



TAKING
the
CHALLENGE
Philippians 4:8

STUDENT ATHLETE
HANDBOOK
2011-2012



11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd., Houston, Texas 77065
281 469-8829

Welcome to Warrior Athletics for 2011-2012. As last year was such an incredibly successful year, what does the future hold for the Warriors? We are “Taking the Challenge” as we head into an even more exciting and incredible school year. God has been working to put everyone and everything into His perfect plan.

God’s Word provides all the challenges we need to build our student athletes up to be prepared to take their game to the next level and to take their place in the world as His servants. This year we are focusing on Philippians 4:8, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise – dwell on these things.” As a coaching staff, we desire to grow each student athlete in every area.

The success of Cypress Christian athletics is largely dependent on daily commitment by its coaches, parents, and athletes to grow both spiritually and physically. Therefore, success cannot be measured solely by looking at the scoreboard. As we go through this year, each person will be able to see every level of success we meet.

Warrior Athletics is ready and we are “Taking the Challenge.” Join us as we seek to be our best for Him.

All for Him,

Marsha Martin
Athletic Director

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COACHING STAFF

Athletic Director

Marsha Martin

Athletic Office Assistant

Cindy Wilhite

Cheerleading

HS: Natalie Hess Kirtley

MS: Connie Macel

Soccer

Coordinator: Ade Adeniran

HS Boys: Ade Adeniran

HS Girls: Lisa Morgan

MS Boys: TBA

MS Girls: Willie and Jaylene Cyr

Volleyball

Varsity Head: Diane Beckmeyer Owens

JV: Emily Hill

MS: John Van Rieg

Golf

Varsity Girls/Boys: Dr. Glenn Holzman

Football

Varsity Head: Jacob Spenn

Varsity Assistant: Tim Honeycutt, Chris

Laidlaw, Tom Nugent, Wes Van Pelt,
Will Fields

MS Head: John Warren

MS Assistant: Rob Geyer, Tyler Martin

Softball

HS: John Van Rieg

MS: Becky Fredrickson

Basketball

Girls Varsity Head: Marsha Martin

JV: Lisa Longridge

MS: TBA

MS Assistant: Jessica Van Rieg

Boys Varsity Head: Craig Cleveland

JV: Jim Davis

MS: Kelvin Mason, Joshua Patterson

Baseball

Varsity Head: Greg Bretz

Varsity Assistant: Chris Laidlaw

MS-A: TBA

MS-B: Rob Geyer, Chris Shadle

Track and Field

Girls Varsity Head: Marsha Martin

Boys Varsity Head: Tom Nugent

Throwers Coach MS/HS: Josh Patterson

MS Girls: Lisa Longridge

MS Boys: John Warren

Cypress Christian School

11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd., Houston, Texas 77065 (281 469-8829)

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Purpose of Cypress Christian Athletics

Cypress Christian School involves its student-athletes in interscholastic sports in order to, first and foremost, glorify and honor God with the talents and abilities He has given. We also believe athletics is a great tool to build Christian character, teach discipline, and to learn to face adversity and challenges with a steady eye, a courageous spirit, and reliance upon the ultimate authority, Jesus Christ. Student-athletes are to display good sportsmanship and honor the Lord through their participation.

Participation

- Participation in athletics is a privilege. This privilege will be available as long as the student displays proper conduct on and off the field/court and maintains appropriate academic progress. Since it is a privilege, it can be lost based on misconduct.
- Because of limitations with facilities, coaches may be forced to limit the size of teams.
- Coaches will make every effort to teach and guide each player, but participation in each game is not guaranteed; it is earned through practice and effort. It is the coach's place to determine playing time for each student-athlete.

The responsibility for choosing each team is left up to the coach and his/her staff. Coaches will outline criteria for making the team prior to the first practice. Players must recognize the commitment level that will be needed to participate in the school athletic program. Trips, work schedules, and outside activities must be scheduled carefully. A commitment to a team requires time. A student on a school team is agreeing to make the commitment to practice each day throughout the season and to keep absences from practices and games minimal.

Character Education and Athletics

We expect our student-athletes, parents, and coaches to exemplify the Character of Christ as we compete in athletics. In order to accomplish this, there must be a higher level of accountability. Student-athletes have both the privilege and the responsibility of representing our school. These students are always representatives of Christ to those who see them. This increased visibility demands that the students be held to a higher standard of conduct - one that is glorifying to God, both in school and out of school. *“So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” (Philippians 2:15-16a)*

Character Goals and Expectations

The following are some of the character qualities we are seeking to build in our student athletes through CCS athletics. Each is drawn from God’s Word. Our expectation is not that of achieving perfection, but of growing in conformity to Christ in very visible and very practical ways.

- ***Respect for Authority***
Obey and cooperate with your coach and honor the official. Recognize that they are placed in their positions of authority by God, and as such, are owed your respect.
- ***Humility***
Don’t boast; don’t act proud. Show forth the attitude that God is the one who is ultimately responsible for your abilities and successes.
- ***Endurance***
Persevere in the face of pressure, hard work, and discouragement. Keep your eyes fixed on the higher goals. Don’t quit; don’t let up!
- ***Intensity***
Play on the edge of your limits. Give everything you’ve got at all times. Focus your total attention on the job at hand, and put forth every effort to execute it perfectly. Don’t be content with mediocrity; strive for excellence!
- ***Enthusiasm***
Carry out each task promptly and eagerly. Enjoy the game!
- ***Faith***
Show that you know the Lord is in control of every situation and is carrying out His will in your life, even when things don’t seem to go your way.
- ***Respect for the Opposition***
Be courteous. Don’t let up on them; they deserve your best effort, regardless of the score. Commend an opponent’s excellence. Shake a hand!

- **Responsibility**
Be where you need to be when you need to be there. Do what is expected of you even without direct supervision. Choose to work and to make wise decisions on your own initiative.
- **Integrity**
Be honest! Earn a good name as one who is trustworthy. Play by the rules of the game. Have a sense of fair play that comes from a real commitment to the truth.
- **Teamwork**
Don't be selfish; conform your personal goals to team goals. Spur each other on to excellence. Encourage each other. When someone is struggling, stick with them. Be a team!
- **Servanthood**
Look for ways to serve your teammates, your coach, and your school. Remember Jesus' example.
- **Self-control**
Know yourself. Know how you tend to act under stress. Recognize areas of weakness, and train yourself to respond in a godly way.

Affiliations

Cypress Christian School is a member of Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) for all high school sports. The middle school is a member of the North Houston Athletic League (NHAL) for all sports excluding football. Our middle school football program is a member of the Houston Private Jr. High Football Conference. The school must adhere to all eligibility requirements set forth by these organizations.

High School

Football: TAPPS Division III District 4

- Cypress Christian School
- Bay Area Christian School
- Faith West Academy

Other Sports: TAPPS 3A

- St. Thomas Episcopal - no baseball, softball
- Cypress Christian School
- Faith West Academy
- Rosehill Christian School – no softball
- Woodlands Christian School
- Bay Area Christian – softball, baseball, track only
- Legacy Christian – softball, baseball, track only
- First Baptist Christian – softball, baseball, track only
- O'Connell – softball, baseball only

TAPPS Div. III Soccer

- St. Thomas Episcopal (Girls and Boys)
- Cypress Christian (Girls and Boys)
- Rosehill Christian (Boys)
- Briarwood (Boys)
- Bay Area Christian (Girls and Boys)
- Legacy (Boys)

Middle School

Football: Houston Private Jr. High Football Conference

- Salem Trinity
- Faith West
- Cypress Christian
- Northland
- Fort Bend Baptist
- Bay Area

All Other Sports

North Houston Athletic League

- Cypress Christian
- Northland
- Faith West
- Woodlands Academy Preparatory
- Conroe Covenant
- Rosehill
- Northeast
- SATCH
- Woodlands Christian
- Holy Trinity

Risks of Participation

It must be understood that there are obvious risks involved in athletic participation. Injuries can occur even when every safety precaution has been taken. Cypress Christian School will make every effort to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the athletes.

Sports Offered at Cypress Christian School

High School

<u>Season</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Fall	Football Cheerleading	Volleyball Cheerleading
Winter	Basketball Soccer	Basketball Soccer
Spring	Cheerleading Track and Field Baseball Golf	Cheerleading Track and Field Softball Golf

Middle School

<u>Season</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Fall	Football	Volleyball Cheerleading
Winter	Soccer Basketball	Soccer Basketball Cheerleading
Spring	Track and Field Baseball	Track and Field Softball

Team Rules/School Rules

A coach has the right to establish team rules. These pre-approved rules must be communicated to the team at the beginning of the season. These rules would include, but not be limited to, practice attendance, lateness to practice and games, and care of uniforms.

The Parent/Student Handbook applies to all students and all sports. All of these rules will be followed.

Athletic Department Chain of Command

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The AD works with the Secondary Principal to provide a quality program. Each Assistant, MS, or JV Coach reports to the Head Coach of their sport, and all Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to your son/daughter's coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment first with the Head Coach of that sport and then the Athletic Director.

Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach. While you may not agree with every decision of a coach, how and when you express your feelings may have a negative effect on your child and on the team. The time immediately following a contest is an emotional time, so please refrain from approaching a coach with issues at that time. A good standard to follow is "right time, right place, and right spirit."

Tryouts for Teams

All coaches may hold try-outs for teams. Some will make cuts based on team size, uniforms, and player needs. When coaches make cuts or determine whether the student is an A or B team player or Varsity or JV player, please understand this is not taken lightly. Athletes will be observed in skills and drills and possible scrimmage situations.

The coach will then choose those athletes based on ability, commitment, character, attitude, and team needs.

In order to build a strong program with the facilities and size of coaching staff of CCS, we must maintain teams with numbers we can train and play. A student should always feel free to talk to the coach about why he/she did not make a team so that students can improve for the next year. MS team rosters may be handed out when school is out for the day, emailed home, or distributed at the end of the tryout process. We ask that MS students open these letters with parents so that they may help them through this process.

CCS coaches strive to put God first and seek His guidance as we make decisions concerning our students.

Age Restrictions and TAPPS Rules of Eligibility

1. A high school student athlete may not turn 19 before September 1 of the school year.
2. A student-athlete may participate in athletics during a normal program of high school courses over a period of four consecutive calendar years after the student first enrolls in the ninth grade.
3. A transfer student must be in compliance with section 104 of the TAPPS By-Laws in order to be eligible for district play of the play-offs. A student must have been in attendance on or before:

September 7 – football and volleyball

December 7 – basketball and soccer

February 22 – baseball, golf, softball, and track and field

4. A middle school student may not play more than three years while in middle school. (Exception: Track and Field allows fifth graders to run.)

Practice Policy

It is understood that an important aspect of athletics is practice. Teams may practice every day after school, Wednesdays are only until 5:30, and early morning practices can be from 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. MS teams (basketball) may also practice on Saturdays. Occasionally, some high school teams will practice on Saturdays (with permission). Teams may also practice during holidays.

Fall and spring sports will normally practice after school. The volleyball teams and the basketball teams must share the gym, and practice times will be staggered. MS basketball teams will have early morning practices up to two scheduled days a week. HS teams will practice after school and will be staggered from week to week.

No teams may practice on Sundays; an exception to this is high school golf as play-offs are on Mondays.

Coaches will hand out practice schedules at the beginning of the season. Please note that sometimes changes will have to be made, but the majority of the time, the schedule will be followed. Parents are welcome at practices as long as they sit in the stands or away from the team and observe only. No input may be given by the parent, unless the coach specifically asks for it. Coaches have the right to close some practices at times, as long as these are announced beforehand. This provides the coach with no distractions.

Outdoor Sports – Practices will be called early due to bad weather, especially lightning. If your son/daughter needs a ride, you will receive a phone call from the coach's offices.

Coaches spend a tremendous amount of time away from their families during the season. Forcing a coach to wait for parents long after a practice is finished is unfair to the coach. It is imperative that athletes are picked up promptly at the end of practice.

Hazing/Peer Harassment Policy

Hazing or peer harassment that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with, any team will not be tolerated. All athletes must be given the opportunity to compete without the threat of any type of abuse. Coaches have a responsibility to maintain a safe and positive environment for all athletes. Students are encouraged to notify coaches or other school personnel of instances of hazing or harassment.

Ejections from Games

If a student athlete is ejected from a game, there is a penalty which is enforced by CCS and TAPPS. For the first offense, the student athlete will not be able to play in the next game on the schedule. The offense will be reported to TAPPS by Cypress Christian and the fine will be paid by the student athlete.

For the second offense, the student athlete will be immediately dismissed from the team. The offense will be reported to TAPPS by Cypress Christian and the fine, which increases, will be paid by the student athlete. The student athlete may petition the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to return to the team.

If the student athlete is allowed back on the team by Administration and a third offense occurs, that student will be dismissed from the team and will not be allowed on the team for the rest of the season. The ejection will be reported to TAPPS by Cypress Christian and the student athlete will be required to pay the fine. There will be no petition to return to the team allowed.

Attendance Guidelines

A student must be in school by 8:15 a.m. to participate in a game on that day. Exceptions will be made for medical or dental appointments. Please bring a note to school from your doctor when you have an appointment.

Students must be in all classes unless on an approved school activity to be able to practice or play that day.

Students must be in school by 8:30 a.m. and remain for the entire day on Friday to participate in a co-curricular activity over the weekend.

Academic Eligibility

CCS believes that participation in co-curricular activities is an important component of a student's educational experience. However, when that participation interferes with the student's academic performance, we believe it is in the best interest of the student to step aside from co-curricular activities in order to focus efforts on the primary purpose for school academics. Therefore:

- If a student is failing a subject (below 70) at mid-term (end of the 4th week), including dual credit courses, then that student may not participate in co-curricular competition (games) for one week or the remainder of that week.
 - When the student is passing, then the A.D. will notify the coach/sponsor that the student is eligible to play that week.
 - If the student is still not passing, then the student will continue to be ineligible for one more week. This process will continue through the end of the quarter as long as the student is not passing with a 70 or better.
 - The student will not be eligible to play until the grade is a passing grade, based on the weekly checks made by the Athletic Director. The coach must receive word from the Athletic Director, not the student.
 - Progress Reports: September 13, November 15, January 31, April 16
- If the student is failing a subject at the end of the quarter, he or she may continue to practice, but becomes ineligible to play in a game/meet for a period of three weeks, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the first day of the new quarter to 8:00 a.m. of the same day, fourth week of the same quarter. Student must be passing to be eligible to play at the end of this three-week period.
- If the parent has financial obligations for tuition that remains outstanding, the student will be declared ineligible regardless of grade or conduct status.
- A student, who receives an in-school suspension while a member of a team, will be required to miss one game/meet, not including the games/meets missed while serving the suspension. This game/meet will be the next one on the schedule. Neither the student nor the coach may choose a different game/meet.
- A student who receives an out-of-school suspension will be immediately dismissed from the team, but may petition the Athletic Director and Principal to return to the team. This will be taken into consideration on a case by case situation.

Athletic Physicals

Every student-athlete must have a completed physical on file **before** beginning practice. Be sure that one parent signs the completed physical form before turning it in to the office.

Physical forms are available on the website or in the Athletic Office.

Transportation Forms, Medical Information, and Acknowledgement of Rules Forms

1. Each student has medical information and emergency contact information on file with the school. The coach will have a copy of that information at all times.
2. Each student will also complete a Transportation Form which gives CCS permission to transport the students by parent drivers or by bus.
3. Each student must turn in an Acknowledgement of Rules form signed by the student and the parent. This is kept on file in the Athletic Office.

The Medical Information and Emergency Contact forms are available on RenWeb. The Acknowledgement of Rules form is available on the website under Athletics, in the Athletic Office, or from the coach.

Athletic Fee

To help offset the cost of the athletic program, each student-athlete must pay an athletic fee per sport. These fees are billed to your account once the team roster is set. These fees are non-refundable. There are **NO** exceptions.

Uniforms

Student-athletes will be issued team uniforms and bags. The uniforms and bags are the property of Cypress Christian School. The uniforms are only to be worn for the athletic contest, not for practice or casual wear. Game jerseys *for football only* are worn to school on game days. All other sports will have team shirts that may be worn on game days.

Care will be taken when laundering the uniforms. Wash in cold water and hang to dry. Do not put uniforms in the dryer. Uniforms that are lost, stolen, damaged, or have unusual wear need to be replaced by the athlete. Cost will be determined by the age of the article and will be billed to your account.

All uniforms and bags will be turned in to the coach on a designated day the week after the season ends. If a dirty uniform is turned in to the coach, there will be a \$15 fee for washing charged to the parents.

Travel

All student-athletes will travel with the team to away games. Coaches may allow student-athletes to ride home with their parents, but the coach must be aware of this. No athlete may ride home with another family unless written or direct verbal permission has been given to the coach prior to the game. Students are NOT allowed to drive themselves to games.

Coaches will provide parents with expected arrival times for away games. It is expected that parents will respect the coaches' time and be prompt in picking up their children after home and away games. Coaches are expected to stay with students no more than fifteen minutes past the anticipated arrival time that was given to the parents.

Emergency Plan for Changes – Calling Tree

When necessary to report sudden cancellations of games or changes in locations that were made last minute, the school will use the Calling Tree system to immediately notify the parents of the team with specific instructions/information.

Appropriate Dress

Each student-athlete is responsible to dress appropriately while attending away competitions. The wearing of inappropriate attire could result in removal from team competition on the specific day the infraction occurs. See your student handbook to understand the dress code. We take pride in our appearance.

Student Manager/Trainer Dress for Games

Student Managers/Trainers will wear a team t-shirt or polo representing that particular sport. The Head Coach will provide these. Students may wear school-approved jeans, slacks, or shorts. Shorts must have at least a 6-inch inseam. Please check with Head Coach and Athletic Director for more direction on this apparel. Nothing else will be acceptable.

Sportsmanship Standards

The Apostle Paul stated in 1Corinthians 10:31, “whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Athletics can be used to develop many positive qualities in athletes, parents, and spectators. We must maintain a Christ-like testimony while in the midst of competition. The following guidelines have been developed to help us maintain a godly walk and testimony.

For the Coach...

1. Exemplify godly character, behavior, and leadership at all times.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athletes.
3. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials. Show respect to the officials.

For the Athlete...

1. Accept the responsibility of representing Cypress Christian School.
2. Treat opponents and teammates with self-control and respect.
3. Avoid actions and words that demean or taunt opponents.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
6. Shake hands with opponents after the game. Treat the competition as a game, not a battle.

For the Spectators...

1. Remember that you are at an athletic contest involving school students. They are not adults or professionals.
2. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and cheerleaders.
3. Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials.
4. Avoid personal contact with the officials.
5. Avoid booing, taunting, and sarcastic and personal comments directed at opposing players and referees.
6. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
7. Refrain from yelling or waving objects at inappropriate times during the contest.
8. Do not use noise makers during the contest.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are difficult tasks. Parents and coaches must have an understanding of the expectations and philosophies of one another. Clear communication is important.

Communication you will expect from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for the team members
3. Locations and times of all games and practices
4. Approximate return times for all away games
5. Team requirements, (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
6. Procedure to follow for injuries
7. Discipline that would affect playing time

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
2. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

Do not attempt to speak with a coach before or after a contest or practice with your concerns. Meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution. Therefore, the "24 Hour Standard" will always be in effect. This standard simply allows for time of reflection and prayer, as well as emotionalism to ebb so rational, facts-oriented discussions can take place.

Conflict Resolution

One of our goals is to instill in our student-athletes a sense of ownership and responsibility for their actions. Therefore, it is important that student-athletes learn necessary communication skills and learn how to resolve conflicts in a God-honoring way.

Please note the order of the conflict resolution policy:

1. Player—Coach—role, improvement, etc.
2. Parent—Player—Coach
3. Parent—Player—Coach—Athletic Director

If the final meeting provides no resolution, further steps can be determined

Athletic Awards

Athletic certificates are awarded by the school to deserving participants. The following criteria will be used to determine athletic award recipients.

- Participation Certificates: All athletes who complete the season who have followed all the guidelines will be awarded a team participation certificate.
- Varsity Letter Certificate: A varsity letter certificate will be awarded to varsity athletes upon successful completion of the season and upon criteria set by the varsity coach and Athletic Director.
- Letter Jackets: Jackets are available but the students must purchase them. These may be purchased after an athlete has earned a varsity letter. We ask that all patches, along with names and nicknames, be approved by the Athletic Director before the order is placed. CCS Coaches will provide the wording for all team patches earned. Jackets will be ordered two times this year: November and May. Packets will be available before these dates. Please check with the Athletic Director.
- Team Awards: The coaching staff of each team will select award winners through a process determined by the head coach and Athletic Director. Each winner will receive a wall plaque.
- State Championship Rings: Rings are available to athletes who win a state championship in a sport. They must be purchased by the student.

There will be three athletic awards nights this year: fall sports, winter sports, and spring sports. The dates will be posted on the website and reminders will be sent out by email.

There are special awards given out at the Spring Awards program:

- The MS presents the “Sword and Shield” Award to two outstanding Eighth grade students for Excellence in Athletics, Leadership, Determination, Sportsmanship, Christian Character, Academic Achievement, and Integrity.
- The High School presents the “Valiant Warrior” award to up to two seniors for Excellence in Athletics, Leadership, Determination, Sportsmanship, Christian Character, Academic Achievement, and Integrity.

The High School also recognizes student-athletes for their work in the classroom:

- The “Academics Honors Award” is given to students who maintained an average of 80 or above for the first three quarters of the school year.
- The “Scholar Academic Award” is given to those students who maintained an average of 90 or above for the first three quarters of the school year.
- The “Scholar Athlete” award is given to the student-athlete who earned the highest GPA for the past four years.

Sports Pictures

Pictures will be taken by a new company this year and the fall sports teams will be done on a trial basis.

The dates will be posted on the Athletic pages on the website and the teams will be told.

Please be sure that your son/daughter has all necessary items here on Picture Day including proper shoes.

If you have any questions, please ask. Again, dates will be posted on the website.

Dress Code for Car Washes

1. Swimsuits are allowed *underneath* shorts and a shirt for girls. Girls must be modest in their dress, with shorts that are no less than mid-thigh in length. Short shorts are not appropriate for a fundraiser. Tank tops are acceptable. Make sure there is no inappropriate design or wording.
2. Boys *must* wear a shirt or tank top at all times. Make sure the shorts are worn at the waist and are appropriate.
3. Proper shoes or sandals will be worn in order to protect the students' feet.
4. No collecting money on the street.
5. Attitude: We are there to raise money, but please pay attention to your sign-holders and make sure they are behaving appropriately.

NCAA Clearinghouse

If you are a prospective student-athlete at a Division I or II college or university, you have certain responsibilities to attend to before you may participate. Information concerning who needs to register with the Clearinghouse and what documents will be submitted can be found in *The Guide for College Bound Student Athletes* on the NCAA website,

www.web1ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/

NAIA

If you are looking at smaller colleges with scholarship opportunities, you will need to go to the NAIA Eligibility Center at NAIA.org. Information concerning student needs and registration forms can be found at this sight.

Athlete Code of Conduct

Speech

Proverbs 16:2: “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”

1. **Choose your words and your timing wisely.** Questionable language or “slang” words will not be tolerated. The athlete will never engage in any language that can be termed “trash talking” or profanity.
Example: In basketball, chanting “air-ball” or screaming while the opponent is on the free-throw line shows poor sportsmanship. In baseball, making noise while an opponent is at bat shows poor sportsmanship.
2. **The athlete will address the coaches and officials with respect.** The athlete will address the coach as “Coach” or “Mr., Miss or Mrs.” and will take concerns or complaints directly to him/her. Insubordination and divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. The athlete will address officials as “Sir” or “Ma’am.”
3. **Never criticize the officials or coaches.** Coaches and officials represent the authority figure. Obedience to authority is not optional and is not predicated on whether or not you agree with it. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God.

Relationships

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

1. **Develop good relationships and a good rapport with teammates and coaches.** God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to develop life-long friendships. If sports becomes all about you, you need not participate.
2. **Develop relationships and a good rapport with classmates.** Do not attempt to set yourself up on a pedestal.
3. **Develop relationships and a good rapport with students from other schools.** Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others.

Unity

I Corinthians 12:12 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

1. **Develop unity within your team.** *“It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.”* John Wooden
2. **Develop unity with our school family.** God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different responsibilities, abilities, and roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else’s role. Be busy fulfilling your role.
3. **Develop unity within the Kingdom.** We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met – to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for Cypress Christian.

Motives

I Corinthians 10:3: "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1. **Be motivated by the love of God.** Live for Him because He gave His life for us.
2. **Strive for victory in order to glorify God.** Athletics is just a means to an end and not an end unto itself. *"Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility."* John Wooden
3. **Demonstrating Christ in our lives by abiding by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.** Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" will not be tolerated.
4. **Committed to excellence.** Be committed to excellence in all areas: faith, practice, academics and game preparation. *"Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established."* Proverbs 16:3

Behavior

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

1. **The athlete will maintain a good reputation.** The athlete's character will be in good standing with the administration, faculty, and staff. The athlete will refrain from the use of profanity, suggestive or threatening language, or innuendos. The athlete will not be under the influence of, possess, or sell alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. The athlete will not be involved in any immoral sexual activity or be in possession of any pornography or illicit pictures or literature.
2. **The athlete will know and understand all requirements.** The athlete will know all of the expectations of their team and will follow them both in action and in spirit.
3. **The athlete will show respect for all coaches, trainers, and all staff personnel.** This includes the game plans, methods, and philosophies.
4. **The athlete will show respect for teammates.** The athlete will respect the seriousness of their commitment by attending all practices, meetings, and games as prescribed at the beginning of the season and by working together to accomplish a common goal. Help to hold your teammates accountable for their actions.
5. **The athlete will maintain a high standard of appearance.** He/she will adhere to the strictest interpretations of the school dress code and the team dress and uniform code while at school and on any school trip.
6. **The athlete will demonstrate Christ-like character.** Both in and out of the arena showing respect in speech and in actions for game officials, opponents, and all those associated with our opponents.
7. **The athlete will never engage in fighting.** The athlete will maintain self-control at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct, penalties, and technical fouls will not be tolerated and will be penalized. Penalties include, but are not limited to, suspension or dismissal from the team.
8. **The athlete will know and understand our philosophy.** The athlete will respect the eternal effects of their speech and actions as they represent themselves, their families, their school, their church, and ultimately their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Parent Code of Conduct

Speech

Proverbs 16:23: “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”

1. **Choose your words and your timing wisely.** Questionable language or “slang” words will not be tolerated. Anything negative or insulting must be avoided.
2. **Be positive and encouraging.** Lift your student and others up. Let them know they are important. Let them know the importance of being a member of a team.
3. **Never criticize the officials or coaches.** They are representatives of authority. This is a great opportunity to teach your child how to respect a person in authority. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God. Insist that your child address the coaches and officials with respect.
4. **Never be involved in negative cheering.**
Example: In basketball, chanting “air-ball” or screaming while the opponent is on the free-throw line shows poor sportsmanship. In baseball, making noise while an opponent is at bat shows poor sportsmanship.
5. **Never speak negatively around the students or other parents about:**
 - a. **The School** – Negativity can be contagious. Instead, create an atmosphere of gratitude.
 - b. **Other students or parents** – Speak to parents only about your students and their students. Speak to other students only in an encouraging manner. The only time another student or parent’s name will be mentioned is in a genuine complimentary fashion.
6. **Never criticize your child’s teammates.** Remember to teach your child team attitude.
7. **Always resolve differences with your coaches out of sight and earshot of students and other parents.** Call to set an appointment to speak with the coach privately. Pray about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.

Relationships

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

1. **Develop relationships and a good rapport with team and coaches.** God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to minister and be an encouragement to others. If sports becomes all about you and your student, you need not participate.
2. **Develop relationships and a good rapport with other parents.** You will need their prayers and support as much as they will need yours.
3. **Develop relationships and a good rapport with parents from other schools.** Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. Promote your school and your students. The relationships you develop are a reflection on our entire ministry.
4. **Develop relationships with the coaches.** Get to know the coaches. Pray for them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Be open, honest, and use gentle words.

Unity

I Corinthians 12:12: "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

1. **Develop unity within our school family.** God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different roles and abilities. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Be busy fulfilling your role. Your example of being a unified school body is a valuable lesson for your students to learn.
2. **Develop unity within the Kingdom.** We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met – to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for Cypress Christian.

Motives

I Corinthians 10:3: "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1. **Be motivated by the love of God.** Live for Him because He gave His life for us.
2. **Strive for victory as a tool to teach your students.** Teach them that athletics is just a means to an end and not an end unto itself. *"Perfection is what you are striving for, but perfection is an impossibility. However, striving for perfection is not an impossibility."* John Wooden
3. **Teach your students to abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.** Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" will not be tolerated.
4. **Use your child's experience as a chance to be involved in his or her life.** Your relationship with your child as an adult will last longer than your relationship with them while they are in your home. If you want a relationship with them as adults, you need to begin building that relationship *now*. Athletics affords you that opportunity.

Behavior

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

1. **Maintain class and character.** You are setting the example for your children. Realize that your every action reflects upon you, your family, CCS and, ultimately, you're Lord.
2. **Always insist that your children follow instructions.** Coaches must depend on a player's ability to follow orders immediately and without question. Questions will be raised at the appropriate time, such as at practice or after a game.
3. **Always dress appropriately.** Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your child will be worn. Even in warm weather events, a Christ-like appearance must be maintained.
4. **Be an example and a guard.** Set the standard high for behavior and appearance and do not be afraid to speak to those who are indifferent to our ultimate purpose.

5. **Working with the officials...not working the officials.** Badgering an official to persuade a call our way comes with too high a price – a loss of our testimony and our ability to influence those others for Jesus Christ. There is never a time at any contest where a parent is afforded an opportunity to say anything to an official other than “Thank You.” Without these men and women and their willingness to officiate, no one is playing ball.
6. **Remain in the stands.** Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench area, press box, score table, or the officials before, during or after a ballgame. Socially visiting with the coach briefly after a game is encouraged. Game officials are off-limits.
7. **Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.** Coaches, students, parents, and spectators will need to be strong in this area. Shake hands with our visitors before *and* after the game.
8. **Recognize the success of your opponent.** Compliment the good play of students from the other school. Congratulate their coaches on a well-coached game.
9. **Teach your children that they have a special purpose from God.** It is their responsibility to accept God’s purpose for them. Do not compare or contrast them to others. This limits their ability to fulfill their own unique potential and purpose.
10. **Have fun, touch lives, and be yourself.** You have the opportunity to be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives of your children and their peers. Games, plays, and officials will be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your child forever.

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



Signature Form for Student and Parent Code of Conduct

(Note: This is confirming that the parents and athlete understand and have read the entirety of the Athlete Handbook.)

Student Code of Conduct

I have read and understand the Student-Athlete's Code of Conduct and agree to abide by its principles and guidelines at all Cypress Christian sporting events. I fully understand I may not participate without a signed copy of this document on file in the athletic office.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Code of Conduct

I have read and understand the Parent's Code of Conduct and agree to abide by its principles and guidelines at all Cypress Christian sporting events. I fully understand my son/daughter may not participate without a signed copy of this document on file in the athletic office.

Print Parent or Guardian's Name

Student Name

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date