated with stewardship. No facility should be used without reserving the facility through the athletic department and church office. There will be no use of any of the church or school facilities on Sundays during worship hours (7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.). Additionally, all Wednesday practices will be completed by 5:30 to encourage church participation.

STUDENT ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS [8/2021]

Student-athletes at VCA are subject to the eligibility requirements of the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) listed below.

1. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic varsity competition, students must be enrolled in grades 7 through 12.
2. No player shall have reached his/her 19th birthday on or before August 1st of the current school year.
3. No player may receive financial aid for athletic participation.
4. An athlete must be a full-time student, defined as follows:
 - a. The student must be successfully progressing toward graduation with the expectation of meeting all graduation requirements.
 - b. The student must be enrolled in a minimum of four classes.
 - c. Home-schooled students are ineligible for NCISAA competition.
 - d. Under special circumstances, a student may also take approved college courses while pursuing his/her high school diploma.

Additionally, VCA maintains the following academic requirements in order for student-athletes to be eligible to compete on varsity, junior varsity or middle school teams:

1. At the end of each nine-week grading period, the student must have a 2.0 GPA or higher grade average with no "F's" for that quarter.
2. Any student averaging below a 2.0 GPA or receiving an "F" on their report card is immediately ineligible to play in games but will be allowed to practice with the team with parental, coach, and principal approval.
3. Progress reports cannot make a student ineligible.
4. Students serving an after school detention are eligible to practice or play with their team once their detention is served. Students serving an In School (ISS) or Out of School (OSS) suspension are **NOT** eligible to practice or play with their team until their entire suspension is served and the student returns to school or class the following academic day.
5. Ineligible athletes are not permitted to travel with the team, play in games, be dismissed early from class, or dress out.

REINSTATEMENT GUIDELINES FOR ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE ATHLETE

1. When a student is found to be academically ineligible, the Athletic Director will be notified and he will then notify the coach of the ineligible student-athlete. The principal will notify the student.
2. Any reinstatement of an ineligible student-athlete due to not meeting minimum academic standards will only be considered by the principal at the next progress report or report card. The student must be passing all courses to be eligible for reinstatement.
3. Once a student is reinstated because of meeting academic standards, the principal will notify the athletic director who will notify the coach. The principal will notify the student.
4. Students must be in good financial standing with VCA in order to participate in athletics.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

The recruitment of students solely to play athletics is a violation of the spirit and philosophy of Village Christian Academy and is forbidden by our athletic association the NCISAA. No employee of VCA shall recruit a potential student solely for the purpose of playing athletics.

IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS

Student-athletes may not receive any impermissible benefits. An impermissible benefit is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not generally made available to all students and/or their families who attend VCA.

ATTENDANCE

In order to represent the school in any athletic activity, a student-athlete must be enrolled in grades 6-12 and in regular attendance. Student-athletes must be in school for a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the student's instructional school day in order to participate in that day's practice or athletic contest. Circumstances such as doctor appointments and family emergencies will be considered on an individual basis. Families are encouraged to schedule appointments so as not to conflict with published schedules.

AGE

No student-athlete shall have reached his/her 19th birthday on or before August 1st of the current school year.

FINANCIAL

1. No student-athlete may receive any form of financial aid for athletic participation
2. No employee of VCA (administration, coach, teacher, etc.) may make any payment of tuition, fees, etc. on behalf of a student-athlete other than their own child.
3. Before any uniforms, etc. are ordered by coaches for teams, they must be approved by the Athletic Director and all funds must be collected from parents prior to ordering.
4. Failure to be current in all tuition, fees, etc. associated with being a student at VCA may result in the student being ineligible to participate in athletic activities.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Any student who has received a diploma or its equivalent from a school in the United States is ineligible to participate unless every team in any conference in which the student competes endorses his/her eligibility. All student-athletes must be successfully progressing toward graduation with the expectation of meeting all graduation requirements.

SIX SEMESTER RULE/RECLASSIFICATION

Student-athletes may participate in no more than six consecutive semesters or nine trimesters after enrolling in the 10th grade of any NCISAA member school, no more than four consecutive semesters after enrolling in the 11th grade of any NCISAA member school, and no more than two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters after enrolling in the 12th grade at any NCISAA member school, regardless of whether he/she remains continuously enrolled. A student-athlete transferring from one NCISAA member school to another at mid-year would be considered to have used one semester of athletic eligibility for that school year (referenced from NCISAA State Handbook).

REQUIRED FORMS

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A yearly sports physical is required to participate in athletics. It is our policy that physicals must be current. Athletic physicals are considered current up to one year from the date of the physical. Current physical forms are kept on file with the school nurse. This provides the school with names and numbers to contact in case of emergency and a release for medical treatment to be performed if necessary in the absence of the parent/guardian.

CONCUSSION/INJURY STATEMENT FORM

All student-athletes must have a completed and signed concussion release form on file with the school nurse. This form is located at the back of the Athletic Handbook. Any student diagnosed with a concussion and/or injury that requires a doctor's care must present a doctor's note releasing him/her to play prior to resuming practice or play.

ATHLETIC TRYOUTS

TRYOUT GUIDELINES

The Athletic Director and Head Coaches will hold a preseason meeting to explain expectations and the commitment required to participate on a team. The tryout dates will be announced at least one week prior to the actual tryouts. Summer tryout dates will be posted on the school website. Each coach is required to use a specific rubric for tryout sessions. The rubric must be approved by the Athletic Director and is to be made available only to members of the school administration, not to parents or students. All students, after meeting eligibility requirements and submitted required forms are encouraged to try out for a VCA team.

Varsity tryouts for **fall** sports will be conducted on the Monday of the week of August 1st. Remember that all varsity players must attend in order to make the team. Any questions about this policy should be directed to the Athletic Director.

TEAM SIZE

The Athletic Director along with the head coach determines the team size. If necessary, the head coach may make cuts to ensure the optimal coaching environment for his/her team.

PLAYER NOTIFICATION

Student-athletes shall be notified within 24 hours after completion of tryouts if they made the team.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Practice schedules are established and issued by the head coach prior to the beginning of each season. Schedules are subject to change and, should a change take place, every effort will be given to inform the appropriate parties. However, some teams may have to stagger practices due to space limitations. Coaches should be punctual, arrive promptly for practices, and conclude practices on time. Practices may not be conducted without a coach present and proper notification given to athletes and their families. Please remember that all Wednesday practices will be completed by 5:30 to encourage church participation.

Practices/Tournaments will be conducted over holiday breaks, spring break, and weekends as the coach deems appropriate.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICES/CONTESTS

Student-athletes are expected to be on time and in attendance for all team meetings, practices, and contests. Other school activities such as chorus, drama, etc., that may conflict with any team activity, must be discussed and cleared with the head coach in advance by the respective student-athlete. **The head coach must approve all absences.**

We encourage and support our student-athletes' involvement in these programs and will work together to meet the needs of all parties. Some unacceptable reasons for missing a team activity would include, but not limited to, working, social activities, and non-medical appointments. A student-athlete unable to practice due to an injury should continue attending all team activities unless excused by the head coach. Consequences for tardiness and unexcused absences come under the discretion of the head coach. Excessive absences may result in the student-athlete not receiving their varsity letter.

CANCELLATION

The athletic department notifies the front office as soon as possible when a contest or practice is canceled. We attempt to make these decisions prior to 1:00 p.m., but the weather is often a factor. If possible, canceled contests are rescheduled and your student-athlete, as well as the office, will be notified. Immediate updates will be made via our Parent Alert System and FACTS/Renweb Student Information System. All student-athletes should come prepared to participate in scheduled contests and practices.

UNIFORMS

All team uniforms are the property of VCA. Each athlete is responsible for the proper care and treatment of his/her uniform. The uniform is a symbol of our school represented by the color purple, which expresses the royalty of our Lord Jesus and white. Which expresses purity and our cleansing from sin. Each athlete should remember the price paid for us by our Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare

to compete and represent our school. The uniform is to be worn as it was designed with **no alterations or additions**. Any piece of uniform or equipment issued to the athlete that is owned by VCA shall only be worn just prior to, during, and immediately following the athletic contest. The school issued athletic attire is not to be worn during school, in class, or outside in the community. All tops must be tucked in and pants are worn at the waist.

1. All athletes should treat the VCA issued uniforms with respect. Any lost or damaged item must be reported to the coach and the layer will be responsible for the cost of replacing lost items.
2. Parents should ensure proper care with regard to the laundering of uniforms.
3. Careful attention should be given to the **modesty** of all uniforms and clothing worn during athletic events and practices.
4. Uniforms should be worn for athletic events only.
5. All uniforms should be returned to the coach within one week of the end of the season. Any lost or damaged uniform must be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Due to travel concerns for VCA and our opponents, student-athletes may be dismissed from some classes before 3:00 p.m. A schedule will be posted listing the dismissal times. **Student-athletes are responsible for any and all classwork and homework they miss while participating in any athletic function. Extra time will not be given to complete homework.**

TRAVEL

VCA believes that having the team ride together to away games helps build team spirit. Therefore, all student-athletes will ride together to and from away games unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach. Students riding home from an away game with anyone other than their parents/guardians must have a completed transportation form signed and turned in to the coach. **Students are not to drive themselves, drive with other students or parents to or from scheduled athletic contests without written (to include email or text to the coach or athletic director) parental permission for all students, including the driver.**

1. Proper conduct is to be demonstrated while riding on school transportation. This includes remaining seated, keeping noise to a low level, and keeping hands and feet inside the bus. All VCA school rules/policies apply while traveling, staying overnight, and participating in athletic events.
2. Team dress standards will be determined by the coach
3. It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure that the bus is clean upon its return to school.
4. It is the responsibility of the head coach to remain until the last player has been picked up.
5. If an overnight trip is taken, it is the responsibility of the coaching staff to ensure proper supervision.

MEAL MONEY

Since many of our away trips last through the dinner hour, we usually stop for a meal during the return trip. Please make sure your child has money to purchase food.

DIRECTIONS

Directions to the locations of away games are on the VCA athletic website - www.villagechristianathletics.com

GENERAL GUIDELINES

A student-athlete that is awarded a team position through a tryout and accepts that position either verbally or upon notification by the coach or by attending the next practice is considered a team member. If the student-athlete subsequently chooses to leave/quit the team, he/she may be ineligible for the following sports season. Every student-athlete should honor the coach's decisions and work diligently in whatever role they are asked to serve for the good of the team.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is a privilege earned - not a right owed. The head coach will determine playing time based on skill level, attendance, knowledge, attitude, competition, and game situation. While a strong effort will be made to play as many team members as possible on the JV and middle school level, the above factors may also affect playing time.

QUITTING A TEAM

Quitting a team is highly discouraged. The student-athlete makes a commitment to their team and any decision to recant that commitment should be discussed with their parents and coach. If necessary, the Athletic Director is available for counsel. We want the best for all student-athletes and will work together to resolve any difficulties. If a student-athlete decides to quit a team, it may prevent or hinder him/her from participating in another sport during the following season. (If quitting a spring sport, an athlete may not be eligible to play the following fall season.) Any appeals must be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Secondary Principal to allow an athlete to compete the following season. Therefore, please enter into prayer and discussion with the appropriate parties before making any decisions concerning participation.

RELEASED FROM A TEAM

If an athlete is released from a team by the coach or administration, it may prevent him/her from participating in the following season. (If released from a spring sports team, an athlete may not be eligible to play the following fall season.) Any appeal made as a result of being released from a team must be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Secondary Principal to allow an athlete to compete the following season.

ATHLETIC BANQUETS/AWARDS

At the conclusion of each sports season (fall, winter, spring) an awards ceremony will be held by each team to honor our student-athletes.

EARNING A VCA ATHLETIC LETTER

Lettering in a sport demonstrates commitment, perseverance, and selflessness. VCA recognizes the individual athlete who has:

1. Attended a minimum of 90% or more of practices, games, and other team activities the entire season.
2. Remained in good academic standing the entire season.
3. Participated in the entire season as a student-athlete in a varsity sport.

All qualifications will be checked by coaches who will distribute letters at the end of the season at the athletic banquet. Any student who has received a letter will be given a pin indicating their achievement. A medical or emergency situation will not prevent an athlete from receiving this achievement. Any discrepancies will be reviewed by the respective coach and the Athletic Director.

VCA ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

We strongly encourage the parents/guardians of all athletes to join the Knights Athletic Booster Club and help support the many VCA teams. The Booster club is a volunteer organization founded on the belief that athletics is an integral part of the education process at VCA. That belief encourages booster club members to become active in the development of the overall athletic program. They provide spiritual and financial support to further develop our athletic programs at VCA.

ATHLETIC FEES

There will be a non-refundable Athletic Fee (per sport/per student). All middle school, junior varsity and varsity students who participate in athletics will be charged an Athletic Fee. The purpose of this fee is to reduce the amount of money used from general tuition to cover athletic expenses. Athletic Fees are to be paid to the Finance Office prior to the first athletic contest. If the fee is not paid, the student will not be allowed to participate until payment is made. Athletic Fees are as follows:

Athletic Team Fees

Middle School: \$200 per sport per student

Junior Varsity: \$235 per sport per student

Varsity: \$250 per sport per student