



The Frankfort Christian Academy

Athletics Handbook

Updated July 2022

Athletic Handbook

The Frankfort Christian Academy believes that student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is an effective tool in preparing young people for the future. Therefore, it is our desire to provide an athletic program that promotes physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual and moral growth. This is consistent with the mission of The Frankfort Christian Academy: The Frankfort Christian Academy partners with Christian parents to provide a Biblically integrated education which equips students to embrace Biblical truth, to strive for academic excellence and to exemplify Christ-like servant hood in homes, churches and communities.

The coaching staff will provide leadership, in example and attitude, which reflects the Christian character we strive to develop in our athletes and athletic program. Winning will always be stressed, but never at the expense of lowering any moral, legal, academic or spiritual standard established by the school.

All athletes participating in the athletics program of The Frankfort Christian Academy must strive to maintain social, intellectual, and above all, spiritual attitudes and characteristics which will glorify God and set TFCA apart as the model example.

All athletes participating in The Frankfort Christian Academy athletic program will be expected to support all phases of the program and maintain a high degree of school spirit. It is expected that they will exemplify ^{Christ} to the fullest degree.

And whatever you do, whether in the word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Statement of Philosophy

1. The Frankfort Christian Academy believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the students.
2. Athletics enable the student athlete to develop character, a spirit of cooperation and personal discipline.
3. TFCA Athletic programs must glorify God in all aspects.
4. Athletics will provide opportunities for spiritual instruction and growth.
5. All athletic teams and activities must exemplify teamwork, school pride, sportsmanship, and Christ-like behavior.
6. Each program is to strive for increased proficiency and excellence.

7. Winning in any type of competition is an enjoyable and rewarding accomplishment. Yet, winning will not be considered paramount at the expense of the school's other stated goals and purposes.

8. Because developing the individual and involvement are important in competitive events, the coaching staff will utilize as many student participants as possible.

Objectives of Athletic Participation

1. To become the best they can be with the abilities God has given to them.
2. To improve playing knowledge and skill.
3. To improve physical development and habits.
4. To develop self-discipline.
5. To improve understanding of teamwork and cooperation with peers and adults.
6. To improve confidence and poise.
7. To demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play.
8. To make lasting friendships with team members.
9. To become acquainted with members of the opposing teams and other communities.
10. To enjoy activities and have fun as a team member.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics at The Frankfort Christian Academy is a privilege. All those who participate should strive to conduct themselves as good citizens and representatives of our Lord. Those who choose to participate and achieve the goal must make some sacrifices and establish that promote eternal values.

With these goals and values in mind, the following guidelines have been established for those students who elect to participate in the athletic program at The Frankfort Christian Academy.

Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. *2 Timothy 2:5*

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:5

Coaches

May the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another...with gratitude in your hearts toward God. Colossians 3:16

1. Coaches will remember their priorities are first to God. By their example, the athletes they coach will be exhorted to model this same priority.
2. Coaches should remember that they are teachers and that teaching is most effectively done in a positive manner.
3. The coach is the leader of his/her team and a role model for the players. The coach's behavior in practice and during competition should reflect Christian virtues.
4. Coaches should treat referees, officials, opposing coaches and players with respect.
5. Coaches will communicate early and effectively with players and parents whenever behavioral/personal problems are identified.
6. Coaches will have their teams play within the rules of the contest.
7. Coaches will have a meeting with parents at the beginning of the season. The coach will express his/her expectations and plans for the season.
8. Coaches will communicate early and effectively to parents and office staff regarding practice and game schedules.
9. Coaches will abide by the rules and regulations for KHSAA or other conference(s) that TFCA is a member of when coaching their specific sport. ALL coaches with KHSAA at high school level will be required to complete rules clinic, safety clinic and other training via KHSAA.
10. All Coaches and assistant coaches must be certified in CPR and first aid as well as participate in the concussion training required by KHSAA.
11. If a coach is disqualified from a sporting event due to excessive disrespectful behavior, they will be required to have a meeting with the Athletic Director and an administrator regarding behavior and a plan put into place to mitigate that situation. They will also comply with any consequence issued from KHSAA. One occurrence will result in a warning and probation. A second occurrence may result in the coach being removed from duties.

12. All coaches should embed devotional and prayer opportunities throughout the practice and playing season. Athletic programs at TFCA are another opportunity to disciple and mentor athletes in their faith and every opportunity to demonstrate Christ-like character, godly decision making and sportsmanship should be expected.

Athletes

Be kind to each other and tenderhearted. Forgive one another just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ. Ephesians 4:31

1. Athletes will remember their priorities are first to God, then to their parents, then to their academics, and finally to each other.
2. Athletes will remember their actions are a witness to our community. Therefore, their words and actions must positively represent our school and, more importantly, the Lord.
3. Athletes will treat opposing players, referees, coaches and officials with respect at all times.
4. Athletes will always play according to the rules. The pursuit of victory or the heat of the competition does not justify bending rules for “dirty play”.
5. Athletes will push themselves to excel to the best of their ability to glorify God and achieve success for their school, their team and themselves.
6. Athletes should accept constructive criticism from their coaches in order to improve their play as an individual and a team.
7. Athletes should feel free to approach a coach to discuss any problems or concerns confidentially.
8. Athletes should relate to teammates in a positive, caring manner. Fighting, unkind words and disrespect will not be tolerated.
9. Athletes not following the requirements for participation (turning in grade reports, attending scheduled practices, behaving according to school rules and expectations) or who are disqualified from a sporting event due to disrespect or flagrant behavior may be put on probation with a first offense and with subsequent offenses may be removed from the team.

Parents

Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children; and walk in love just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Ephesians 5:1-2

1. Parents should encourage athletes to keep their priorities in order; first God, then family, academics and last athletics.
2. Parents will bring questions and concerns they have about their athletes to the coach. Open communication between parents and the coach is essential. This should not be conducted in the heat of the moment. All concerns and questions should be addressed in a Christ-like manner.
3. Parents will treat opposing coaches, referees, officials and players with respect at all times.
4. Parents should pray that athletic participation would be used by the Lord to further mature the student athlete.
5. Parents will exhort our players and team in a positive manner.
6. Parents ejected from a game for disrespect and behavior that is not Christ-like may be asked to meet with the Athletic Director and an Administrator to address concerns. Adults have to remember that students are always watching and also imitate adult behavior. We do not want student athletes and teams to be penalized due to parent behavior.
7. Athletic programs cannot function without the assistance of parent volunteers. All parents/guardians are expected to assist with tickets/gate, concessions, setup/cleanup and keeping the book/stats/clock for games.

Spectators

Walk in a manner worthy of calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 1-3

1. Spectators should treat the referees, opposing coaches, players and officials in a respectful Christ-like manner.
2. Spectators will remember that their actions are a witness to our community. They will remember that they represent not only our school, but also our community.
3. Spectators will exhort our players and teams in a positive manner. The athletic program of The Frankfort Christian Academy is designed to provide a meaningful educational and spiritual experience for all who participate.

Section I: Eligibility for Interscholastic Participation

A. Student athletes are to exemplify Christian standards and school policies through his/her lifestyles.

- a. All students are to see their athletic involvement as a way to honor the Lord with their talents.
- b. Failure to abide by the above will constitute ineligibility in the same way as ineligibility arising from the lack of academic achievement.

B. Grade Requirements:

- a. Students at the mid-term and at the end of the nine-weeks who do not maintain a "C" average in the academic core (the academic core would include Language Arts, Science, Bible, Social Studies and Math) and/or receive an "I" or "F" in any course will be placed on academic probation. During that time, there will be parent conferences and weekly progress reports sent home. Initially, students on academic probation will not be able to attend or participate in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are any school activities that take place outside of the school day such as sports and clubs. **All grades for students on academic probation will be checked each Friday to determine eligibility for the following week.** Any student who is ineligible for two consecutive or nonconsecutive weeks during the course of an activity/sport season will not be allowed to return to the activity/sport until meeting with the principal, activity sponsor/coach, and/or athletic director. This meeting does not guarantee reinstatement to the activity/sport team.

C. Behavior Probation for Team Sports (Revision: October 20, 2014)

- a. Students who have 10 or more discipline infractions will be placed on Behavior Probation. A student on Behavior Probation who receives two additional behavior infractions in a given week will be ineligible for team participation the following week.
- b. Students on Behavior Probation will have a behavior report run every Friday to determine eligibility for the following week.
- c. Students who receive In-School or Out of School Suspension will be suspended from games and practices while on school suspension. This will also result in a one (1) game

suspension for each day served in In-School or Out of School suspension. The game suspension will be served at the next game/games following the infraction.

d. A student will remain on Behavior Probation until he/she has four consecutive weeks without a behavior infraction.

e. Students who continue to accumulate excessive discipline infractions may be dismissed from the team.

Section II. Student Attendance on Day of Competition

A. A student must be in school for at least a half (1/2) day in order to participate in an athletic practice or competition. If the game or practice is on a Saturday, the student had to be in school a half (1/2) day on the preceding school day. An administrator must approve exceptions.

B. Athletes who miss school following injuries or illness classified as serious should secure written doctor and parental excuses before participating in a practice or competition.

Section III. Physician's Certificate and Parent's Consent

A. Each Student who is competing for a place on an athletic team must present a physician's certificate to the effect that he/she is physically fit to participate in the designated sport. This certificate must be submitted to the office prior to participating in the first practice.

Note: The forms for the above are provided by the KHSAA and are available at the physician's office as well as the school website (Appendix D). The physical exam is considered valid for one year (13 months) from the examination date.

Section IV: Potential Dangers in Athletic Participation

A. Sports have an inherent danger in participation, and that in spite of all precautions and accident preventatives, injuries do occur. The benefits of athletic involvement exceed the potential hazards. However, parents/guardians and student athletes should be aware of and work toward minimizing potential dangers.

B. Athletic activities by their nature create the possibility of serious injury, including permanent paralysis and even death. Parents and student athletes assume the risk of serious injury with participation in sports activities even when protective equipment is provided. Parents and student athletes waive, release, and forever discharge all claims which may arise now or in the future which they may accrue against The Frankfort Christian Academy and any of its

employees/coaches for any and all injuries suffered by a student athlete while attending and participating in sports activities.

C. These risks can be significantly reduced by the athlete by:

- a. Knowing his/her limitations
- b. Following progressive learning
- c. Properly using sports equipment
- d. Properly wearing protective equipment
- e. Always following the directions of and/or consulting with the coach.

Section V: Traveling To and From Away Athletic Competitions

A. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from away athletic events.

B. Athletes are NOT to drive themselves to and from athletic events that are not held at TFCA.

Section VI: School Equipment

A. Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them.

B. Athletic uniforms are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose.

C. When the season is over, all equipment is to be returned to the school.

C. The student is responsible for the dollar replacement cost of any lost or damaged school-issued equipment or uniforms.

Section VII: Drugs, Alcoholic Beverages, and Controlled Substances

A. Tobacco Policy

- a. Use or possession of tobacco in any form will result in: First Offense suspension for three days and Second Offense- Expulsion.

B. Infractions That Lead to Automatic Expulsion

- a. Use or possession of illicit drugs (including but not limited to cocaine, marijuana, opiates, methamphetamines, phencyclidine)
- b. Sexual Misconduct
- c. Possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages
- d. Possession of dangerous objects or weapons on school property or at events.

Section VIII: Obscene Language or Gestures

A. Any athlete using vulgar or abusive language or vulgar gestures during an athletic contest or practice will be removed from competition and will be excluded from participating in the next athletic event. A second violation results in dismissal from the team. Further violations on subsequent teams will result in ineligibility to participate on any athletic team for the remainder of the school year.

Section IX: Hazing, Initiation, Harassment, and Bullying

A. Hazing, initiation, harassment, and bullying are all contrary to the values of The Frankfort Christian Academy and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Program.

Any behavior directed toward another student that denigrates or endangers the

mental or physical health or safety of the student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or continued membership on any such team is not acceptable behavior. This behavior will be handled per the student discipline policy.

B. No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the academy shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered by the staff, the involved students will be informed by the staff that we have a rule against hazing, the incident fits the rule and it must be stopped immediately. All hazing or suspected hazing incidents will be reported immediately to the Athletic Director.

Section X: Supplemental Rules and Regulations by Coaches

A. Supplemental rules/regulations unique to a given sport or a coach's philosophy may be implemented upon the approval of the Athletic Director. These rules must be in writing and submitted to participants prior to the start of the season.

Section XI: Athletic Fees and Funding

- A. All students who participate in school-sponsored athletic teams shall pay a \$175 athletic fee per sport in which they participate. This fee must be paid prior to participating in practice. Should there be a disclaimer such as:
- B. There will be a \$250 fee, for each sport, for all homeschool and other private school participants. This fee must be paid prior to participating in the practice and/or official event.\
- C. These fees are subject to change. Any changes will be promptly communicated to the parents and students.
- D. Each team will be provided a maximum of two athletic fee waivers. One athletic fee waiver is provided for a coach and one athletic fee waiver for an assistant coach.
- E. Some sports will require additional equipment like shoes, helmets, clothing, etc. and may be personalized in nature requiring students to purchase equipment that they keep for themselves and that is not owned by the school.
- F. Some fundraising may occur to offset the cost of the athletic program and training.

Section XII: Evaluation Process

- A. Each team will have a survey process at the end of the season seeking the input of athletes, parents and coaches. Students, parents and coaches will evaluate the athletic program as a whole at the end of the school year.

Section XIII: Coaches Conduct

- A. The coach is expected to exemplify Christian character to his/her team and to the public. Any disciplinary actions taken by an official against a TFCA Coach (i.e. technical fouls, un-sportsman-like conduct call, etc.) will result in an informal inquiry and discussion of the event with the Principal. Repeated violations will result in formal meetings with the Athletic Director and Principal.

Attachments: (all provided online via TFCA Website www.frankfortchristian.org)

Appendix A – Athletic/Parent Acknowledgement & Participation Form with Athletic/Parent Participation Requirements

Appendix B – Athletic Release and Waiver Form

Appendix C – Homeschool Student Athlete Registration with Homeschool Student Athlete Eligibility Requirements

Appendix D – KHSAA Physical Examination Form

KHSAA may have other rules and regulations that the team is required to follow on a sport by sport basis.

Coaches and Athletic Director(s) are trained and responsible for adhering to these rules and regulations.