

FIRST BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Equipping students for Christ through
Kingdom Education



ATHLETIC/PARENT HANDBOOK

2017-2018

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INTRODUCTION

The First Baptist Christian School Athletic Handbook is a reference guide for coaches, student athletes and parents, concerning the policies that govern interscholastic athletics at First Baptist Christian Middle School.

The coach of an athletic team reports to the Athletic Director and is primarily responsible for the compliance by his/her team members to the rules, regulations, and policies governing athletics at First Baptist Christian Middle School. The Middle School Athletic Director will administer these rules and regulations as they relate to inter team and inter coach relationships.

Sound reasoning, good judgment, and adherence to the school's core values will be the standard by which situations outside these stated rules and regulations are determined and evaluated.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program. Students are not obligated to participate, thus, participation in middle school athletics is a privilege and not a right. Accompanying this privilege is the responsibility to adhere to standards established for the middle school athletic program. This privilege may be revoked if the athlete fails or refuses to comply with these rules.

It should be carefully noted that the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook are reflective of official action by the First Baptist Christian School Board Committee.

Thank you for your participation in our athletic program. May God bless you as you use your God-given athletic abilities to serve Him in this integral part of school life.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Baptist Christian School Athletic Department is to **glorify God** through the discipleship of student athletes and **pursuit of excellence in athletics** with the Bible as the foundation and Jesus Christ as our focus.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

1. **C-Christ-Like Attitude**
2. **H-Honesty**
3. **R-Responsibility/Respect**
4. **I-Integrity**
5. **S-Service**
6. **T-Teamwork/Trust**

Our Coaches

The coach is the “living curriculum” for the student athlete. Coaches at First Baptist Christian School are the most significant components of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes at all times.

In order to be an effective coach and role model, FBCS coaches must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, able to make adjustments during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the Athletic Director and FBCS Administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they have to mold young lives for Christ.

Our Parents

Parents of student athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve his/her greatest potential and/or the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and encourage coaches and teammates at all times.

Parents are not coaches and learning to trust coaches is a key step to learning the value of the life lesson experiences athletics provides. It is also important that parents honor the Lord when attending athletic events. In order for FBCS’s athletic program to be successful, coaches, student athletes, and parents must make a firm commitment to glorify God at all times.

Our Athletes

First Baptist Christian School athletes should be diligent in preparation, give 100% at all times, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, show humility, and aggressively pursue excellence regardless of the score, opponent, time, referee, or situation. The ultimate and final responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the student athlete, for it is the student athlete who is accountable to his/her parents, coach, and the Lord.

Our Athletic Department

Is committed to:

- Discipleship of our coaches and student athletes
- Outreach to opposing teams and fans and to the larger community outside of FBCS
- Preparation of student athletes for both competition and life with Christ as our model
- Stewardship of our resources
- Pursuit of athletic excellence

PHILOSOPHY

First Baptist Christian School Athletics is founded on the teaching and principles of God's Word. Biblical principles and the corresponding philosophies may differ substantially from schools with other philosophies. Such differences, however, do not necessitate unworkable relationships. Instead, our philosophy of athletics should provide an opportunity for others outside the FBCS community to visualize actions and principles that are quite unique in today's society. The First Baptist Christian School athletic program is a wonderful opportunity to minister to the non-Christian community through exemplary actions, Christ-like attitudes, and a high level of individual and team athletic skill. The challenge for our athletes, parents, and coaches is to adhere to the Colossians 3:17 mandate, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS, PRACTICES & POLICIES

Eligibility for Athletic Participation

FBCS is a member of the Treasure Coast Athletic Conference(TCAC). This conference is made up private schools from Stuart to Vero Beach. All student athletes at First Baptist Christian School must be exemplary members of the student body. Therefore, minimum standards of academic achievement have been adopted in order for student athletes to establish and maintain eligibility. In order to be eligible, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must be covered with school accident insurance
2. Students must have an Annual Sports Physical to participate
3. Students must be under the age of fifteen (15) years old before the start of the season.
4. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA
5. Students may not have two D's or one F in core classes during the season
6. Students must turn in weekly participation grade sheet signed off from teacher and turned in by Friday.
7. Students must maintain a good attitude and proper conduct.
8. Students who are absent from school on the day of an event are not eligible to participate in that day's practice or game.
9. Suspension from School – A disciplinary action severe enough to warrant student suspension is certainly serious enough to eliminate the student athlete from all participation in interscholastic sports for at least the duration of the suspension. Therefore, any suspension, whether in-school or out-of-school, as deemed by FBCS School Administration, will render a student athlete ineligible to attend practice or any interscholastic contest during the time of suspension.

Participation Fees

Participation fees are essential to help fund the cost of interscholastic athletics; game officials, tournament entry fees, supplementary equipment and supplies, and game day jerseys. Fees can be collected with two different options:

Option 1-\$85.00

Per Sport

Option 2-Sponsorship

(Covers up to 3 sports per school year)

\$300 Banner Sponsorship (banner not included)

\$225 Banner Renewal

\$300 Practice Jerseys

Physical Form & Parental Consent

For a student to be allowed to try out for a team or practice with a team, he/she must have a current Sports Physical form on file in the Athletic office **prior** to tryout or the first practice of each year. All athletic forms are available at www.fbcs-stuart.org.

STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

All FBCS Middle School student athletes will adhere to the following code of conduct. A violation can result in suspension or expulsion from an athletic team.

As an expression of First Baptist Christian School's mission, the discipline policy is intended to support the discipleship process for students, and to serve as a reflection of Jesus Christ and as an extension of the home. As such, the primary purpose of the discipline process is to produce growth in students while maintaining an environment of learning and order, providing a support to parents, and reflecting Scriptural principles of conduct and influence. In keeping with this purpose, the Scriptural principles that provide the foundation for the discipline policy are as follows:

- The responsibility of parents for the education of their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
- Submission to authority (I Peter 2:13-17)
- The principle of reaping and sowing (Galatians 6:7-8)
- Confrontation, restoration, and separation (Matthew 18:15-17)

Under the guidelines of these Scriptural principles, the goal of First Baptist Christian School through the disciplinary process is to:

- Provide an environment of order and respect that promotes an atmosphere conducive to learning
- Apply necessary and appropriate consequences for choices
- Keep lines of communication open with parents by communicating disciplinary outcomes
- Guide in the restoration of relationships with Jesus Christ and with FBCS, its employees, and its students
- Use relational influence to produce spiritual growth, correction, and right choices
- Do so in a context that seeks the best interest of both the involved parties and the student body as a whole
- When possible, involve the spiritual authority and influence of a family's church affiliation

The conduct of participants in athletics at First Baptist Christian School, in or out of school, year round, shall be as follows:

1. Not to discredit our school, teammates, coaches or Jesus Christ, and,
2. Not to create a disruptive influence on the disciplinary, moral or educational environment in our school. Any such misconduct violating these principles shall be subject to disciplinary measures above and beyond the School code of conduct.

Student athletes are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Integrity in the keeping of one's word, speaking the truth, carrying out responsibility and respecting authority. Athletes are to fulfil their obligations to their team, therefore, they should not quit the team in the middle of the season.
- Communication with your coaches, teachers, and Athletic Director
- Respect for self, Heritage Christian School, coaches, officials, fans and the property of others and First Baptist Christian School.
- Courtesy extended in all relationships – athlete to athlete or athlete to coach, stewardship of the property, supplies, and equipment of First Baptist Christian School, as well as wise stewardship of personal items
- Reconciliation through Biblical and appropriate repentance and forgiveness when offenses have been committed or received

Student athletes are expected to refrain from the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Tardiness to practices or competitions

- Careless and/or reckless behavior
- The inappropriate use of cellular phones, cameras and other electronic devices
- Inappropriate public displays of romantic affection (i.e. holding hands, kissing, excessive hugging)
- Profanity and vulgar or offensive speech and/or gestures
- Dishonesty in any form, including lying, theft, or cheating
- Gambling
- Rebellious or disrespectful attitude
- Flagrant disrespect and disobedience
- Harassment or bullying or Hazing in any form.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of First Baptist Christian School Athletic Department is to glorify God through the discipleship of student athletes and the pursuit of excellence in athletics with the Bible as the foundation and Jesus Christ as our focus.

It is a privilege to represent our school and our Lord participating in interscholastic athletics. We are different at FBCS, in that, our number one priority is to glorify God in everything we do. This is a tremendous responsibility, one that our student athletes should recognize at all times.

All student athletes shall adhere to the Athletic Code of Conduct as fully detailed in the Athletic Handbook. Any violation or misconduct shall be subject to the disciplinary measures contained herein, above and beyond those rendered by the appropriate FBCS authority. It should be noted that the Athletic Code of Conduct is in addition to the Middle School Code of Conduct.

DISCIPLINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Individual Team Rules – Each Head Coach will furnish his/her athletes with specific rules and/or regulations that apply to that team. Individual team rules and discipline may go beyond those listed in this handbook, but cannot be of a lesser standard. The Athletic Director must approve these individual team rules.

Enforcement of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct – All athletes and parents/guardians are required to sign the acknowledgement, consent and disclosure documents stating that they understand the policies and disciplinary measures set forth in the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. A new Student-Athlete Code of Conduct form must be signed each year and is in force at all times.

Procedure – Violations of the Student-Athlete (and Middle School) Code of Conduct should be brought to the attention of the appropriate authority. The review of the violation will be made by the appropriate authority (Coach, Athletic Director or School Headmaster). The appropriate authority will then meet with the player (and coach when appropriate) to determine and communicate appropriate disciplinary action per the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

Multiple Violations – Please see FBCS Student/Parent Handbook

Attendance at Practices and Games

Each member of a FBCS Athletic team must assume the responsibilities associated with such a position. The athlete has an ethical obligation to the team and the school. This obligation includes regular attendance at practices and athletic contests.

It is possible, of course, that emergency situations may arise (e.g., illness, death in a family, etc.) that render it impossible for an athlete to attend a practice session or an athletic contest. Absences should be few and far between and arranged with the coach as early as possible. Absences from practice or athletic contest may result in not starting game.

Attendance at School

A student athlete must attend school on the days of an athletic practice and contest in order to participate in that practice or contest. Students who are absent from part of the school day and are granted a non-illness related excused absence (e.g., a dental appointment) will be allowed to participate in the practice or contest that day.

Any unexcused absence from school, regardless if it is only for a partial day, will render an athlete unable to participate in the day's events. This would include in school suspension or skipping class.

Handling Problems/Solving Disputes

All disputes at First Baptist Christian School, including those related to athletic matters, should be handled in a Biblical manner. In particular, First Baptist Christian School encourages application of the "**Matthew 18 Principle**" when handling a problem/settling a dispute. This principle, in summary form, encourages the offended party to go directly to the one with whom he/she has a problem (e.g., student athlete should talk to the coach at an appropriate time prior to parental involvement and prior to going directly to the Athletic Director.)

If the situation is not resolved, the offended party is encouraged to seek a solution by speaking to the next person in authority. In simple terms, an athlete should approach the coach first, and if unresolved, the athlete, parent and coach should meet next, then with Athletic Director or Headmaster.

It is absolutely necessary that this chain-of-command be followed precisely. If not, the upper level authorities will direct the offended party to solve the problem at the appropriate level.

No Quit Policy

If a student is fortunate enough to be selected for a position on one of the FBCS athletic teams, it is important that he/she makes a firm commitment to that team. Therefore, quitting a team after being selected for the team is strongly discouraged.

Playing Time Policy

While it is true that our coaches and administrative personnel believe it to be important to broaden the experience of First Baptist Christian School athletes, and that broadening is enhanced by playing time, it is also an important goal of the First Baptist Christian School athletic program to strive toward excellence. Therefore, no minimum per game playing time provisions or minimum numbers of athletic meets in which athletes must compete are established at the Middle School level. Playing time decisions are left up to the individual coaches, but providing meaningful playing time is encouraged.

Starting a Season Late

A student may start a season late if the reasons are acceptable to the coach and the Athletic Director.

If a student transfers to First Baptist Christian School once a season has already begun, they will be considered as a new student with new opportunities and will be permitted to try out for a team.

SAFETY

Accidents/Injuries

Coaches are certified in CPR, First Aid, and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator.) If an accident or injury occurs and is witnessed by a coach, the athlete will be evaluated by their coach. The coach will submit a written accident report to the Athletic Department within 24 hours. If the injury is serious the coach will call emergency services and the parent(s).

All injuries should be treated with caution and handled with care. The parents will be contacted in the event of all injuries.

Coaches treat any acknowledged condition in the confidential manner with which the information is related by the parent or guardian. If an athlete misses practice on the request of a physician, the athlete should have a note of clearance before returning to practice.

Bad Weather

Lightening and Severe Storms: The Athletic Director, in consultation with the Coach and officials, will make decisions based on FHSAA guidelines(Florida High School Athletic Association) for student athlete safety. The goal is to have a decision made by 2pm for any cancellations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedules

The scheduling of all athletic events and practices is determined by the Athletic Director in cooperation with each coach. The coach may issue a schedule to the students and parents as soon as possible in each season. Athletic practices may be scheduled on Saturdays, but there will never be any practice on Wednesday or Sunday.

Team Pictures

A professional photographer will take team and individual pictures early in each season. These pictures are purchased by the students and must be pre-paid.

School Equipment

1. Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose.
2. When the season is over, all equipment and uniforms are to be returned to the coach who will keep inventory of all items issued to the team. The coach will then submit the end-of-season inventory list to the Athletic Director in a timely manner following the season.
3. The parent is responsible for the dollar replacement cost of any lost or damaged school issued equipment or uniforms.

COMMUNICATION

General Information

The best resource for information is the school website (www.fbcs-stuart.org).

Cancellations

It is necessary at times to cancel games and practices at the last minute due to inclement weather. Cancellations and/or changes to any scheduled athletic event will be communicated as soon as the information becomes available via email and text blasts.

OTHER INFORMATION

Parent Meetings

Parent Pre-Season Meetings – All parents of student athletes are required to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff of that sport. The meeting shall be held before the first contest. Parents will be informed of all rules for their sport as well as the rules of First Baptist Christian School.

Parent responsibilities for each team:

Along with the necessary financial costs, parents should be aware of the necessary service/costs associated with athletic participation in their athlete’s sport. This participation which is required of all parents includes, but is not limited to, the following: team devotions/prayer, concession sales, transportation, basic clean-up assistance at home contests, special events/tournaments, and others as directed or requested by that team’s coach.

At your parent meeting the coach will have sign-up lists available. For the success of each team, it is imperative that parents sign up for at least one area.

- 1. Discipleship
- 2. Outreach
- 3. Administrative
 - a. Concessions
 - b. Scorekeeper
 - c. Field/Gym tear down after games
- 4. Fundraising, etc.

STUDENT-ATHLETE/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

I have read and understand the expectations of being an athlete at First Baptist Christian School, and I agree to be held by these expectations.

In order to be a part of this Athletic program, this must be read and signed by the player and parents.

Player Name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Player Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____ Sport(s) _____

**FBCS WEEKLY MONITORING/GRADE SHEET
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION**

Student: _____

Program/Team: _____

Activity: _____

Coach/Sponsor: _____

Date: _____

GPA _____

Course	Teacher Signature	Current Grade	Compliance with Intervention Plan	Comments/Concerns
			Yes / No / N/A	
			Yes / No / N/A	
			Yes / No / N/A	
			Yes / No / N/A	
			Yes / No / N/A	
			Yes / No / N/A	

- * All Student Athletes are responsible to have their teachers sign off on weekly grade participation forms.
- * Forms should be given to teacher in the morning and returned to student by the end of the day.
- * Participation forms are due every Friday.

