



**Parent/Student
Athletic Handbook
2023-24**



Revised by Sarah Stephens, Athletic Director

**FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
PHILOSOPHY AND FAMILY ATHLETIC
COMMITMENT LETTER**

Dear Parents:

Our coaching and athletic staff are pleased that your son or daughter is contemplating the opportunity to play sports here at FBCS. It is indeed a thrill to represent our Lord on the athletic field or court. We encourage this opportunity for your student to develop spiritually, physically, and mentally by joining the athletic squad of his or her choice. It is a wonderful way to encourage your student to use and develop the talents that God has given them.

We suggest that you make this decision a prayerful one. Because it is a privilege to compete in a sport here at our school, a student makes a commitment to their team and their coach. This means that a student athlete is committed to being at every practice, that families schedule events around games and tournaments, and that support for teammates and coaches is honored. By allowing your child to participate, the parent is also making a commitment—a pledge, to honor the authority of the coach.

The selection of our coaches is not taken lightly. We are striving to place coaches who are godly examples and who are knowledgeable of the game and love to work with young people. Our coaches, like our teachers, must be honored, but more importantly,

our parents must be willing to submit to their authority and encourage their child to do the same.

There is nothing wrong with our parents going to a coach and expressing concerns. Those concerns must be expressed with respect, not having gone to all the other parents represented on the team to see if they have equal concerns. If those expressed concerns are not addressed, then the parent should go and speak with the Athletic Director. The next step is to speak with the Administrator. Most parent complaints in sports deal with the playing time of their child. This is a difficult issue because the coach's role is to decide who to play, and this must be left completely at the discretion of the coach. Please know that it is our coaches' desire to play every child as much as possible.

The sports program at FBCS is an inter-scholastic program. This means that we compete against other schools in our conference in a competitive atmosphere. The sports program is very important in the Christ-centered development of our young people. Through our sports programs they learn self-discipline, goal setting, right attitudes, team work, how to celebrate with other teammates when they are honored, how to accept failure, how to win graciously, how to lose with a right attitude, how to share Christ with other teams, how to pray publicly, how to honor authority, and how to rely upon the Lord to accomplish all these things.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." Col. 3:17

Please complete the Google form or sign the paper copy at the end of this handbook.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PARTICIPATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Junior High — The Junior High teams are the foundation of our sports program. We must work to train the entry level athlete to learn the fundamentals if we hope to have success at the higher levels. This is our focus to teach the basic skills. Students will all play in games provided they work hard in practice and do what their coaches tell them to do. This means that a young athlete must be coachable, have the right attitude, and work hard in practice. As in any other facet of life, those who do the above will be the ones who are rewarded with playing time. Believing that our athletes all will put forth this kind of consistent effort and attitude, our goal is to play every child in every game.

2. Junior Varsity — Talented players are being developed for Varsity play. All will play and participate. The degree of play and participation is up to the individual coach.

3. Varsity — There is no guarantee of participation or play regardless of age or grade.

In the life of Christ, He did everything with a purpose. The philosophy of the world with such concepts as "Outcome Based Education" would have us believe that hard work, effort and winning are not important. We believe that our Lord would have us prepare, play and work our hardest. It must be emphasized that

winning at all costs is not what we are striving for. However, giving it our very best is the priority.

"Whatever thy hands finds to do verily, do it with all your might." Eccles. 9:10

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men." Col. 3:23

The philosophy at our Varsity level is no different than in a math or science class. We don't say to our kids in the classroom that now that you are a junior or senior, or no matter how little you work, prepare or try, you will automatically get an "A." In addition, all children have different gifts. Just as in life, not all can be pastors or teachers, or other various occupations; likewise not all may be able to play at the Varsity level.

To accurately understand the commitment that we want to see from our athletes and parents, the following summary of guidelines has been set:

ATHLETES' COMMITMENT:

1. To participate in all practices and games
2. To eat properly and get a good night's rest
3. To study and keep grades up so as to remain eligible
4. To properly care for and maintain uniforms and equipment
5. To finish out the season
6. To be respectful to coaches and fellow teammates

PARENTS' COMMITMENT:

1. To pray for and encourage your child each day
2. To provide balanced meals for your child (especially lunch)
3. To attempt to keep scheduling conflicts with practices and games to a minimum
4. To make an effort to be at games to encourage your child as much as possible
5. To be supportive to the athletic and coaching staff, especially in front of your child
6. To honor the authority God has placed over your child

PARENT VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:

Parents are integral part of the Warriors sports programs to help make each season and game day a success! Areas where you can volunteer include admission table, running the clock, line judging keeping scorebook and clean up after games. Help is also needed on additional dates including Sportswalk, Tournaments and Sports Awards Nights. ***We ask all parents to volunteer at least 3-4 times throughout the season.*** Volunteer sign ups are located on our website and will be emailed to parents via the weekly Hodagram and from the athletic director throughout the season.

Understanding there are costs and risks involved for students who participate in all sports, parents and athletes must be aware that injury can occur in every sport and occasionally serious injury may result from an unfortunate accident or unusual circumstance in sporting activities.

ATHLETIC FORMS:

- 1) **Sports physicals** must be up to date (every three years). The **MSHSL Health Clearance Form page 1** must be signed by a doctor and returned.

Or...

If your child is not due for a sports physical, an **Annual Sports Questionnaire** must be completed.

- 2) A current **copy of the athlete's health insurance card** (both sides) must be on file in the school office. Student Managers must also give their insurance card.

**These forms must be turned into the office before the student athlete may participate in any game. Please check with the school office for forms or if you are unsure whether your forms are up to date.*

FEES

All sports participation fees must be paid, whether or not the student athlete completes the season. This fee will be on your regular school invoice. Varsity away tournaments will require extra money for food/lodging. The athletic director will notify the players and parents of the amount of money needed for these tournaments.

ATHLETES CODE OF ETHICS:

Each athlete that competes for FBCS will be expected to strive at all times to reflect our Lord by doing the following:

1. Be committed to our Lord first, then the team (Ps. 37:5).
2. Be intense. Give maximum effort (Col. 3:23).

3. Be disciplined, self-controlled, and on time (I Cor. 9:25).
4. Be obedient to authority, coaches, captains, officials, and others (Rom. 13:1-2).
5. Leave any locker room, bus, court, etc., cleaner than when you found it.
6. Promote team unity (Phil. 2:2).
7. Strive for excellence (Phil. 3:14).
8. Treat teammates and others as more important than yourself (Phil 2:3).

TRANSPORTATION

Unless otherwise stated by the coach or athletic director, all athletes, managers, etc. will travel to all away games by bus which will be driven by a certified driver. If a bus is not available, as is often the case for the younger teams, parents may be asked to drive to games. We do not allow student-athletes to drive to away games. Please talk to the athletic director or administrator if there are circumstances that may warrant this. Written parent permission and administration permission is required for a student to drive to a game.

An athlete may return home from an away game with their parents or a designated adult driver provided the parent has given written permission for this in advance on the Student-Athlete Medical Form. Please let the coach know when this is occurring. Since the coach is legally responsible for all the athletes and students involved in the program, it is essential that parents and athletes follow this guideline.

Please try to pick up your child from school as soon as possible after the finish of a practice or game. We greatly appreciate your help and promptness in this area, as coaches must remain at school until all athletes have been picked up.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Athletes must be in attendance all day to be eligible to participate in a game that same day. In addition to same day attendance, students may not be late to school the day after an away game. Special circumstances must be discussed, in advance, with the athletic director or the administrator.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility issues are covered in depth in the Parent/Student Handbook under Extracurricular/Athletics Information. Please understand that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Sports is a privilege that follows being responsible in behavior and academics.

LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP

At the varsity level, after practicing or playing with a school sponsored sport, athletes may not participate on a non-school team of the same sport during the same season or of a different sport if it conflicts with school practice.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

1. Athletes are to take care of facilities and equipment for their respective sport at home and away games. Each athlete and or team will be held personally responsible for the replacement

- of any equipment damaged or lost by means other than normal wear or use.
2. Uniforms are the school's property. Therefore, each athlete is responsible for their proper care and prompt return to the coach or athletic director. Failure to do so will cause the school to charge the athlete the full cost of the new replacement.

PRACTICE

Attendance at all team meetings and practices is required unless excused by the coach prior to the absence. Parents should notify coaches in advance with schedule conflicts.

PRACTICE DRESS CODE—Athletes should come to practice wearing school approved clothing as outlines in the FBCS Student Handbook.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not to use their cell phone or electronic device during practice or games.

JOBS, EMPLOYMENT

An athlete should not try to hold a job during the season if it conflicts with practices, games, or meetings, unless prior arrangements have been made between the parents and the coach.

DRUGS, TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, ETC.

The use of foreign substances by any athlete will not be tolerated. Use of any such substance will result in the immediate suspension from the team for the rest of the season.

GAME DAY DRESS CODE

As a general rule, all athletes are required to be in school dress code at all home and away games. Students may be asked change into their school dress after a home or away contest. It is important that our student/athletes look sharp at all times. Individual coaches may request boys to wear dress shirts and ties. There may also be dress requirements that we will cheerfully adhere to when we participate in tournaments.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

There will be times when the teams will need to leave classes early to get ready to go to an away game. It is the responsibility of each individual athlete to know what school work they will be missing, homework assignments, and any tests or quizzes that might be missed and that will need to be made up. Communication with the teacher is the athlete's responsibility and is of the highest importance so that the student/athlete does not fall behind in their assignments. Please note that this is the student's responsibility and not the teacher's.

CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS

FBCS will continue to work to provide Certified Athletic Trainers for all our HOME Varsity games this season.

AWARDS

Special awards are given out at the end of the year at the Fall and Winter Sports Awards Nights.

We are excited to have you participate with us!

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Stephens, Athletic Director.
sstephens@fourthbaptist.org or 763-417-8205.

(Please clip off and return portion below dotted line)



Parent/Athlete Commitment and Permission Form 2023-24 School year

We have read the Parent/Student Athletic Handbook and give our permission for our child(ren):

(Name(s))

to participate in sports at FBCS. We pledge our support in praying for and encouraging our child(ren) to serve the Lord through this commitment.

Parent signature:

(date)

Athlete's signature (all children can sign on this one form)

