

Parent - Student Athletic Handbook

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CSAGH'S ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION

As a part of CSAGH, the Athletic Department works to promote CSAGH's Mission, Vision, and Core Values.

CSAGH's Mission Statement

Partnering with families to provide Christ-centered education that sharpens minds, deepens faith, and develops gifts.

CSAGH's Vision Statement

Preparing students to impact the world for Christ.

CSAGH's Core Values

Scripture: We believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God and guide for how we think, speak, and act as well as the lens through which we view and engage culture.

Learning: We cultivate challenging, vibrant learning communities characterized by intellectual humility, curiosity, creativity, and cooperation rooted in the Christian worldview.

Community: We respect and value individuals as people created in God's image, celebrate their gifts, and care for one another.

Excellence: We seek to glorify God in every endeavor by using our gifts and abilities to honor Him.

Discipleship: We disciple students toward genuine and mature faith in Jesus Christ through personal relationships and intentional collaboration with parents and churches.

Leadership: We recognize our calling as servant-leaders to love our neighbors as ourselves and to influence the culture for Christ.

TO THE PARENTS OF CSAGH ATHLETES

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics this year. CSAGH is pleased that you have expressed willingness to permit your child(ren) to compete. Your parental interest is an important component of our program. We are excited to have you on board.

Interscholastic team athletics are designed to enhance CSAGH's mission in creating wonderful opportunities for fulfillment through Christian relationship, personal spiritual growth, and attainment of team and individual athletic goals. Spiritual, physical, social, and mental growth result from involvement in athletics. It is CSAGH's intent to conduct a program that is spiritually and educationally sound in purpose and will positively enhance our students' personal experiences. CSAGH will provide the most qualified and well-trained coaches available for each sport who will be mentors for our students. CSAGH will also seek to provide adequate equipment and facilities necessary for excellence in the athletic program.

A student who elects to participate in interscholastic athletics is voluntarily forfeiting their will for the self-discipline that will be required for the good of his or her team. The student athlete must bring his or her mind and body under discipline required to withstand rigorous competition. In striving for excellence in Christ on the athletic court, field, or track, your son or daughter will be accepting a challenge to commit to the team and the responsibilities and obligations that go with that commitment. CSAGH would like to help you get acquainted with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics. It is the role of the Athletic Department to establish athletic policy that will preside over the spirit of competition. These policies need a broad base of community support, which is achieved only through open lines of communication to our parents. It is our hope that we will accomplish this goal through this CSAGH Parent-Student Athletic Handbook.

TO THE CSAGH STUDENT ATHLETES

Being a member of an athletic team is a dream of many young people. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. This honor carries over to all of our athletes, our schools, our fans, our families, and our communities. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

When you wear your school colors, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment for you, your family, and the Christian School Association of Greater Harrisburg. You have a:

- 1) **Responsibility to God:** God tells us in His Word that whatever we do, we are to do it to bring honor and glory to Him.

- 2) **Responsibility to yourself:** One important responsibility is to allow God to grow you in character and love for others. Through your athletic experiences, you will receive great benefits for use all throughout your lifetime.
- 3) **Responsibility to your CSAGH school:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your CSAGH school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body, the school community, and other local towns and communities evaluate CSAGH by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. As a result of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to CSAGH school spirit and community pride.
- 4) **Responsibility to Others:** As a team member, you carry a big responsibility to the younger students at our CSAGH schools. They are watching you. It is important for you to set good examples for them.

GOALS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

1. To bring honor and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ through interscholastic athletics.
2. To always strive for excellence on and off the field/court of play exhibiting Godly sportsmanship.
3. To ensure growth and development that will increase the number of participants and will give impetus to increased contest attendance.
4. To provide an opportunity for students to experience success in the sports he or she selects.
5. To provide a broad range of sports teams in keeping with the wide variety of student athlete interests and abilities.
6. To provide opportunities that nurture the following:
 - 1) Spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional growth/development in Christ.
 - 2) Acquisition and development of special skills in activities of each student's choice.
 - 3) Develop value of commitments such as loyalty, cooperation, fair play.
 - 4) Directed leadership and supervision that stresses discipline, motivation, excellence, and ideals of good sportsmanship.
 - 5) Focus of interests on athletic teams for our CSAGH students, faculty, staff, and community that will generate unity in the body of Christ.
 - 6) Working with others in reaching team goals through self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.

- 7) Practicing and competing for excellence with earnest dedication.
- 8) Enjoyment of athletics and athletic participation, acknowledging that all success is a gift from God and is designed to bring Him honor and glory.
- 9) Development of desirable personal health habits in obtaining a high degree of physical fitness.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Athletic participation is a privilege. This privilege may be taken away as a result of improper conduct.

Coaches will make every effort to play each player, but participation in each game is not guaranteed.

Players must recognize the commitment level that will be needed to participate in CSAGH's athletic program. Trips, work schedules, and outside activities must be scheduled carefully. A commitment to a team requires dedication over a full season. This is a substantial amount of time. A student on a CSAGH team is agreeing to make the commitment to practice each day throughout the season and to keep absences from practices and games minimal.

AFFILIATIONS

The Christian School Association of Greater Harrisburg's schools: Harrisburg Christian School and West Shore Christian Academy, are members of the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference (CCAC), District III, and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). CSAGH schools are required to adhere to all eligibility requirements set forth by these organizations.

RISKS OF PARTICIPATION

There are obvious risks involved in athletic participation. Injuries can occur even when every safety precaution has been taken. CSAGH makes every effort to ensure a safe and healthy environment is provided for its athletes.

Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules and regulations, report all injuries or physical problems to the coach or Athletic Director, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect personal protective equipment.

CSAGH's schools do not provide insurance coverage for athletes. Any insurance claims must be filed with the student's/parent's personal insurance carrier.

SPORTS OFFERED AT HARRISBURG CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

High School

- Fall – Cross Country
- Boys & Girls Soccer

Girls Volleyball

Winter - Boys & Girls Basketball

Spring – Boys Baseball
Track and Field
Girls Lacrosse

Middle School

Fall – Boys Soccer
Girls Volleyball

Winter – Boys & Girls Basketball

Spring – Girls Soccer
Boys Baseball
Track and Field

SPORTS OFFERED AT WEST SHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

High School

Fall – Cross Country
Boys & Girls Soccer
Girls Volleyball

Winter - Boys & Girls Basketball

Spring – Baseball
Boys & Girls Track and Field
Girls Lacrosse

Middle School

Fall – Boys & Girls Soccer
Girls Volleyball

Winter – Boys & Girls Basketball

Spring – Boys & Girls Track and Field

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The Athletic Director works with the Administration to provide a quality program. Each coach reports to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team should be first addressed to the appropriate coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, please contact 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.

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 and effective communication is important. Students are encouraged to communicate with their coaches and the coaches with their athletes. Consistent with CSAGH and its desire to seek unity of the believers, when offense is taken CSAGH asks that parents, coaches, and athletes follow the guidelines found in Matthew 18 for reconciliation.

Communication parents should 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. 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 should expect from parents:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
2. Specific concern regarding 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.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

A high school athlete who turns 19 years of age before July 1 prior to the beginning of a school year is not eligible for athletic participation.

A middle school student who turns 15 years of age before July 1 prior to the beginning of a school year is not eligible for athletic participation.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

The Athletic Department follows the definition of Excused/Legal Tardies and Absences and Unexcused/Illegal Tardies and Absences as outlined in the CSAGH Parent-Student Handbook.

A student must be in attendance for five (5) full periods (not including lunch) to be eligible for athletic participation that day. This includes a student excused to depart from campus as well as a student arriving late to school for the reasons mentioned above as excused. Special considerations for additional missed class time may be given for extenuating circumstances if approved by the administrator in advance of the appointment or event.

A student must be in all classes unless on an approved school activity to be eligible to practice or play that day.

A student who misses more than one class for reasons such as in-school suspension may not participate in practice or the athletic contest that day.

A student may not be absent more than twenty (20) school days in a semester. After the twentieth day, a student may not participate until he/she has been in attendance sixty (60) school days after the twentieth absence.

A student who receives a suspension while a member of a team will be forced to miss one game or meet for each day suspended. The missed game or meet will be the next scheduled game after the suspension is issued, but not sooner than three days after the suspension letter is sent. Suspensions for "tardies to school" will not cause an athletic suspension.

A student ineligible to participate is *not* permitted to attend practices or games during the time of ineligibility.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student is required to pass at least four credits the previous school year to be eligible for athletic participation in the subsequent fall athletic season in the next school year.

Academic eligibility checks will begin 10 school days into each new marking period and be checked weekly every Friday afternoon

A student is required to be passing at least four credits to be PIAA-eligible for athletic participation. If a student fails one or more class(es) on a report card, the student is ineligible to play or practice for 10 school days from the day the report card is issued.

Additionally, if a student is failing 2 or more classes when grades are reviewed weekly, they will be ineligible to participate in any games, meets, matches, scrimmages, or practices the following week (Monday– Saturday). If an athlete is academically ineligible for a total of 3 weeks during the season, they will be dismissed from the team.

PRE-PARTICIPATION ATHLETIC PHYSICAL

Every Middle School and High School athlete must submit the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Examination (CIPPE) to the Athletic Director in its entirety prior to being cleared for athletic participation (including student and parental signatures and physician's clearance). The athletic physical examination must not be administered by a physician prior to June 1 of the next school year. Athletic participation may not begin for an athlete until he/she has submitted the documents in their entirety to the Athletic Director.

ONLINE ATHLETIC REGISTRATION

Prior to athletic participation every school year, parents must complete and submit the online athletic registration for their child(ren). Online registration includes signature of parental permission forms, a signature acknowledging parental review and acceptance of the Student Athlete Policy Agreement, a Transportation Release Form, and acceptance of sports-specific Acknowledgements of Warning. PIAA sports physical forms must be submitted, electronically, through the athletic registration portal. Hard copies and emailed copies of the sports physical forms will no longer be accepted.

AMATEUR STATUS

To be eligible to participate in a sport, the student must be an amateur in that sport. Amateur status and eligibility are lost if the student, their parent, or guardian receive money or property or other forms of compensation for or related to the student's athletic ability, performance, participation, services, or training in a sport. Parents receiving compensation for their child's athletic accomplishments can also cause loss of amateur status for their child.

Permissible awards from the student's school include a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, shorts, jersey, cap, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar trophy, which must bear appropriate organizational insignia or comparable identification.

LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION

A student shall not represent a CSAGH school in interscholastic athletics if the student has:

1. Reached the end of the student's fourth consecutive year beyond eighth grade, without regard to the student's period of attendance.
2. Participated in six seasons beyond the sixth grade or four seasons beyond the eighth grade in any sport.
3. Completed the work of grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, inclusive.

UNIFORMS

Every participant will be issued an athletic uniform(s) to wear as a member of his/her team. The uniforms will remain the property of CSAGH. The uniforms are to be worn **only** for the athletic contest. They may not be loaned to anyone or worn by spectators to contests. This includes game jerseys, game shorts, and team warm-up clothing. Proper care should be taken when laundering the uniforms. Uniforms that are lost, stolen, damaged, or have unusual wear will need to be replaced by the athlete at the full replacement cost for a new uniform. Uniforms are not to be worn to school, unless given special permission by the Athletic Director. Head Coaches are responsible for the distribution, at beginning of season, AND collection, at end of season, for all team uniforms and equipment. All uniforms must be turned in, to the Head Coach, within one week of the last contest of the season.

COACH/TEAM RULES

A coach has the right to establish team rules. These rules will be communicated to the team at the start of the season. They must also outline the consequences for an athlete who does not comply with team rules. These rules would include, but not be limited to, practice attendance, tardiness to practices and games, or care of uniforms.

CSAGH SCHOOL RULES

The rules and regulations set forth in the CSAGH Parent–Student Handbook apply to athletes both after school and at all away contests.

A student who is suspended from school for any reason (in-school or out-of-school) will not be permitted to participate in a scheduled athletic contest or practice if the contest or practice occurs on the day the suspension is served.

AFTER-SCHOOL POLICY

If a student-athlete leaves campus at the end of the school day, they are not permitted back on campus until the start of practice unless prior arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director AND Head Coach. Once the student returns, he or she must report to practice.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO/VAPING, ILLEGAL DRUGS, WEAPONS

Student athletes are not to use or be in possession of alcohol, tobacco/vaping, illegal drugs, or weapons. A student who is found to be in possession of alcohol, tobacco/vaping, illegal drugs, or weapons will immediately be removed from the team. This includes in-school, as well as, out-of-school situations. Illegal drugs also include improper use of prescription medications, or taking prescription medications prescribed to another individual, and use of performance-enhancing steroids.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

All athletes must travel with the team to away games. Athletes may ride home from a game with their own parents. Athletes desiring to travel home from a practice or game with other parents must have permission in writing from their own parent and the written permission given to the Athletic Director no later than the end of the school day on days of competition. Athletes may not travel home from games with other students or transport other students after games.

Coaches will provide parents with expected arrival times back to school after away games. It is expected that parents will respect the coaches' time and be prompt in picking up their children after 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.

Fans are not permitted to travel with the team to away games.

PRACTICE POLICY

It is understood that practice is an important aspect of athletics. Teams may practice after school each day. Practices may not last more than 2 hours per day. Coaches may choose to practice on Saturdays and during vacation time. Summer out-of-season workout schedules should be distributed by coaches well in-advance of the start of practice.

Fall and spring sports will normally practice after school. Basketball teams must share the gym, and practice times will vary daily. Middle School Basketball teams will generally practice after school. Practice times will vary weekly for Varsity Basketball teams, understanding that Varsity teams get priority during the week.

Coaches spend a tremendous amount of time away from their families during the season. Forcing a coach to wait in the building 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.

TEAM STARTING DATES

The official start dates for each sport and season are determined by the PIAA. Coaches may conduct optional workouts, conditioning exercises, and open gyms prior to the first official practice date.

SPORTSMANSHIP STANDARDS

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 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 both 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. Always exemplify godly character, behavior and leadership.
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 Student-Athlete:

1. Accept the responsibility of representing your 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.
7. Always effectively communicate with your coaches.

For the Spectators:

1. Remember that you are at an athletic contest involving students.
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 personal comments directed at opposing players and referees.
6. Always positively support the student-athletes, coaches, and officials.
7. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
8. Refrain from yelling or waving objects at inappropriate times during the contest.
9. Do not use noise makers or display signs or posters during the contest.

EJECTION FROM A CONTEST

Any athlete or coach or spectator who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or for flagrant misconduct will be disqualified from participation for the remainder of that day and District III/PIAA/Administration determines further disciplinary actions for additional contests. Administration will determine the status of the athlete or coach or spectator following any period of disqualification.

Any coach or student (athlete or not) or spectator who seeks to belittle or harass an official, opposing player(s), fan(s), or opposing coach(es) from another school, shall be removed from the premises during the athletic competition. The MS/HS Principal will be informed so that disciplinary measures can be taken by the MS/HS Principal and Athletic Director. The MS/HS Principal and the Athletic Director reserve the right to *not* permit the coach or student or spectator to attend one or more of the remaining games in that season.

DISCIPLINE FOR SPECIFIC FOULS

Head coaches, assistant coaches, and student athletes are expected to conduct themselves with self-control and appropriate behavior on the field or court of play. Aggressiveness, hard work, and team play are principles of excellence in athletics within the scope of the rules and in the spirit of the sport. Within the rules of the game, boundaries have been established for coaches and athletes. At times, fouls are called for aggressive play. These are examples of an athlete doing his or her best within the rules to help the team reach their goals. However, when a coach or athlete steps over the boundary lines created for them, a game official may need to call a foul to correct inappropriate game behavior and restore control of the game to proceed within the rules and spirit of the game.

All Sports:

1. “Course of Play”/Yellow Card Foul (for aggressive, yet fair play):

Discipline, if any, will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

2. Athlete “Unsportsmanlike Conduct”, “Dissent Toward Officials”, or “Flagrant” Yellow Card Fouls: Disciplinary action will be addressed by Athletic Director and Head Coach.

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.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Varsity letters and varsity pins will be awarded to students who meet certain participation requirements. The first time a student meets the requirements, that student will be awarded a letter. Each additional time a student meets a participation requirement, the student will be awarded a team pin. The requirements for earning letters and pins are listed below:

<u>Baseball</u>	Must appear in at least ½ of all innings a team plays
<u>Basketball</u>	Must appear in at least ½ of all quarters a team plays
<u>Cross Country</u>	Must participate in ¾ of all meets
<u>Soccer and Lacrosse</u>	Must appear in at least ½ of all halves a team plays
<u>Track and Field</u>	Must participate in ¾ of all meets and practices
<u>Volleyball</u>	Must participate in ½ of all games a team plays

To qualify for a letter, an athlete must finish the season in good standing. Academic probation does not disqualify an athlete from earning a letter unless the athlete has been removed from the team.

Each athlete on the team will receive a certificate of participation.

ATHLETES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

All athletes who are enrolled in Physical Education classes are expected to dress and participate in all activities.

PIAA POLICIES

PIAA has established many guidelines regarding amateur status, out-of-season participation, transfers to other schools, and recruiting violations. Any questions concerning any of these guidelines should be directed to the Athletic Director.

RECRUITMENT TO/FROM OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS

It is a violation of PIAA rules for a coach or school employee to influence a student from another school to change schools. If the District III Committee determines that a coach or any other school personnel is guilty of this issue, the school will face sanctions.

It is a violation for a student to transfer to another school for athletic reasons. This would include, but not be limited to the hope of more playing time, more exposure, problems with a coach, or following a coach to another school. If the District III Committee feels that a transfer occurred in whole, **or in part**, for athletic intent, the athlete may lose one year of athletic eligibility.

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

Any senior athletes who anticipate participating in athletics at the collegiate level must register with the NCAA clearinghouse. This is mandatory for athletes attending a NCAA Division I or Division II school. Information can be obtained through the CSAGH Guidance Office, the Athletic Office, or at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

There is always the possibility that a situation will occur that has not been discussed in this document. CSAGH schools reserve the right to address any situations that arise that have not been covered in this document.