

# **Westside Christian Academy Athletic Philosophy**

## **“Glorifying God In All We Do!”**

The Philosophy and approach to athletics at Westside Christian Academy flow naturally from the school’s mission statement, “Raising up leaders to impact the west side of Cleveland for Jesus Christ”. The purpose and intent of our sports programs a WCA is to bring glory to God through our participation and involvement in athletics. Our goal is to develop within those who participate in athletics the character traits of Jesus Christ; producing positive Christian men and women who honor the Lord both on and off the playing field.

WCA believes that the condition of the heart comes before the score of the game. When winning is kept in the right perspective, our student athletes are allowed to develop without the fear of failure. They learn to understand the value of praise, and the importance of loving Shepherding. Winning must be accomplished while competing in a Christ – honoring sense of fair play and good sportsmanship. Athletics challenges student athletes to grow in their spiritual journey.

We desire for our athletes to grow spiritually by teaching them to think and act like Christ in the competitive arena and to model Godly character through their words, their attitudes and their deeds.

Our goal is for students to leave with a greater understanding of their God-given purpose, who they are in Christ, and how they can serve others. Our ultimate goal is that the world will see Christ in us as we compete and that we would know “victory beyond competition”.

## **The WCA Athlete**

We believe all WCA students should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence, without regard to the score, opponent, time or referee. As Christian athletes display these characteristics, good things usually happen: teams are successful, players are motivated, fans are supportive and enthusiastic, parents are proud, prospective athletes want to participate, and very often non-believers are drawn to Christ. Each student athlete is expected to strive for excellence in their academic endeavors while participating in the WCA athletic program.

## Academic Eligibility

In order to maintain academic excellence, eligibility will be granted for extra curricular endeavors according to the following criteria.

- A. Each participant must maintain a C average (77%) prior to and concurrent with the quarters of participation.
- B. In the case that a participant's average "drops below" a C – (74%):
  1. The teacher will notify the student, parents, and supervisor/coach of the extra-curricular activity.
  2. An intervention will be put into place to assist the student in his/her academic success
    - Interventions are the responsibility of the staff member and supervisor
    - Interventions may include loss of privileges to attend practices, competitions, performances, etc.
    - The intervention plan will be submitted to the principal for approval.
  3. Participants may be reinstated to full privilege at any time during the intervention process if the teachers and supervisor/coach feel that the desired academic improvement has been achieved.

# Expectations of Athletes

**Each student is expected to:**

## **Be Responsible-**

Be at practice, try to limit appointments, vacations or other family events that may cause you to miss valuable time; be on time; keep your grades up; turn in homework; be an example in the classroom, hallways, and outside WCA.

## **Be Respectful-**

Speak to teammates, coaches, parents, and officials with kind words and respect; dress modestly and appropriately.

## **Be Honest-**

Speak the truth in love; avoid gossip or listening to gossip; keep your speech clean and pure.

## **Be Loyal-**

Believe the best about your teammates and coaches; keep team issues within the team.

## **Work Hard-**

Be diligent to take advantage of every opportunity to improve; push and encourage your teammates faithfully.

## **Play Smart-**

Know your plays and assignments; take care of your body by eating right, staying hydrated and getting plenty of rest; stay away from activities and habits that may harm your body and /or jeopardize your athletic career.

## **Team Before Yourself-**

Always consider others more important than yourself; encourage your teammates faithfully.

## **Be Coach-able-**

Respond with a "Yes, Coach" or "Yes ma'am/sir," not with an excuse.

## **Accept Your Role-**

Be willing to sacrifice personal goals for the good of the team; give your best to the role your coach assigns to you; trust that the coaches have your best interest in mind, as well as the team's.

## **Handle Success and Failure-**

Always keep your head up; be humble in your accomplishments, and be strong and gracious in your defeats.

## **Be a Competitor and Have a Winning Attitude-**

Always strive to improve; seek excellence in all facets of life.

**Keep Your Eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Faith!**

## **Athletes Code of Conduct:**

All players in the WCA sports program shall:

- a. Conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner and will abstain from inappropriate behavior while representing their team in any sports related function, including travel to and from events.
- b. Submit to the authority of the coaches and the Athletic Director in all matters pertaining to WCA athletics.
- c. Be a witness for Christ and serve as an example to others as well as promote unity among team members and treat all members of the team with respect.
- d. Demonstrate personal integrity by obeying all game and WCA school rules at all times.
- e. Represent WCA in a Christ honoring and respectful manner, understanding that student-athletes are highly visible WCA representatives to the student body and our Christian community.
- f. Not to argue with game officials or coaches or loudly direct comments toward those overseeing the game.
- g. Not to use words which demean any participant (including swearing or cursing).
- h. I understand that I am responsible for the care of any equipment issued to me.

I understand that I will only wear my uniform on the athletic field, unless otherwise given permission by my coach or A.D. to wear for a special event or day.

I understand and agree to pay for any equipment issued to me that is lost, stolen, or damaged (reasonable wear from the season does not apply as damage).

## **Expectations of the WCA Parent**

The parents of WCA student athletes are the key to our school establishing a distinctly different Christ-honoring sports program. As your child participates in the WCA athletic program they will experience some very rewarding moments. It is also important to remember that there will be times when adversity and disappointments occur. At all times the leadership and example of our parents will be watched by our students, and coaches along with the parents, students, and coaches of opposing teams. The parents of WCA student athletes are expected to:

### **Model Good Sportsmanship at Games-**

When cheering during a WCA game or event, cheer in an appropriate manner that glorifies Christ. There is **Never** any reason to cheer against or “taunt” the other team. (Example; In basketball, chanting “air-ball” or screaming while the opponent is on the free-throw line.) Never question or “boo” an official about a call. Negative comments and gestures of displeasure toward any coach, visiting team or officials, only undermine the efforts of all involved. Always treat the visiting school as guests before, during, and after games. Realize that the word Christian means “Christ-like”. We as Christians are always testimonies, whether good or bad. WCA wants to portray a good testimony always, but especially to the schools we compete against. Every visitor, opponent, and official is a partner in Christ or a potential partner in Christ. Cheer for the Eagles to play hard and to play to win, but with an attitude of Christian sportsmanship. Long after the score is forgotten, our behavior will be remembered and is a reflection upon the entire ministry that is WCA.

### **Be Supportive of Coaches-**

In front of your child, be supportive and positive of the coaches’ decisions. If you have problems with what the coach is doing, it is best to call and arrange a time to talk directly with the coach.

### **Teach Respect for Authority-**

There will be times when you disagree with a coach or official but always remember they are trying their best and are trying to be fair. Let your conduct always model Christ and show good sportsmanship by being positive.

### **Let the Coach Do the Coaching-**

When your child is competing, let the coach do the coaching. Shouting instructions or criticism may hinder the overall experience of the athlete. You can teach life skills that athletics and activities bring to the forefront.

### **Help Your Children Learn Through Failure-**

The way your student handles failure can help them face the certainty of disappointment that they will encounter throughout their lives. After a disappointment, encourage and support them as they cope with the disappointment. Remind them that God loves them and has a plan for them that will be far greater than ever expected, pray with them over the disappointment.

### **Be Mindful Of Your Role as a Role Model-**

Take a good honest look at your attitude, actions and reactions in the athletic arena. The loudest thing your child will hear is not what you say but what they see you do.

**Show Unconditional Love-** The most important thing: show your child you love them and are proud of them, win or lose.

## The Bottom Line

If we are to be the people our loving God intends for us to be, we must not separate athletics from our calling as Christians. Coaches must coach, players must play, and fans must cheer as Christians. Among many things, this means that we will respect authority, our opponents, and each other. Athletics can be an act of worship and a celebration of God's gift to us.

WCA Athletics is committed to develop a Christ-like character among our student athletes, encouraging them to develop their God-given athletic abilities to their maximum potential and equipping them for their real test:  
Life as a follower of Christ Jesus.

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We have read and understand the policies established by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of athletics as outlined by the Athletic Policies.

Student  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_