

Wheaton Christian



Athletic Handbook

*So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

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Purpose of Handbook

This handbook has been created to set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents, and athletic staff at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. It is designed as a reference source that will facilitate the process of seeking and clarifying information concerning administrative and athletic policies and procedures for the athletic program. The Wheaton Christian Grammar School athletic director and administration reserve the right to change any procedure in this handbook at any time at its sole discretion when such decisions are necessary.

Mission Statement

Wheaton Christian Grammar School exists, under the authority of God and His Word, to educate, train, and nurture children for godliness and excellence, equipping them to engage and transform their world for Jesus Christ.

WCGS Athletic Philosophy

Athletics are an important part of the educational experience at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. The athletic program at WCGS exists for the purpose of developing physical, personal, and spiritual skills of the student-athlete that will have lifelong benefits. In providing opportunities for interscholastic competition, the athletic department seeks to support the overall mission of the school, and to promote the Biblical ideal that everything should be done to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Core Values

Values in the arena of athletics help to accomplish the mission of making disciples. We are here to help train up our student-athletes in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). This means that we will coach from a biblical perspective and strive to be a true reflection of Jesus Christ to our athletes.

Build Character

Promoting honesty, integrity, humility, loyalty, unity, and encouraging total character development of our athletes is essential. These traits are foundational in building a "TEAM."

Showing good sportsmanship, respecting others at all times and under every circumstance is expected. This includes behavior towards coaches, teammates, officials, opposing coaches, opposing players, and fans.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

Develop Relationships

Relationships are key for a program to come together and be successful. We want relationships that are transformational with each individual in the program that

goes well beyond the court or athletic field or that particular season. Creating a winning environment by displaying a positive attitude and providing daily encouragement to those under our leadership helps build strong relationships. We will strive to build personal relationships with our players to meet them at their different levels and stages of life. Every player is unique and valuable to the success of the team, and we hope to clearly convey that message. We desire for our student-athletes to be confident in their place on the team.

The most significant and meaningful relationship we aim to develop is for each of our student athletes to have a personal, vibrant, and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that if we achieve this goal, even when we lose a match or game, we have accomplished our mission. Conversely, if we win every game but fail here, we will have achieved little of lasting significance.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:3-4

Glorify God

We will strive to glorify God through the vehicle of athletics. The opportunity to compete, train, and participate in athletics will all be done with the end goal of lifting up the name of Jesus. It is our aim for student-athletes to better understand how each area of life can be lived to glorify the King. We believe athletics provides a training ground for this lesson.

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together." Psalm 34:3

Create a Competitive Culture

Fostering a commitment to excellence is a key to success. Success in athletics is the result of coaches and players going the extra mile. Teams who pay the price in the off-season win championships. We must communicate great expectations, provide great instruction, emphasize great fundamentals, and demand great effort in the context of strong relationships. Most importantly, according to God's Word, if we want to be great, we must model great servanthood to our teams.

"So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23

Sports Offered

Season	Sport	Levels	Grade(s)	Tryouts
Fall	Boys Soccer	JV and Varsity	6-8	Yes
	Girls Volleyball	JV and Varsity	7-8	Yes
	Boys Cross Country	TBD	6-8	*No
	Girls Cross Country	TBD	6-8	*No
Early Winter	Boys Basketball	JV and Varsity	7-8	Yes
	5th Boys Basketball	TBD	5	*No
	6th Boys Basketball	TBD	6	*No
Late Winter	Girls Basketball	JV and Varsity	7-8	Yes
	5th Girls Basketball	TBD	5-6	*No
	6th Girls Basketball	TBD	5-6	*No
Spring	Boys Volleyball	JV and Varsity	7-8	Yes
	Girls Soccer	Varsity	6-8	Yes
	Boys Track and Field	TBD	5-8	*No
	Girls Track and Field	TBD	5-8	*No

**Administration reserves the right to limit the team sizes if necessary, for that particular season.*

Athletic Affiliations

Suburban West Athletic Conference - SWAC

WCGS is a current member of the Suburban West Athletic Conference (SWAC). Members of SWAC include Aurora Christian, Benjamin Middle School, Christian Liberty Academy, Elgin Academy, Harvest Christian Academy, Schaumburg Christian, Timothy Christian School, and Wheaton Christian Grammar School.

The Suburban West Athletic Conference classifies our playing levels as Junior Varsity and Varsity. Within the JV and Varsity classifications, both 7th and 8th graders may be on each roster. This means that both teams, JV and Varsity, can have a mixture of 7th and 8th graders on the team. Our goal is to appropriately place each player on the team that best fits his/her abilities, meets the competitive standards of that sport, and helps best to develop the overall program.

Illinois Elementary School Association – IESA

Wheaton Christian is also a member of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA). Through the IESA, Wheaton Christian participates in the post-season series at the State level for multiple athletic teams.

Participation at the State level may require the team setup and management to be different than the JV/Varsity levels used for conference play. The school athletic

director and administration reserve the right to implement the necessary changes according to the requirements of our IESA participation.

Tryout Policy

Because junior high sports help prepare students for the rigors of high school athletic competition, and our gym time and space availability are limited, sports with 'team size limits' must go through tryouts. Tryouts usually take two to three days. Selections will be based on skill, attitude, effort, and a coachable spirit.

A predetermined number of students will be kept for basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Students who for medical reasons are not able to participate during the tryout period may be given one of the designated spots on the roster if, in the coach's sole discretion, that student would have been selected had he/she been able to participate in the tryouts.

No student who is selected and participates on a team will be guaranteed playing time unless the coach determines that effort, skill, attitude, and the particular game conditions warrant playing the student.

Prior to tryouts and team selections:

- Choosing team members is the responsibility of the head coach of the team.
- Before tryouts begin, coaches will provide information to all candidates including the length of the evaluation/tryout period, and an explanation of the skills and abilities to be evaluated as well as the commitment necessary to make the team.
- Students should not try out for a team unless they are willing and able to make the emotional, physical, and time commitments necessary should they make the team.
- Athletes trying out for a team must be at all tryout sessions. Coaches must be notified ahead of time if an athlete is going to miss the first day of tryouts for an excusable reason (illness, death in family, etc.).
- Coaches will discuss options for individuals who do not make the team before tryouts. One alternative might be to assist as team manager or statistician.
- Coaches will communicate the team selections individually when cuts are necessary.
- When tryouts are being used to select teams, athletic fees will not be due until teams have been selected.

Player Expectations

Practice and Game Attendance

Attendance at practice is expected of all student athletes. The only acceptable reasons for missing practice are because of a(n):

- Injury / Illness
- Family Emergency
- School Conflict (another WCGS sponsored activity)

If a player is going to miss a practice, he/she should make every effort to notify the coach at least one day prior to the day of the practice. Repeated absences and/or unexcused absences can result in decreased playing time, suspensions and/or removal from the team.

Athletes should notify their coaches as soon as possible if they are going to miss a game. If a game is missed for an unexcused reason, the coach will determine status and playing time for the next contest and remainder of the season.

Eligibility

Any student arriving after 10:30 a.m. or departing before 2:00 p.m. will be marked ½ day absent, and therefore ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activity that day. The only exception is in the case of a pre-arranged absence, such as a dental appointment, or as the result of direct, personal consultation (not by note), between a parent and teacher/director/coach.

Detentions may not be deferred for participation in co-curricular activities. At the discretion of coaches/activity directors, students may be permitted to participate in that day's activity after the detention has been served.

Grades for all students who participate in co-curricular activities (athletics or fine arts) will be reviewed every three weeks by the administration and coaches. To be eligible for games/performances, a student must be passing in all classes (no "F's"). A student's average for all grades must be at least a "C." Ineligibility begins the day after the grade report is issued and will last until the average is raised to a "C" average of all grades. Participation in practice sessions during the ineligible period is at the discretion of the coach or teacher.

If a student has missing work or outstanding make-up work when grades are issued and reviewed, he will be academically ineligible for the following week (and all subsequent weeks that work is outstanding). Ineligible students will have their grades checked at the end of each week. Once the average of all subjects is "C" and no work is outstanding, a student may again participate in activities.

Any student not able to fully participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic sports.

Any teacher may report to the administration problems of discipline, lack of courtesy, scholarship, etc. Together they will decide on the student's eligibility.

Parent Partnership

We are grateful to partner with parents in the development of their student athlete. Parents have an incredible opportunity to encourage, serve, train, and equip young people who are engaged in athletic competition. We desire for our parents to support the mission of the school in athletics through their interaction with each other, the student-athletes, the opposing team, the coaches, and the school administration.

Discipleship

Athletics provides a training ground for young people to learn valuable lessons about life and the pursuit of Christ. It is critical for parents to understand their unique role in helping student athletes understand how athletic lessons can translate into valuable characteristics in our relationship with Christ.

Spectator Expectations

Spectators have an incredible opportunity to support, encourage, and shape a positive athletic culture. It is our expectation that spectators will honor and respect all individuals involved in the athletic competition. Our expectation is for spectators to create a positive and safe environment for student-athletes, officials, coaches, and others involved.

Season Details and Logistics

Athletic Fees

Extracurricular activities such as involvement on an athletic team does require a participation fee. The athletic fee is \$75.00 for each season played. At the conclusion of tryouts, the team list will be submitted to the WCGS Business Director who will bill the family's account. Participation fees are non-refundable.

Our school athletic conference (SWAC) has agreed to not charge admission for regular season contests in all sports. Admissions will be taken at all SWAC tournaments, IESA post season play, or any local tournaments where our teams are participating.

Some miscellaneous expenses that may occur: end-of-year team celebrations, snacks and drinks for game days, team apparel, etc. We will strive to keep the extra expenses at a minimum each season.

Transportation

Our athletic teams travel through the collective effort of parent volunteers providing transportation to all away contests. Each coach will work with their teams to help coordinate the travel logistics. Parents are required to pick their child up or arrange a ride home at the conclusion of each away contest. Coaches will have a sign-out sheet that must be signed by a parent or guardian.

All drivers must complete the required forms to be eligible: Transportation Permission Form, Criminal History Background Check, and Field Trip Driver and Chaperone Form.

Health Conditions Requiring Medications

Wheaton Christian Grammar School **does not** send epinephrine, asthma rescue medications, diabetic medications, or any other medications necessary for a student's health to school-sponsored events that take place **outside of school hours**, including athletic practices and competitions. Students may *self-carry* epinephrine and asthma medications as authorized in their Student Medication Administration Authorization (SMAA) form on file with the nurse.

If a student has a life-threatening allergy, diabetes, asthma, or any condition requiring medication, a parent/guardian of that student is strongly recommended to attend such events and to provide and administer epinephrine, asthma rescue medications, diabetic medication, or any other medications necessary for the student's health and well-being, as needed.

Furthermore, although WCGS often arranges for volunteers to transport students to or from school-sponsored events that take place outside of school hours, such as athletic competitions, WCGS cannot guarantee that transportation vehicles will be an allergen-free environment or that volunteers are willing and capable to administer emergency medications. Consequently, if a student has a life-threatening allergy, diabetes, asthma or any life-threatening medical condition, WCGS strongly recommends parent/guardian to transport their own child to and from these events.

Required Forms and Procedures

- Sports Registration (prior to tryouts)
- Current Athletic Physical / Health Form
- Travel Permission Form
- Concussion Information / Consent Form
- Criminal History / Background Check (for parents)

Sports Registration (Required)

All students must register for each sport prior to the start dates provided for each sport. Communication will be sent when registration is open for each individual sport.

See instructions and steps below to register for a sport:

- Go to the school website (www.wheatonchristian.org)
- Scroll and click on the ParentsWeb link
- Log into ParentsWeb
- Select Student Information on the left
- Select child's name
- Use dropdown arrows to select sport
- Click SAVE

Athletic Forms (Required)

These three forms are required for participation in any sport activity:

- Current Athletic Physical / Health Form
- Travel Permission Form
- Concussion Information / Consent Form

All athletes must have an updated physical on file with the nurses' office prior to tryouts or the team's first official practice. A copy of this health form can be obtained from your physician. There are copies in the school front office or on our school website at this link: <https://wheatonchristian.org/news-events/forms-and-links/>

Other Forms (If necessary)

- **Criminal History / Background Check**

These forms must be completed and on file with the front office by all parents that are coaching, driving student athletes in a car pool, volunteer coaching, or other responsibilities that require consistent contact and work with our students.

See instructions and steps below to register (Please note: This only needs to be done once. You do not have to have the background check each year.):

- Go to the school website (www.wheatonchristian.org)
- Scroll and click on the ParentsWeb link
- Log into ParentsWeb
- Select Web Forms
- Select Criminal History / Background Check
- Complete Form
- Submit

- **Field Trip Driver / Chaperone Form**

The Field Trip Driver / Chaperone Form must be completed by anyone who will be driving students for athletic events.

See instructions and steps below to register for a sport (Please note: This needs to be done each school year.):

- Go to the school website (www.wheatonchristian.org)
- Scroll and click on the ParentsWeb link
- Log into ParentsWeb
- Select Web Forms
- Select Field Trip Driver / Chaperone Form
- Complete Form
- Submit

- **Post-concussion Consent Form**

The post-concussion consent form is required to be signed by parents and students once they have been cleared for RTP (return-to-play) and RTL (return-to-learn). This form must be completed and kept on file with the school nurse in order to complete and exit the concussion protocol program.