



**WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN**  
**WARRIORS**

2024-2025  
Athletic Handbook  
Grades 7-12

*"In our zeal to win, Lord, help us not to forget You"*

Worthington Christian School Athletic Department  
1485 Lazelle Road  
Westerville, OH 43081



# THE WARRIOR ATHLETE

## THE WARRIOR ATHLETE

### FOCUS

**I play for an audience of One**

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

*Colossians 3:23*



### CONNECT

**I love my teammates well**

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

*Ephesians 4:2-3*



### PERSEVERE

**I push through adversity**

*because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

*James 1:3-4*



### LEAD

**I seek ways to serve others**

*Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*

*Luke 12:48*



Put on the full armor of God in competition and life. Ephesians 6:10-18

## Purpose of This Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to aid the participants, parents, and coaching staff of Worthington Christian School (WC) with the development and the operation of our athletic program. The administration of the school values the athletic program as an important aspect of the school's mission and sees it as an area of engagement through which cocurricular learning should occur. It is realized that all responsibilities of the athletic administration, head coaches, and student-athletes may change as time progresses, and the Athletic Department will update this handbook accordingly.

This handbook will:

1. Define our athletic philosophy
2. Define the responsibilities of those associated with the program
3. Serve as a reference for information pertaining to athletic procedures, practices, responsibilities, attitude, and discipline

All student-athletes are first adherent and subject to all WC policies and consequences which can affect athletic participation eligibility.

## **Athletic Philosophy, Expectations, and Code of Conduct**

The Athletic Department will function in cooperation with the overall philosophy and mission of WC. The primary purpose for athletics at WC is to glorify God. The athletes, coaches, fans, contests, and facilities of WC all belong to God and exist to be used by Him for His purposes. This handbook discusses how matters of school discipline impact athletes and their participation in practice and contests. When students join a Warrior athletic team, they agree to live by a higher standard, since they voluntarily wear the school's uniform.

### **Honoring Christ Through Athletics**

Our aim is to honor Christ through athletics. We seek to achieve the WC mission of developing the mind of Christ through our physical pursuits. The Athletic Department pursues the following goals and upholds the corresponding expectations and standards:

1. To evaluate our athletic programs and all persons involved in them in the light of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130; Psalm 139:23, 24; Hebrews 4:12)
  - a. Athletics serves as a complement to both the spiritual and educational programs at WC.
  - b. Athletic participation is an honor and privilege.
  - c. We expect all athletes to fully commit to both their spiritual and athletic development.
2. To use athletics to train young men and women to walk in a manner consistent with the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 John 2:6; John 15:10; Hebrews 12:11)
  - a. Athletes serve as representatives of both our Lord and the WC community.
  - b. Athletes at WC are held to a higher standard of responsibility and conduct.
3. To recognize that athletic programs afford students the opportunity to develop valuable skills and attributes through their individual development and the actions of participating as a member of a team (Romans 12:11; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Philippians 1:9, 10; Philippians 3:12-14)
4. To teach each of our athletes to do all they can to strengthen the team, doing their part for the good of the whole (Philippians 2:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-6; Romans 12:3-5; Romans 15:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
5. To view winning and losing as a by-product of the application of God's principles, keeping in mind His sovereign choices (Joshua 1:7-9; Ephesians 5:1-17; 2 Corinthians 13:5-8; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
6. To acknowledge God's right to determine the outcome of our athletic endeavors for His purposes (Philippians 2:12, 13; Hebrews 13:20, 21; Hebrews 12:7-11; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 55:8, 9)
7. To utilize the athletic arena and the relationships connected with it to evangelize the lost and support fellow believers (Romans 12:14-21; Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 6:10, 12)

8. To cooperate with our parents as we labor together in the process of training the people entrusted to us (Ephesians 6:1-9; Romans 12:3-8; Galatians 5:13-15)
9. To return to our Creator the glories and honors that come from athletic success (Apart from Him, we can do nothing.) (Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 3:1-6; Philippians 2:9-11)

### **Honoring Christ Through Action**

1. To optimize their experience, we have the expectation for a year-round commitment to remain alcohol, tobacco, and drug free to allow students to achieve their maximum performance mentally, physically, academically, and spiritually.
2. Using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by any middle school or high school athlete is prohibited and can have potential negative effects on the student's health and safety, while also potentially endangering his/her fellow students.
3. We want students and their parents to come forward if there are issues with alcohol, tobacco, or drugs before a violation is established. If there is a self-referral prior to a report, there will be no denial of participation.
4. Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects good citizenship. Any dishonorable conduct by an athlete will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, both on and off school premises, include, but are not limited to, theft, hazing, vandalism, manifest disrespect, inappropriate use of technology and digital communication, violation of the law, or any violation of the Community Life Together Covenant or Honor Code.
5. Education and adult support are vital components of this code. Educational and support opportunities will be available to parents and students as a way to encourage our students to make appropriate choices.

### **Honoring the WC Code of Conduct**

The Athletic Department hosts coaches' meetings prior to the start of each year to review the *Athletic Handbook* with them. In addition, all head coaches are to present handbook, team expectations, and OHSAA requirements at their individual team meetings before their respective seasons.

As noted above, participation in an athletic program offered by WC is both an honor and a privilege. Students who wish to belong to any athletic team make themselves subject to additional responsibilities, not only to themselves, but also to their team, school, and Lord.

In order to participate in athletics, a student must understand and abide by the *WC Upper School Parent and Student Handbook* as well as the rules and regulations in the *Athletic Handbook*. A student's intent to abide by the handbook will be evidenced in an agreement that shall be signed by the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) before a student may begin to practice with his/her team. All students of WC are responsible to abide by the requirements in this handbook as long as they are enrolled as students. The very nature of this agreement implies that it will provide a guideline for our lives at all times (including non-school hours and in all of our modes of communication).

A student who violates the requirements in this handbook will serve the consequences during the current athletic season. If a violation occurs outside the season, the student-athlete will serve the consequences at the start of the next season of participation. In order for any consequence to count toward completion of a disciplinary action, the participant must be an active member of the team for an entire season/school year. Additional consequences may occur due to violations of the school's general expectations.

It is important to note that the expectations and standards of the head coach are enforced on a seasonal basis and may or may not be included in official policy documents. Nevertheless, the athlete is expected to fully comply with the head coach's expectations and standards with regard to, but not limited to, practices, dress/appearance, proper conduct, care of equipment, respectful behavior, transportation, practice/contests, and locker room demeanor. Coaches at WC must adhere to the expectations in this handbook and may administer discipline in addition to this handbook if the coach feels additional discipline is warranted. WC administration reserves the right to adjust the consequences as deemed necessary.

### **Consequences for Violating *Athletic Handbook* Expectations**

#### **Citizenship**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Consequences</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warning</li><li>• 3 hours of service in WC</li><li>• All awards held until service complete</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% loss of participation in next competition</li><li>• 5 hours of service in WC</li><li>• All awards held until service complete</li><li>• Permanent loss of leadership positions for season</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% loss of participation in practice and next 3 competitions or 3 weeks of practice/competition, whichever comes first</li><li>• 10 hours of service in WC</li><li>• All awards held until service is complete</li><li>• Permanent loss of leadership positions for school year</li></ul>

- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense
  - Permanent loss of the privilege to participate in athletics for school year

**Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Consequences</b>
Voluntary Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No participation loss</li> <li>• Required to meet with a counselor</li> <li>• May be used one time in grades 7-12</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% loss of participation in practice and next 3 competitions or 3 weeks of practice/competition, whichever comes first</li> <li>• 10 hours of service in WC</li> <li>• All awards held until service is complete</li> <li>• Permanent loss of leadership positions for school year</li> <li>• Required to meet with counselor</li> <li>• Mandatory assessment</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent loss of privilege to participate in athletics for calendar year</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent loss of privilege to participate in athletics for remaining enrollment at WC</li> </ul>

The Athletic Department reserves the right to review each situation independently and may adjust the consequences based on the severity of the offense and other important variables about the incident (e.g., additional infractions, criminal activity, severity of offenses).

**Honoring Christ through Biblical Problem Solving**

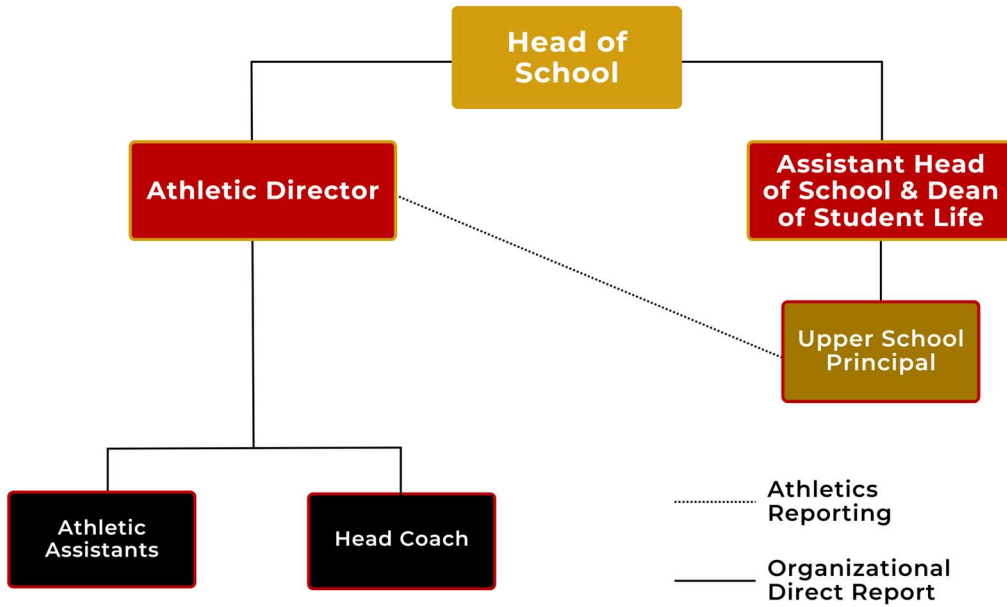
Whenever people are together in relationship, friction may arise. As a result, problems may need to be solved. One of the things that is unique to a Christian school is biblical problem solving. God’s Word gives us instruction in biblical problem solving. The Bible provides clear principles for a Christian seeking to resolve differences with others. Matthew 18:15-17 teaches us that there is a process for solving problems with others. It is a process that begins privately with the offended and the offender. Clear steps are given on how to proceed from that point if the problem is not resolved. Galatians 6:1 tells us that our motive in confrontation should always be the restoration of the relationship, if that is possible. At any level of the process, it may be helpful to invite others to participate in the discussion if it is believed that their involvement will assist in reaching a solution.

Our way of living these biblical principles as student-athlete, parent, and coach is to follow these steps:

1. Pray.
2. The athlete and coach meet in person.
3. If restoration of relationship or the issue has not been resolved between the athlete

- and coach, then the athlete, parent, and coach meet.
4. If restoration of relationship or the issue has not been resolved between the athlete, parent, and coach, then a meeting will be held with the athletic director.
  5. If restoration of relationship or the issue has not been resolved between the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic director, additional administrators may meet with the necessary parties.

**WC Athletic Department Organizational Chart**



updated May 20, 2024



# Responsibilities of the Christian Coach

## General

The coach is to demonstrate a life under the control of the Spirit. Coaches are to actively be involved in a Bible-teaching, fundamental church that is theologically consistent with WC's beliefs and positions. The coach should not only strive to actively disciple athletes in his/her program but also lovingly present truth to opposing teams. Finally, the coach is to emphasize personal growth and character development.

## Coaching Skills

The coach is to teach sport-related strategies and techniques to his/her players. The coach is to motivate and tap into the potential of each athlete while providing a loving atmosphere to encourage team unity.

## Administrative Skills

In this area, coaches are to construct and execute daily and weekly practice schedules. The coach should communicate with athletes and parents through a parent letter/email which details schedules, policies, and transportation needs. Coaches are to record statistics and bring information about athletic awards to the athletic assistant at season's end. The coach is to have first-aid equipment and medical release forms available at all times and ensure the coaching staff can execute the WC emergency action plan. Coaches should only communicate with students and parents via the designated communication application provided and recommended by WC or e-mail when sending written messages, refraining from the use of texting.

## Professional Growth

Coaches are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to grow in their area of expertise. Coaches shall familiarize themselves with the eligibility rules as established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Coaches shall strive to maintain technical competency by learning the rules in their particular sport and by attending the rules meeting sponsored by OHSAA at the beginning of each season.

## Equipment and Uniform Care

Coaches will submit a list of equipment and uniform needs to the athletic director before the beginning of their season. Coaches will clean, store, and inventory all uniforms and equipment at the end of their season with assistance of the Athletic Department. Coaches are to stress equipment and uniform care to all athletes.

## Assistant Coaches

Assistant coaches support the head coach and should assist him/her as needed. Each coach is to promote unity among the coaching staff and adhere to the athletic philosophy of WC.

## Pre-Season Responsibilities of Coaches

1. Coaches must obtain a Pupil Activity Permit (PAP) from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce before the hiring process is complete. This process includes completing a BCI and FBI background check, the National Federation of High School

Coaching Course, a sports first-aid and CPR course, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course, Mental Health and Wellness course, and a concussion course. In addition, coaches must sign a new contract and WC coaching agreement each year to signify their commitment to abide by all rules set forth by the school, Athletic Department, and OHSAA.

2. Coaches may compile a list of rules and procedures that they desire their athletes to follow in their particular sport. This list is to be approved by the athletic director before it is distributed to the athletes.
3. Coaches are responsible for making sure each athlete has a current physical form, concussion form, and Athletic Participation form on file in the Athletic Office. A coach may not allow an athlete to participate in a tryout, practice, scrimmage, or game unless these three forms have been turned in.
4. Potential cuts must be discussed with the athletic director before notifying involved athletes. Athletes should be personally notified by the coach.
5. Coaches must submit to the athletic director a list of all items to be purchased by athletes. This list must be approved by the athletic director before it is distributed to the players.

### **Evaluation of Coaches**

The athletic director will conduct a written evaluation to provide varsity coaches with an assessment of how well they have fulfilled their responsibilities as well as their coaching strengths and weaknesses. This evaluation will include suggestions for improvement. The evaluation will be signed by the athletic director and coach and then filed in the Athletic Office. All other coaches will be evaluated at the conclusion of the season by the varsity coach and/or the athletic director.

## Student-Athlete Participation

### Participation Requirements

For students to be eligible to participate in athletics at WC, they:

1. Must turn in to the Athletic Office a current physical examination that has been completed in the past 365 days. The athlete must be cleared in Final Forms before athletic participation in any practice, scrimmage, or game
2. Are required to electronically sign via Final Forms prior to participation in any practice, scrimmage, or game the following forms:
  - Sudden Cardiac Arrest
  - OHSAA Eligibility Statement
  - HIPPA Authorization
  - Ohio Department of Health Concussion
  - Athletic Participation
  - Parent Partnership Agreement
  - Transportation Agreement
  - Athletic Trainer information
3. Must be enrolled as a fulltime student at WC (An exception can be made for a senior who has met all graduation requirements but is still meeting all OHSAA requirements.)
4. Must meet academic requirements (See the section **Academic Eligibility of Athletes.**)
5. Must accept all rules established by the coach

### Parent Requirements

In addition to assisting their students with the completion of all requirements to participate in athletics, a parent or legal guardian is required to attend the team athletic parent meeting prior to the start of the season.

The coach of each individual sport gives his/her athletes a copy of the rules and procedures concerning their particular sport. These rules and procedures will be approved by the athletic director. Parents will receive these rules and procedures at the parent meeting held at the beginning of each sports season.

Parents of student-athletes also must agree to abide by the Athletics-Parent Partnership Agreement, which is included later in this handbook.

### Student-Athlete Expectations

The Christian student-athlete, particularly as a representative and ambassador of WC, strives to:

1. Honor Jesus Christ in all situations
2. Pray with great intensity, play with great intensity, and study with the desire to do one's

best

3. Focus on maximizing his/her God-given potential
4. Respect and adhere to the coaches' authority and team policies

### **Academic Eligibility of Athletes**

A goal of WC is to adequately provide for the development of the whole person. This would include the body as well as the mind and the spirit. The athletic programs at WC provide an effective tool for the physical development of our students.

WC offers a well-rounded sports program. Students may participate in a wide variety of sports activities. For the women: soccer, cheerleading, volleyball, tennis, golf, cross country, basketball, swimming, bowling, softball, and track. For the men: golf, cross-country, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, bowling, tennis, track, and baseball. WC is a member of the Central Buckeye League. In addition, WC is a member of OHSAA for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and participates in tournaments sponsored by OHSAA.

**Regarding athlete academic eligibility, students must meet both OHSAA and WC requirements.**

The academic eligibility standards for participation in athletics are:

1. In order to be eligible in grades 7-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in the school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student enrolled in grades 9-12 must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses, or the equivalent, which count toward graduation. Students in grades 7 or 8 must have received passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects carried. Students entering grade 7 are automatically eligible by OHSAA standards in the first quarter of that academic year. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received for the final grading period of a regular school year, although credit earned through summer school may count toward graduation requirements.
2. Quarterly grades determine a student's eligibility for the following grading period. WC eligibility standards for participation in athletics require that a student in grades 7-12 have no F's in any classes for a final quarterly grade. Semester and final exams are not calculated in the nine-week assessment because of their comprehensive nature. A student's eligibility will be determined by examining each nine-week's grades independent of prior grading periods. The students Community Life Grade will factor into athletic eligibility. Students with one or more F's will be ineligible for a period of three weeks. At the completion of the three-week period, the student must have no F's in any classes in order to return to competition. If the student has one or more F's after three weeks, the student will remain ineligible to the midpoint of the quarter which will be 4.5 weeks when the student's academic progress will be evaluated.
3. A student-athlete who has earned a Community Life Grade of F will immediately become ineligible to play in any athletic contests until the Community Life Grade resets the following quarter.

4. Students who meet OHSAA standards but fail to meet WC standards may apply for a waiver in order to participate. Such a waiver request is made to the building principal who has the sole authority to grant or deny the request. Factors contributing to denial of a waiver could include, but are not limited to, any of the following:
  - A pattern of not turning in assignments in a timely way
  - Frequent absences where work has not been made up
  - Failure to seek additional help from the teacher or resistance to special help offered
  - Poor conduct or blatantly negative attitude in the classroom
  - More than one disciplinary infraction during the quarter in which the F was earned

Student-athletes who neglect the matters delineated above should not expect a waiver to be granted simply because they are gifted athletes or there is a “big game.” Warriors would rather accept honest defeat than win at the expense of neglecting the weightier matters that should shape the life of the student-athlete who is a citizen of the kingdom of God. Student-athletes, parents, coaches, and other students must understand that if two student athletes fail the same course, one may request and be granted a waiver, while the other might request one and be denied. Reasons for granting or denying a waiver will be provided to the student-athlete, his/her parents, and the coach. Reasons will not be discussed with any other parties outside of the school administration.

WC recognizes that some of our Warrior athletes face special challenges. A student-athlete may work very hard and very consistently and still not pass a course. The goal of this eligibility policy is to recognize, encourage, and reward hard work, discipline, and consistent excellent effort. Sometimes hard work is not enough to earn a passing grade, but it is enough to earn the privilege of representing the Warriors on an athletic team.

5. The mandatory grade report date for teachers in grades 7-12 shall be the end of the second school day following the end of a grading period. “Report” means to input grades in the system’s computer grading system so that information can be accessed by the system’s administrators as well as the students, parents, or other persons with authorized access. A student’s athletic eligibility shall be reinstated 24 hours after the end of the mandatory reporting date provided the student meets the eligibility standards. This means if the grading period ends on Friday, ineligibility or reinstatement of eligibility begins on Wednesday afternoon.
6. Provisions may be made for individual students with identified Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
7. To be eligible to compete on any given game day or to practice on any given day, a student must be in attendance for at least four of the eight class periods on that day unless prior arrangements have been made by the coach, the Athletic Office, or the attendance office. All early releases from school for athletic competition must be

approved by the athletic director and principal in advance and should appear on the Daily Student Report.

8. Student suspensions or disciplinary actions will affect the eligibility of the student athlete as follows:
  - a. 1-to-3-Day Suspension – Upon returning from the suspension, the student-athlete will miss the minimum of one half of the next competition event.
  - b. 4-to-5-Day Suspension – Upon returning from the suspension, the student-athlete will miss the minimum of one full competition event.
  - c. 6+-Day Suspension – Upon returning from the suspension, the student-athlete will miss the minimum of three full competition events.

A second suspension of any length in the same season would deem the athlete ineligible for athletic competition for the remainder of the season.

The athletic director has the final say in term of ineligibility. Additionally, the student will be evaluated on the criteria stated above at the end of any probationary period.

# Injuries

## **Athlete Care and Injury Reporting Guidelines**

1. Athletes are to first report practice injuries to the coach and then to the athletic trainer. All injuries and health concerns must be reported to the athletic trainer.
2. In the absence of the trainer, the coach will initiate early first-aid care. The coach will notify the trainer of all injuries.
3. Injured athletes are expected to continue treatment and the recommended recovery period.
4. Parents are encouraged to contact the trainer regarding any questions or concerns relating to their child's injury.
5. All athletes missing practices or games due to injury must notify the coach directly prior to that practice or game.

## **Medical Referral for Injuries**

The athletic care service provided by the school is not designed to replace the family physician or to dictate medical care. The choice of health care provider and initiation of medical referral always remain at the discretion of the parents. Your family physician should be contacted if problems develop with an injury, the condition worsens, or the condition persists for an extended period of time. It is important that injured athletes return to the training room for reevaluation and report any new or remaining problems. Parents have access to the services of team physician staff who supervise all care provided by the training staff.

## **Return to Activity Following Injury**

All athletes who have been removed from activity by the trainer and referred for physician evaluation must provide a note from the consulting physician prior to return to activity. In addition, all athletes who have been removed from activity by a physician must present a note from the physician clearing the athlete to reenter activity. For concussion-related injuries, see the school's concussion intervention plan below.

## **Concussion-Intervention Plan and Baseline Impact Testing**

WC has a Concussion-Intervention Plan for students who sustain a concussion during athletic competition. A form is available online that can be used by a physician. The information provided on the form will allow our teachers and staff to better help the student through the recovery process.

Ohio Health offers free neurocognitive testing to athletes at WC. Baseline Impact Testing requires parent authorization. This testing can be used if an athlete sustains a head injury during athletic competition.

## **Other Policies**

### **Awards**

Teams will hold individual awards banquets. Coaches will follow the awards guidelines:

1. An athlete must be a member at the close of the season to receive an award.
2. To receive a varsity letter, an athlete must participate in at least half of the contests. Exceptions agreed upon by the coach and athletic director can be made for senior team members who do not meet the 50% requirement.
3. A varsity player will be awarded a letter after the completion of his or her first varsity season. Each varsity season to follow the athlete will receive a pin.
4. Freshman and junior varsity participants will receive a participation certificate.

### **Budget**

In coordination with the athletic director, each varsity coach will submit a list of needs for the upcoming season. The athletic director will prioritize and fulfill all essential needs based on available funds. Teams are not to purchase any items. A purchase order (PO) is required, and all orders will be placed through the Athletic Office.

### **Fundraising**

Any fundraising requests must go through the Director of Development.

### **Dress**

With the understanding that our athletes represent Christ and our school, each team should strive to dress appropriately and professionally. The appearance of a team communicates a great deal about our values.

### **Facility Scheduling**

All practices, scrimmages, games, and contests must be scheduled through the Athletic Department. Teams should not be on premises without first being approved and placed on the master calendar.

### **Uniform Collection**

At the conclusion of the season, the coach is responsible for the collection and storage of uniforms in coordination with the Athletic Department. It is the athletes' responsibility to return all uniform items to their coach immediately following the season.

### **Use of Facilities**

All athletes must be accompanied by a certified WC coach or staff member to use athletic equipment or facilities. No student-athlete may use WC equipment or facilities without supervision. See the Facilities Use Policy later in this handbook.

### **Snow or Emergency Day Policy**

If a snow day or emergency day is called on the day of an athletic contest or practice, the following policy will be in effect:

1. The scheduled athletic event or practice is considered canceled unless the athletic director or principal determines it possible to play.



2. If a bus has been scheduled, the athletic director communicates with the transportation supervisor to determine if a bus and driver are available and the subsequent departure times.
3. Head coaches should communicate with athletes and parents with updates, cancellations, and changes that need to be made via email and/or phone calls.

### **Transportation**

The Athletic Department and coach will work to communicate in a timely manner when bus transportation will not be available. When bus transportation is provided, it will be two-way transportation for high school (unless previously communicated by the coach) and one way for middle school. Parents will be responsible for arranging transportation for their child upon the completion of athletic events if a return bus is not provided or the family elects for the athlete to not ride the bus after the athletic event. A coach, certified staff member, or an approved volunteer adult must ride the bus with the team.

After an athletic event, athletes may go home with a family member or approved adult driver indicated on Final Forms. The coach needs to be notified if an athlete is not taking the return bus.

When transportation is not provided, families will provide transportation to the athletic event for the athlete and can provide authority in Final Forms for athletes to drive themselves and grant permission to take additional athletes, ride with an athlete, or ride with an approved adult with other student-athletes.

### **Open Field/Gym Guidelines**

The purpose of open field/gym is to encourage recreational play for all high school levels. These activities are not limited to current team members. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gauge their abilities in an open environment. These activities are supervised by coaching personnel. However, in conjunction with OHSAA rules, individual or team instruction is not permitted, unless the session is between June 1 and July 31.

### **School-Sponsored Teams, Non-School-Sponsored Teams, and Home Schoolers**

A school-sponsored team by definition is a team that has received administrative approval and functions within the guidelines of the school board and administrative team. Each school-sponsored team is entitled to use facilities and budgeted financial assistance. A non-school-sponsored team by definition has chosen to function outside the guidelines of the school board and administrative team. A non-school-sponsored team may not use the school name and is not guaranteed school resources. School-sponsored athletic programs are available to those students who are enrolled full time at WC. Parttime students or home-schooled students are not eligible for athletic participation.

### **Participating in Non-Interscholastic Team Sports During the Interscholastic Sports Season**

A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board shall not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts, or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-interscholastic squad in a team sport in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season.

### **Sunday and Wednesday Play Policy**

WC partners with families and supports the local church. Additionally, the majority of our school churches meet on Sundays and midweek. Our commitment is to honor this by encouraging our students to regularly attend and be involved in their churches (Hebrews 10:24-25). Therefore, teams sponsored by WC are to do their best to avoid scheduling athletic contests on Wednesdays or Sundays. All Wednesday practices must be completed by 5:30 p.m. unless special arrangements have been made with the athletic office and communicated with parents. **All student-athletes are excused from athletic events who have a conflict with an event/obligation with their church.** Exceptions to this policy include Central Buckeye League contests during the regular season scheduled on Wednesdays by the league, make-up varsity contests, events approved through the athletic office, and varsity teams competing in OHSAA end-of-season tournament games.

Outside of this policy, attendance at practice and competitive events, as a commitment to the team are mandatory. If a student-athlete is going to miss a competition or practice, that should be communicated ahead of time by the student-athlete to the coach, with parents' confirmation, and reason for the absence will be deemed excuse or unexcused based on team policies approved by the athletic department.

### **Tattoos and Body Piercing**

Visible tattoos and body piercings are not permitted at any team activity including games, practices, meals, travel, etc.

### **Senior Tag Policy**

Participation in Senior Tag or any of its variations is not permitted for spring sport athletes.

### **Digital Communication Policy**

The student-athlete should be aware that they are responsible for the content of anything they post on social media, a public media site, or through interpersonal communication. Social media sites or platforms include, but are not limited to, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat. The student-athlete is responsible for any form of electronic communication (e.g., texting, Teams messages).

Consequently, they must be concerned with any behavior that might reflect negatively on themselves, their team, WC, and our Lord. Any images or information communicated digitally, whether on a public forum or through individual communication, that is not consistent with the mission, theological beliefs, and lifestyle expectations of WC may lead to school and athletic consequences. The school does not monitor all technological use by students. However, if material is brought to our attention, regardless of when the event(s) occurred, the student will be subject to athletic consequences laid out in the Athletic Code of Conduct and general discipline from the school. Furthermore, any digital communication that violates the law will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. We advise WC student-athletes to exercise extreme caution in their digital communication.

**Student-Athlete Equipment/Uniform Responsibility**

All WC equipment/uniforms will be collected at the end of each individual sport season. It is the student's responsibility to return all equipment/uniforms to the coach. Students will be billed for damaged and unreturned school equipment/uniforms. Transcripts and report cards will be held until student accounts are cleared.

**The Warrior Logo**

No one may use WC's name, logos, and likeness without approval from the WC Development Department.

**Concluding Statement**

Revisions may be made to this handbook during the school year. The administration will notify students, parents, and teachers when such changes occur.

Also, the handbook is not exhaustive. There is no way the school can anticipate every eventuality and address it with policy. The handbook sets forth common-sense guidelines for Spirit-led believers to come together as an athletic community. Looking for loopholes to be used to excuse specific, unmentioned actions is not an appropriate use of the handbook. The handbook is our best effort at setting forth the aspirations and limitations of athletics at WC.

Students, parents, and coaches will be asked to sign an agreement that states that they have read and are willing to abide by the policies and procedures in the handbook.

## **Information for Athletics Related to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

### **Philosophy**

It is our mission that the primary purpose for middle school athletics is to glorify God. Our abilities have been given to us by Him; therefore, it is our desire to honor Him with those talents.

### **Addendum to Academic Eligibility for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

If a student is not performing well academically, that student will be placed on an Academic Watch List. Administration will work with that student to develop an action plan aimed at increased success in the classroom. Athletic eligibility may be withheld, at the discretion of administration, if it is determined that the student violates the terms of the Academic Watch Plan.

### **OHSAA**

WC's middle school athletic program is not a member of OHSAA. However, WC requires our coaches to meet the OHSAA coaching requirements. In addition, our students and parents must complete all the requirements listed on Final Forms to be eligible for competition.

### **Playing Time**

Each coach should be focused on the development of all athletes. Varying skill levels in each sport make it difficult to play all athletes equally. Therefore, the coach must use his/her discretion when making personnel decisions during a contest. Coaches cannot nor should not guarantee an equal amount of playing time for all athletes. However, it should be the goal of the coach to find opportunities suitable for all athletes to play when the situation presents itself.

### **Team Sizes**

It is the school's goal that all athletes who desire to participate will have the opportunity to do so. There are some sports where larger numbers may require us to cap the size of the team.

### **Student-Athlete Equipment/Uniform Responsibility**

All WC equipment/uniforms will be collected at the end of each individual sport season. It is the student's responsibility to return all equipment/uniforms to the coach. Students will be billed for damaged and unreturned school equipment/uniforms. Transcripts and report cards will be held until student accounts are cleared.

### **Banquets**

At the close of a season, coaches may use the facilities to schedule a team banquet. The Athletic Office provides certificates for all athletes who participated.

## Athletics-Parent Partnership Agreement

We understand that part of the educational experience is building and strengthening the integrity of all involved in the process.

Commitment to biblical integrity requires that coaches and parents abide by the commands to love each other, treat each other as they would treat themselves, and speak and act justly toward each other. When students participate in athletics, they do so as part of their total educational experience—building life skills of commitment, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork.

I agree with Worthington Christian School (WC) in believing that when students become involved in athletic programs at the school, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. In addition to developing their athletic skills, I understand that WC desires students to develop the character traits required of a Warrior athlete and reflect the heart of Christ.

I agree to join WC in creating an environment that allows for the highest potential of long-term growth for each student. Our goal is that our student-athletes reflect our school's mission, "To develop the mind of Christ in students through intellectual, creative, and physical pursuits." I, therefore, agree that:

1. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will refrain from making any derogatory comment directed at an official. Any officiating concerns should be brought to the Athletic Department and not shared during or immediately before or after an athletic contest.
2. I will refrain from coaching my student or other players during games or practices. Coaching during practices and games is solely the responsibility of the team's coaching staff.
3. I will never question, discuss, or confront a coach at the game or practice and will take time to speak to coaches at an agreed-upon time and place.
4. I understand it is the athlete's responsibility to primarily communicate with the coach throughout the season. Any questions or concerns should begin with a conversation between the student-athlete and the coach. If needed, concerns then are moved forward as stated in the *Athletic Handbook*.
5. I understand the sport is meant for the benefit of the student-athletes to learn, develop, and enjoy competing and not meant for the fulfillment of my or someone else's desires.
6. I will teach my student-athlete that using his/her God-given gifts to the fullest is the ultimate measure of success, not the outcome of the contest.
7. I acknowledge that I expect my student-athlete to treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.
8. I will not promote the individual desires and participation of my student-athlete over their emotional and physical wellbeing and the teams'.
9. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my student-athlete and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators of the game.

10. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, including, but not limited to, booing and/or taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures.
11. I understand that any violation of this code of conduct could be cause for dismissal, suspension, or permanent expulsion from future athletic contests at the Athletic Department's discretion or removal of an athlete from a team.
12. I understand, and agree that event officials assigned to athletic events, onsite administration, game managers, and WC coaches are responsible to oversee event behavior and have the authority to approach/remove those violating this agreement.
13. I understand that OHSAA suspends any athlete or coach two games for an ejection from a sporting event. If I am ejected from a WC athletic event, I understand that I will also be suspended for the next two contest dates in the sport from which I was ejected.

# Athletic Facilities Use Policy

## Purpose

The primary purpose of the athletic facilities at WC is to carry out the educational mission of the school. The WC Athletic Facilities Use Policy has been established to protect the property, privacy, and safety of students, faculty, staff, visitors, and coaches. This policy sets priorities for facility usage, defines scheduling procedures, and establishes charges associated with event management and facility use.

## Personnel: Fob/Key Access

- Athletic facilities fob/key access is granted to WC-contracted coaches and WC faculty/staff.
- Athletic facilities use must be scheduled and cleared through the Athletic Department or school administration.
- Vendors, contractors, and organizations renting WC athletic facilities may also be provided temporary fob/key access upon contractual agreement with WC.
- All fobs/keys will be registered with the Facilities Department for security purposes. Athletic fobs/keys are to be returned to the Athletic Director upon contract expiration or when access to athletic facilities is no longer required.
- Loaning fobs/keys to another person is prohibited.

## Facilities Access

- No one is allowed in the gyms, stadium, fields, courts, or weight room before, during, or after school without direct supervision of a WC staff member, WC-contracted coach, or WC athletic trainer.
- WC coach fob/key access to athletic facilities is restricted to use during his/her contracted sports season. Access to specific facilities for off-season practices or workouts may be granted by the varsity head coach and Athletic Director.
- During school hours, coaches must enter through the administration entrance and obtain a visitor badge.

## Facilities Usage and Rental

An organization, group, or person scheduling use of a WC facility for an organization or individual outside of the school or Grace Polaris Church (e.g., club sports teams, tournaments, AAU, private individuals, etc.) will be required to sign a rental agreement and agree to a fee for use of WC athletic facilities.

## Facility Scheduling

All space use should be reserved and documented on the facility calendar by reserving it through the Athletic Department per the *Athletic Handbook*.

## Student-Athlete Use

Students should never use athletic space for training on their own. This pertains to any individual or group training without supervision. Athletes should always have a WC-approved coach or staff member with them if they are using the facility for training for safety reasons.

Additionally, students and coaches or trainers should not be training on a one-on-one basis. There should always be either multiple athletes with one coach or another adult present in the group. A one-on-one environment should never occur unless with your own child. This is for everyone's safety.

### **WC Coaches**

All WC coaches abide by the following expectations. They must be mindful to avoid violating any OHSAA regulations.

1. Personal use of WC athletic facilities space to work out, train, or just spend time with family (e.g., shooting baskets in the gym) is permitted. Abuse of this policy can result in limiting or removing this access.
2. WC coaches can run training sessions for WC athletes as part of the sport/programs plan for in-season or off-season conditioning. This should be set by the head coach of the program and be available to all athletes who want to attend if it abides by OHSAA contact rules and regulations while maintaining a balance of opportunities for all but providing additional opportunities for those who wish to pursue them.
  - All space used for this purpose should be reserved through the Athletic Department and placed on the master schedule.
  - Athletes who request extra help from their coach(es) and training outside of regular scheduled practice is encouraged, but there must be an equitable approach to this. Additionally, this should be optional and driven by the athlete.
3. If you are using WC space to run the training and practice for payment (outside athletes), it should be set up through with our Finance Department via the athletic director. This would be similar to a camp but with fewer participants. By using this system, there is liability coverage through the school.
4. If you are using WC space and you want payment to go directly to you (outside athletes), then it would be classified as a rental situation through which coaches would need to provide insurance for the training program/organization. WC rents space to coaches at a lower rate if they want to run their own personal training programs/events. However, this must be approved by WC. Also, previous permission does not guarantee ongoing or future permission.
5. A WC coach may not train an athlete in their program for payment using WC facilities. If a coach wants to run a training program for WC athletes outside of their program/sport for payment, that must be approved by the athletic director and then approved according to the criteria and requirements in this Athletic Facilities Use Policy.

A significant aspect of this rationale involves a real or perceived conflict of interest if a player who has "paid for training" with their coach seems to be playing more while other athletes who are not training with the coach do not receive as much playing time.

### **Non-WC Coaches/Programs**

1. A non-WC coach cannot be brought in to work with WC athletes using WC facilities unless it is an approved WC sport training program. Any such training must be approved by the athletic director and the head coach of the specific sport. Any outside



trainer must meet the coaching requirements stipulated by the state and must clear any volunteer background checks required by the school.

2. Outside organizations may request to rent facilities. If approved, they must sign a rental agreement and provide liability insurance. WC reserves the right to approve or refuse any rental request.