

Troy Christian Schools

Athletic Handbook



Micheal Coats, Athletic Director

700 S. Dorset Rd.
Troy, OH 45371
(937)339-5692

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Table of Contents

Philosophy of Christian Athletics	4
Standards for the Christian Athlete	5
Philosophy of Christian Coaching	5
Athletic Code of Conduct	6
Hazing	7
Travel to Away Contests	7
Commitment of Athletes	8
“NO QUIT” Policy	9
Disciplinary Philosophy and Procedures	9
Substance Misuse/Abuse	9
Athletic Eligibility	10
Athletic Participation Requirements	11
Snow Days	11
Athletic Awards Policy	11
Scholar Athletes	12
Wednesday and Sunday Play	13
Athletic Participation Fee	13
Parent Volunteer Co-Op	13
Insurance Coverage	14
Spectators Code of Conduct	14
Media Coverage	14
Parent & Coach Meetings	14
Troy Christian Athletic Contract	16

Philosophy of Christian Athletics

Christian athletics is a ministry. When athletics are seen from the Christian perspective, winning has a broader definition and our athletes a greater purpose. We want our coaches and athletes to be used of God in the lives of those they meet. Troy Christian athletics always aim to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as our Lord opens doors for active ministry. *“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”* (Matthew 20:26, 28).

Christian athletics is an arena for teaching the principles of God’s Word. Athletics is an opportunity to practice God’s principles. Examples of these principles are controlling the feelings that arise in competition, working together as members of the body of Christ, winning from God’s perspective rather than a person’s, being submissive to authority, and demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit during stressful situations. It’s our hope that our athletes are controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and produce Christ-like actions so that others may see Jesus through them.

Christian athletics is an arena used for teaching the importance of winning from God’s perspective. Scripture encourages striving hard for the goal, to be successful and to win the prize. *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.* (1 Corinthians 9:24). Christ expects us to give a total effort in all that we do, and therefore, is not satisfied with anything less than our best in a practice session, a game, or in the classroom. *They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.* (1 Corinthians 9:25) Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christian athletes learn to cherish eternal rewards as a treasure of great price. They learn that the most treasured reward often does not show up on the scoreboard, but in the lives of those who have developed a deeper desire for the things of Christ and in those whose lives were touched by the Christian athlete. Ultimately, winning is defined as *pleasing the Lord with our attitudes and actions*. This only begins when the athlete develops a desire to please the Lord rather than people. *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.* (Colossians 3:23) We want our athletes to catch the vision that our Lord attends every athletic event and is our primary audience.

ATHLETE

Standards

- The Christian athlete must exhibit an intense desire to improve without having to be forced. *The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.* (Proverbs 13:4)
- The Christian athlete must be fully committed to this ministry, games and practice. *Whatever you do, work at it with your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*” (Colossians 3:23)
- During the heat of competition, the Christian athlete must maintain self-control. During this time many people watch to see if Christ has made a difference in the Christian athlete. *...Instead, be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit.* (Ephesians 5:18)
- The Christian athlete should do nothing to discredit self, their family, team or school during or apart from an athletic event.
- Troy Christian athletes must attend practice with a willingness to:
 - A. Give their self for the benefit of the team
 - B. Perform with great intensity
 - C. Respond properly to instruction
 - D. Respond properly to constructive criticism
 - E. Contribute to the team unit *...being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.* (Philippians 2:2, 3).
 - F. Practice self-discipline (I Cor. 9:27).
- The Christian athlete understands that athletics is an exciting ministry. The Troy Christian athlete desires to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as our Lord uses athletics as an arena for teaching the principles of God’s Word and ministry.
- The Christian athlete or coach is not satisfied with anything less than their best effort in a practice session, game or in the classroom. *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GET THE PRIZE.* (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- The Christian athlete always shows *respect* to ALL at ALL times.

Philosophy of Christian Coaching

Coaches are stewards of the many families that have entrusted their children to TCS and to them. Coaches are placed as an extension of the family to help meet the spiritual needs of our athletes. It is important that since they are called into this position of authority and responsibility, they

are sensitive to our athletes as it relates to family and church activities. Our coaching philosophy is identical to our educational philosophy. Our major purpose is to influence our athletes to speak, act, lead and think (S.A.L.T.) like Jesus now. We want our athletes to possess positive Christ-like character qualities and to express them openly through athletics. We are primarily interested in building eternal values in our athletes and, therefore, need to emphasize attitudes and actions in relation to God's Word.

Our athletes are confronted with many life situations. These situations become perfect opportunities for teaching biblical principles. The coaches' job is to biblically direct them in these situations to build Christ-like character qualities. Coaches are their leaders and are to disciple them in the hope that Romans 8:6 will be true for them, *...the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

Athletic Code of Conduct

- The athlete's conduct is always a credit to the Lord and to the school, on the athletic field and in the community. The Student Code of Conduct signed by all TCS students applies at all times and places, including athletics.
- The athlete recognizes and abides by the coach's particular rules and procedures as approved by the Athletic Director. Parents receive these rules and guidelines prior to the beginning of each sport season.
- The athlete abides by the authority of the coach at all times.
- The athlete obeys all rules set by the school and complies with the spirit and letter of the rules, year round, including summer break.
- The athlete does not use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or **attend** parties where these are present. If an athlete enters a situation where drugs or alcohol are present, the athlete must leave immediately or disciplinary action will be taken.
- The athlete should abstain from immoral behavior.
- The athlete that has a tattoo must keep it covered at all times without drawing attention to one's self.
- Music that is played in the locker rooms, field house or anywhere else on campus must have prior approval from the Athletic Director.
- The athlete cares for equipment issued and complies with all instructions that may accompany it. Such equipment is worn only on the athletic field, not to school or in the community unless the Athletic Director gives special permission. Lost or misused equipment is replaced at the player's expense. At the end of the season the athlete turns in all equipment on the date requested. If after seven (7) days, the equipment is not returned, the athlete is billed for the equipment, unless otherwise approved by the Athletic Director.

- The athlete does not participate in practice or in any athletic event on any day in which they are absent for more than half of the school day. School administration may make exceptions to this rule.
- The athlete is aware of and maintains academic eligibility and is aware of and abides by all other state athletic rules of the OHSAA guidelines.
- The athlete adheres to the philosophy and standards for Christian athletes as described in the *Troy Christian Schools Athletic Handbook* and strives to serve Christ through the medium of Christian athletics. Any violations of this handbook may result in the loss of playing time either in practice or athletic events.
- The athlete adheres to the philosophy and standards for TCS students as described in the TCS Student-Parent Handbook. Any violations of this handbook may result in the loss of playing time either in practice or athletic events.

Hazing

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, **regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.**

Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating.

O.R.C. Section 2903.31

No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. No administrator, employee or faculty member of any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private, shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person.

Troy Christian Schools has a zero tolerance for any type of hazing activity. Any action considered to be hazing will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Travel to Away Contests

When a team bus or van is used, all players are to ride the bus or van to and from events. However, the coach may release an athlete to ride with his/her parents once they have provided the coach with written permission.

All athletes are expected to respect and adhere to the state law that prohibits eating and drinking while riding in a school bus.

Athletes may not ride with another athlete.

Parents will provide transportation to all away games. By agreeing to the athletic handbook, as the parent you agree to let your child ride with other parents or coaches. You also agree that your child may drive themselves if they are licensed. **If you do not agree with, you must be available to transport your child to all games.**

Exceptions to this may be evaluated when the number of athletes warrants consideration for school transportation.

Commitment of Athletes

If students choose to participate in the ministry of athletics,

- They are expected to fulfill the commitment to the best of their abilities.
- Every athlete is responsible to attend all practices and games. All absences must be due to an emergency.
- Every athlete will be required to attend two cross-training workout sessions per week during the season.
- Emergencies do occur and can be excused. Examples of an emergency are death in the family or athlete illness.
- Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action, which can include loss of playing time.

Troy Christian Schools strongly encourage its families to be involved in ministries of the local church. Therefore, coaches adhere to our administrative directive concerning time limits on Wednesday practices. The athletic department views itself as an extension of the family and is sensitive to family and church activities, especially during the holidays.

We also recognize that excellence involves commitment. Therefore, families must discuss in depth the issue of commitment before the child joins an interscholastic team. **Our philosophy views athletics as a very valuable ministry, an arena for teaching Godly principles and an opportunity to understand winning from God's perspective.**

We encourage involvement in the local church, but if an athlete has a *heavy* youth group commitment, we encourage the child not to be involved in athletics. It is important for parents and coaches to not place our children in situations of over-commitment.

“NO QUIT” Policy

Troy Christian Schools follows a **“No Quit Policy”**. Once an athlete has made the commitment to participate and has either attended a practice or checked out equipment, the athlete must complete the season. If an athlete chooses to disregard this policy, the athlete will forfeit the ability to compete in the next season or the remainder of the school year. Injured players are also expected to complete the season by still attending practices and contests and serving the team in any capacity needed.

Disciplinary Philosophy and Procedures

The Troy Christian Schools’ administration and athletic staff are very concerned with the attitudes displayed by our athletes. We believe that athletes are representatives of our school on and off the playing field or court. Many times the only contact that people have with our school is through their observations of our athletic teams. We believe that a student’s behavior in the classroom is a clear indication of what their behavior can be on the field or court. If a student athlete cannot act in a Christ-like manner with peers and teachers, then we cannot expect that student to be a good representative of our school on the playing field.

School behavior can affect athletic eligibility.

When a negative attitude or behavior occurs, it is dealt with immediately. After consultation with the Athletic Director to decide upon the discipline, the coach meets with the athlete and explains the decision. Parents are contacted by letter or phone to inform them of the circumstances and resulting discipline. Each case is handled independently.

Substance Misuse/Abuse Policy

The Athletic Department asks for cooperation from the parents. If a parent becomes aware of their athlete violating any athletic or school policies, the parent must contact the Athletic Director.

The problem of substance misuse/abuse (alcohol, drugs, or tobacco) is a surface problem. Therefore, it is important that we deal with the underlying root problem. Understanding that the purpose of disciplinary action is restoration, and understanding that God’s Word has the answer to all problems, the administration may suspend athletes from one season to the next or implement a suspension on the next sport to be played. With this in mind, our policy is as follows:

Self-reporting: When the parent and the athlete report a violation to the athletic director, the athlete will be denied participation in **15%** of the remaining games. Once the athlete is determined to have a problem, the administration will take whatever action deemed appropriate in order to achieve restoration.

Failure to Self-report:

- The athlete will be immediately suspended from the team for **50%** of the total games (which may include games in the next season).
- Once the athlete is determined to have a problem, the administration will take whatever action they believe is appropriate for restoration.

Second offense results in immediate suspension from all sports for the entire calendar year. The possibility of future sports participation will be a collective administrative decision.

This policy is in effect for the entire calendar year, including summer. This policy applies to any athlete at any time whether the sport is in season or not. Athletes who represent our school and Jesus should be responsible for their actions year-round. Any offense in the summer will result in disciplinary action in the next sport participation season.

Athletic Eligibility

- All high school athletes must meet the **OHSAA** requirements of passing courses totaling 5 credit hours contributing toward graduation in the grading period immediately preceding the beginning of the season.
- Junior high athletes must pass 75% of the classes taken in the preceding grading period to be eligible.
- All high school athletes must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.5.
- Grades will be checked four times per quarter (after two weeks, mid-term, after seven weeks and at quarter's end). If at any one of these checks, a student has earned a 69% or lower in any one class, the athlete is declared ineligible and must attend study table. It is the teacher's responsibility to communicate the ineligibility and resulting consequences to the athlete. An Ineligibility Notification Form will be given to an ineligible athlete by the end of the school day, Wednesday. In order for an athlete to clear their ineligibility and be eligible for the following period, they must attend Study Table either Tuesday or Thursday after school from 3:15 – 4:15 at a cost of \$5 per athlete. This fee is given to the study table monitor at the time of arrival. During this time the athlete is to work on assignments from the class that has made the athlete ineligible. Upon completion of the study table, the athlete may continue to participate in the sport. The purpose of the study table is to encourage an athlete to keep up assigned work without punishing his team and coach. If the athlete continues to fail classes, they may be removed from the sport.

If the athlete is ineligible by **OHSAA** rules, participation in the sport is not allowed for the following grading period.

Athletic Participation Requirements

- All athletes are required to have a completed physical form on file before they may practice. Athletes will not be allowed to practice unless a current physical form is on file in the Athletic Office.
- Other forms that must be on file with the Athletic Office before the first practice are the following:
 1. OHSAA Contract (signed)
 2. TC Athletic Contract (signed)

Snow Day Policy

If a “snow day” or “emergency day” is called on the day of an athletic contest or practice, the following policy is in effect:

- The athletic contest or practice is considered cancelled unless the Athletic Director and Superintendent determine it is safe to continue with the contest.
- If bus transportation is required, the Athletic Director makes a decision after he communicates with those involved with transportation.
- Coaches are contacted between noon and 1PM.
- One Call messages will be activated after 1PM.

Athletic Awards Policy

The following awards will be given to athletes at the conclusion of each season during an all school awards night. Attendance is required and athletes must wear chapel dress. Each athlete must meet the specific criteria for their sport to earn these awards.

Character Quality Certificates

Each athlete in grades 7-12 will receive a character quality given to them by their coach. This will be a quality that the athlete has exhibited throughout the season.

Varsity Numerals

Each athlete who is participating in high school athletics for the first time will receive their graduation year numerals.

Varsity Letter (1st year)

Each athlete who is playing on a varsity team for the first time in high school and has met their sport's varsity requirements (a minimum of participation in 40% of varsity contests) will receive a varsity letter and corresponding sport pin.

Varsity Bar (2nd year)

Each athlete who is playing on a varsity team for the second year in high school and has met their sport's varsity requirements will receive a varsity bar pin.

Varsity Star (3rd year)

Each athlete who is playing on a varsity team for the third year in high school and has met their sport's varsity requirements will receive a varsity star pin.

Letterman Plaque (4th year)

Each athlete who is playing on a varsity team for the fourth year in high school and has met their sport's varsity requirements will receive a varsity four year plaque and patch.

Special Awards

Coaches Awards: These awards are given to varsity athletes who have achieved a specific goal, record or personal best.

Most Improved Player: This award is given any JV or Varsity athlete who has improved the most either from last season to this season or from the beginning to end of this season.

Rookie of the Year: This award is given to any JV or Varsity athlete who has participated in that varsity sport for the first time and has embraced the sport and all of its characteristics.

The Eagle Award: Coaches will recommend Varsity athletes who fulfill the following criteria; exemplifies Christ during competition, team leader, spiritual leader, hard working in and out of season, dedicated to athletics, demonstrates a Christ-like attitude, dedicated to Troy Christian, scholastically on track. The Athletic Department will choose Eagle Award recipients based on coach, faculty and staff recommendations.

Scholar Athletes

All athletes in grades 7-12 who have obtained a GPA of 3.5 or better are recognized as scholar athletes during each season and receive a certificate. Scholar athletes will also receive a scholar athlete t-shirt, with a limit of one per year.

The Metro Buckeye Conference also honors varsity letter winners with scholar athlete certificates.

Wednesday and Sunday Play

The majority of the churches our students attend, desire to have their local body meet midweek and Sundays. Our commitment is to honor this by encouraging our students to regularly attend and to be involved in their church.

Therefore, teams sponsored by Troy Christian will strive to avoid games on Wednesday evenings or Sundays. Exceptions to this policy can be end of season tournament games or tournament games that have been postponed. Also, to honor Wednesday evenings for local church attendance, all practices will end by 5:30 PM.

PARENT

Athletic Participation Fee

Athletic fees are paid per athlete, per sport, per season. This fee is to be paid prior to the first day of practice. Athletic fees that are paid on time will be discounted to \$95. After the first day of practice, any unpaid athletic fees will be automatically withdrawn in the amount of \$120 along with the next tuition payment.

Parent Volunteer Co-Op

The Parent Volunteer Co-Op is a new program that will assist us in covering all of the necessary duties for home events and provide hospitality to both our fans, and all of our visitors. A parent's lack of participation in the co-op program may affect their athlete's eligibility. The co-op will involve parents or other volunteers of our student athletes in grades 7 – 11, allowing parents to be spectators during their athlete's senior year. Various duties will include concessions, gate, facility, etc... The Co-Op Coordinator will work with the Athletic Department to schedule parents into these various duties.

Insurance Coverage

Troy Christian Schools do not assume responsibility relative to doctor, ambulance or medical expenses in case of a medical emergency. Athletics are a voluntary, co-curricular program in which students may participate if they desire, but do so at their own risk. Parents or guardians must obtain adequate insurance coverage for their students through a family insurance policy. Any liability or cost incurred is the responsibility of the family of the student athlete.

Spectators Code of Conduct

...live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
(Ephesians 4:1-3)

- Spectators are to treat our coaches and players, opposing coaches and players and the referees and officials in a respectful Christ-like manner.
- The actions of fans are a witness to our community. They should remember that they represent not only our school, but also our Lord.
- Spectators are to exhort our players and teams in a positive manner.

Media Coverage

All athletes, at any time in or out of season, can have their names and or photos published in local newspapers, the OHSAA web-site, and the Metro Buckeye Conference web-site or on the Troy Christian web-site. If a parent or guardian does not wish to have their athlete's name and or photo released, a written request must be submitted to the Athletic Director.

Parent and Coach Meetings

We understand that disagreement can arise between coaches and parents. The Athletic Department asks that parents follow the Biblical principles outlined in Matthew 18 and talk to the coach in person. If you feel the need to talk with a coach, please schedule an appointment with that coach on any day other than the day of a game. Coaches have many responsibilities on game days. Please respect your athlete's coach by allowing them to focus on preparing for the game.

The following items are not to be discussed with a coach at any time:

- An athlete's playing time
- Coaching philosophy as it relates to the game
- Any other player

If after a parent/coach meeting, an issue cannot be resolved, either party may request a meeting with the Athletic Director in which both parties will be present.

Troy Christian Athletic Contract

The Troy Christian Athletic Department truly believes that we must become partners with parents in the education of our student athletes. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

The following principles are to be understood and accepted prior to involvement in Troy Christian Schools' interscholastic sports:

- Due to the varied talents and skill levels of our athletes, **playing time is not guaranteed**. It is the intent of the coach to help in the development of player skills in order to increase playing time for each athlete. Encourage your student athlete to work hard to improve their skills.
- Excused absences include illness and death in the family. Other absences may involve consequences and need the coach's prior permission. **Please schedule vacation, doctor and dentist appointments so as not to conflict with practice or games.**
- Parents are asked not to withdraw any athlete from participating in a sport for the reason of grades. Replacement is impossible once the season begins. If discipline is needed, be creative and find ways to discipline the athlete without punishing the team or coach. If an athlete becomes ineligible encourage the athlete to do homework at practice.

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY AND INITIAL

I, the parent / guardian of the below named individual, acknowledge that participation in athletic events necessarily involves risk of physical injury. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Troy Christian Schools, its employees, volunteers, staff, and other representatives, from any claims or medical expenses arising out of or relating to any physical injury that may result while participating in any sport and its activities.

We have read and agree with this statement and the Troy Christian Schools Athletic Handbook. We agree to abide by the philosophy and policies established by Troy Christian Schools, Inc.

Student Athlete _____ **Grade** _____

Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____