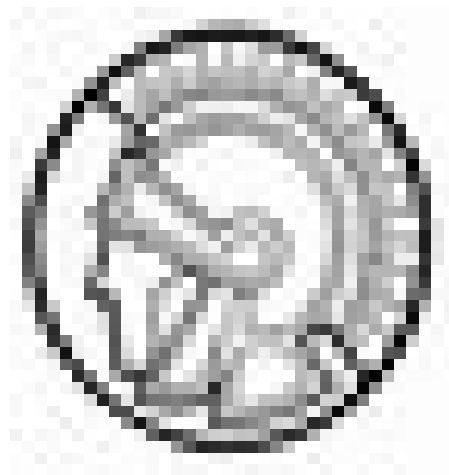


Westminster Christian School

Athletic Policy



2009-2010

The Christian Perspective of Athletics at Westminster Christian School

Westminster Christian School exists to train athletes in a nurturing environment. Your athletic director and coaches are called to guide you in your spiritual, physical and intellectual growth. They want you to grow more like Christ and "increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52).

Westminster Christian School provides its students in grades 5-12 with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular, interscholastic sports. It should be understood by all participants and parents, that the curricular program takes priority over the extra-curricular, interscholastic sports program. The primary purpose of the athletic program at Westminster Christian School is to promote a common value system that develops character in young student-athletes as well as advocates the spiritual, physical, social, well being of each participant. The objectives of the athletic program are to glorify God through the use of His gifts, to provide a Christian environment for its student-athletes to develop their individual talents, to instill in players an attitude about sportsmanship, to respect players, coaches, fans, and officials, in a manner that is consistent with Biblical values, and to provide a Christ-like witness to the players and spectators as we compete against other teams. It is a focal point that athletics will be a positive tool in preparing young women and men for an enriching and vital role in their daily Christian walk.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program at Westminster Christian School. Participation in athletics is open to all students regardless of the individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student-athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the training rules, disciplinary regulations, and responsibilities, which are unique to the extra-curricular, interscholastic sports program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the student-athlete must willingly assume his/her obligations as the role demands, often making sacrifices not required of others. In addition to the general rules and regulations identified in the "Westminster Christian School Parent/Student Handbook", athletic program participants are also governed by the policies set forth in the Westminster Christian School Athletic Handbook, by each coach or sponsor, and by the policies and rules prescribed by the Illinois High School Association (IHSAA).

Introduction

This handbook is designed for students and parents to help define the roll of athletics at Westminster Christian School. This ready reference should help assist anyone seeking information on the function and governance of athletics at Westminster. It should also serve as an additional instrument for coaching personnel to communicate with parents and students.

We hope our student-athletes realize that while they practice and compete in their sport, they represent their team, coach, school, family, and most importantly, Jesus Christ. All actions should promote a Christ-like spirit, good sportsmanship, a wholesome attitude and loyalty to both team and school.

To the Parent

This handbook has been given to you because your son/daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which will assist students in personal adjustments and developments.

We, who are concerned with educational development of student athletes, believe that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the students' needs for self-discipline, mental development, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational, physical, and spiritual maturity.

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our sports programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations which includes the following: (1) to provide adequate equipment and facilities; (2) to provide well trained Christian coaches; (3) to provide competitive schedules using skilled officials.

Similarly, by allowing your child, we feel that you have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations as well to participate. Please, support the scheduled practices, games and other demands on your time and funds. These other demands may include voluntarily transporting students to games and assisting at home games.

The giving of your time, your energies, and your expertise in providing our athletes with a lasting educational, physical and spiritual experience is greatly appreciated.

Parents' Expectations

As a parent, you are extremely important to the success of our athletic program. There are a few things of which you need to be aware:

1. We have asked that your son/daughter seriously consider their participation on a team. We have and will continue to explain to them the importance of athletics being a priority if they choose to be a part of the team. We ask you to help them in making that decision and if your son/daughter does choose to participate, that you will help them honor the commitment they have made for the entire season.
2. Please remember that when you attend a game that you are an ambassador for WCS and our athletic program. Please remember that a good fan focuses on encouraging and uplifting their own team and does not focus on putting down the other team, referees, coaches, or your own team members.
3. When a problem arises, please remember to follow the Matthew 18 principal, and go first to the person involved.
4. All parents who have a student in the WCS Athletic Program are encouraged to become members of the WCS Sports Booster Club.

Student Expectations

As a team member, it will be expected that you will be making a serious commitment to your team. This means that you will be expected to be at every practice and game and that you will stay with the team for the entire season.

It is very important that, as a team member, you make the team a priority in your life and that your priorities are in proper order. We recommend that God, your family, your school work, and your team take precedent and in that particular order.

If there ever is a conflict, it is important to let your coach know very early if you will be missing a practice or game. It is also important that you keep up with your daily school work and be consistent in all areas of your life.

Westminster Christian School Interscholastic Athletic Policy

Westminster Christian School provides its fifth through senior students with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular, interscholastic sports programs. It should be understood by all participants and a parent, that curricular program takes priority over the extra-curricular, interscholastic sports program. Items related to this understanding are addressed in the Athletic Handbook provided to and signed by participants and parents.

The objectives of the extra-curricular, interscholastic sports program include the following:

- ❖ To glorify God through the use of HIS gifts to us.

- ❖ To provide a Christian environment for players to develop their athletic talents.

- ❖ To instill in the players an attitude about sportsmanship and respect to players, coaches, fans, and officials that is consistent with Biblical views.

- ❖ To provide all fifth and sixth grade players with the opportunity to play minutes that will impact the game. All players may not play equal minutes. Priorities at this level are to encourage participation and to build basic individual and team skills.

- ❖ To develop in seventh grade through senior students, competitive individual and team skills and strategies as well as an understanding of different roles in team make-up. Playing time is no longer a guarantee. Priorities are to develop the most competitive interscholastic team possible. Efforts to improve individual and team skills, and to enhance a player's understanding of his/her value to the team regardless of the amount of game action, will be emphasized during team practice sessions.

- ❖ To provide a Christ-like witness to players and spectators as we compete against other teams.

Team Membership, Playing Time and Cuts Elementary and Junior High Level

Elementary Level:

Every athlete should be given equal opportunity to play minutes that will impact the game. All players may receive equal playing time. Priorities at this level are to encourage participation and to build basic individual and team skill.

The coach will determine whether a player will participate if he/she had an unexcused absence from a practice in the week preceding a game.

Effort is made not to cut any elementary player. However, it may be necessary when there are more students desiring to participate than there are coaches, facilities, equipment, uniforms and finances available to support added team membership.

Junior High Level:

Every athlete should get the opportunity to play minutes that will impact the game. Opportunity for playing time will no longer be equal. Priorities are to develop the most competitive interscholastic team possible. Efforts to improve individual and team skills, and to enhance a player's understanding of his/her role and value to the team regardless of the amount of game action, will be emphasized during team practice sessions.

The coach will determine whether a player will participate if he/she had an unexcused absence from practice in the week preceding the game.

Effort is made not to cut any junior high player. However, it may be necessary when there are more students desiring to participate than there are coaches, facilities, equipment, uniforms and finances available to support added team membership.

Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Elementary and Junior High policies should be directed to the Athletic Director at 847-695-0310.

Team Membership, Playing Time, and Cuts High School

Freshman and Sophomore:

In almost all situations this team will be comprised of freshman and sophomores. The focus of the team and the coach will be on the continued development of the athletes' abilities so that they can continue to improve as players and team members. Players at the Freshman/sophomore level will be expected to: (1) have a good grasp of the fundamentals; (2) have good skills related to their particular sport; (3) be in good physical condition necessary to compete appropriately at that level.

If a player does not demonstrate the three aspects mentioned above, the coach reserves the right to adjust his/her playing time accordingly.

The coach will determine whether a player will participate if he/she had an unexcused absence from practice in the week preceding the game.

The coach is to make every effort to play all players in each game and he/she will try to balance the time as much as possible. However, there is no minimum or maximum amount of time that the coach is required to play each player.

We will not cut any freshman or sophomore player.

Varsity:

Generally, this team is made up of juniors and seniors. However, if the Varsity coach feels that a freshman or sophomore could contribute more to the Varsity team than a particular Junior or Senior, the coach may ask a freshman or sophomore to play on the Varsity team.

Players at the Varsity level are expected to: (1) have a solid grasp of the fundamentals; (2) have excellent skills related to their particular sport; (3) be in good physical condition necessary to compete appropriately at the Varsity level.

If a player does not demonstrate the three aspects mentioned above of a Varsity player, the coach reserves the right to adjust his/her playing time accordingly.

The coach will determine whether a player will participate if he/she had an unexcused absence from practice in the week preceding a game.

Playing time decisions for each player at the Varsity level are left totally to the coaches' discretion. There may be times when a player plays the entire game and then there may be times when a player does not play at all. Priority is to develop the most competitive interscholastic team possible.

We will not cut any Varsity player. However, it may be necessary when there are more students desiring to participate than there are coaches, facilities, equipment, uniforms and finances available to support added team membership.

Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the High School policies should be directed to the Athletic Director at 847-695-0310.

Uniforms and Equipment

1. Uniforms and equipment must be turned in two weeks after the last game of the season to their coach.
2. If a uniform is not turned in within four weeks after the season ends the student will be charged for the total amount of the uniform cost and will be responsible for that amount unless the uniform is returned.
3. If the uniform is not turned in or paid for by the end of the semester the student's grades will not be released until the uniform is turned in or the total amount of the uniform cost is received.
4. Uniforms must be returned cleaned and in bag with identification on or in the bag.
5. The athlete is totally responsible for any uniform or equipment that is issued to them. Any lost, stolen, or damaged items will be charged to the athlete to whom they are issued.
6. The WCS Athletic Department works hard to supply the athlete with excellent quality uniforms and equipment. The uniforms and equipment are often very expensive. To be good stewards of our resources, we require that all participants take excellent care of their uniforms and equipment.

Academic Requirements, Eligibility, & Consequences

1. Westminster Christian High School is a member of the **Illinois High School Association, which requires that each student-athlete's academic progress be monitored on a weekly basis.**
2. Each student-athlete will have his/her academic performance evaluated each Monday, as a cumulative quarter/semester average, while he/she is active in an interscholastic athletic and/or extra-curricular activity. It will begin after the third week of each quarter.
3. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible by the Athletic Director, his/her period of ineligibility will begin on Tuesday and last for the entire week.
4. In order to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, a student-athlete must be passing each course in which they are enrolled. If any student-athlete is receiving a failing grade in any course, he/she will become immediately ineligible for one week. If a student-athlete appears on the weekly academic eligibility report with a combination of two or more D's, he/she will have a One time 2 week "grace period" (per semester) to bring the grades up in those courses to C- or better status. Failure to bring those grades to a C- or better status after the initial two week "grace period" will then result in him/her being ineligible on a week to week basis.
5. During the time in which a student-athlete is ineligible, he/she will be allowed to participate in practice (unless a student has arranged it with their coach to study after school for a test or do homework for a particular class) until the period of ineligibility has been lifted.
6. The **SECOND** time a student-athlete is declared ineligible will result in a mandatory meeting between the student-athlete, parents, teacher(s), and athletic director.
7. The student-athlete's eligibility status shall be assessed on a weekly basis. If a student-athlete becomes ineligible on three (Fall and Spring) or four (Winter) separate occasions (equivalent to ¼ of the season) during one season, the appropriate school principal, the parents, and the athletic director shall confer to determine if it is in the student-athlete's best interest to

continue membership on the team. If a student-athlete is disqualified from a team for academic reasons, the athletic participation fee for that season will NOT be refunded.

8. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible with two or more D's based on first semester grades, he/she will be ineligible at the beginning of the second semester for a period of one week. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible with any grade of an E based on semester grades, he/she will be declared ineligible for a period of two weeks beginning the first school day of the new semester.
9. Parents of ineligible student-athletes will be contacted by the athletic director to notify them of their son/daughter's current eligibility status. The athletic director is also responsible to notify each student-athlete of their eligibility status, submit the eligibility report sheet, and contact each coach of any ineligible student-athletes from their respective team.

Academic Ineligibility by Grade Level

1. All 5th-6th grade level student-athletes eligibility decisions will be made in by the appropriate school principal in cooperation with athletic director, the student's classroom teacher and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). This system is for the sole purpose of helping these student-athletes make the adjustment of balancing family, school work, and extra-curricular activities.
2. All 7th grade level student-athletes and all student-athletes new to the Westminster Christian School in 7th or 8th grades are extended a grace period, not to exceed the first four (4) weeks of the first academic quarter, in regards to academic eligibility requirements. This system is for the sole purpose of allowing sufficient time to adjust to a new educational environment as well as increased workload and expectations.
3. All 8th-12th grade level student-athletes eligibility progress and status will be monitored beginning with the first week of school and will abide by all policies and procedures detailed in the WCS Athletic Code.

Game Participation Requirements

4. A student-athlete must be in school a minimum of ½ day in order to be eligible to participate in an extra-curricular practice or interscholastic contest that day. An exception would be made if the student-athlete had an approved family engagement, medical appointment, or any other acceptable prior planned absence, unless unexcused.
5. If a student-athlete misses the school day due to illness, he/she will not be eligible participate in that days extra-curricular practice or contest.
6. If the student-athlete becomes well enough to arrive at school by 12:00 noon, he/she will be eligible to participate in that day's practice or contest.
7. Any student-athlete arriving after 12:00 noon will not have ½ day of school requirement to be eligible for extra-curricular practices or contests and therefore will not be eligible to participate in that day's practice or contest.
8. If a student-athlete is absent the last school day of the school week and the extra-curricular practice or interscholastic contest falls on a non-school day weekend, or special holiday, the coach or advisor will make the decision regarding participation eligibility, keeping in mind the circumstances for the absence.

9. A student-athlete who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate in any extra-curricular practices or interscholastic contests again until given medical release by the student-athlete's doctor. The athletic department will request copies of the doctor's permission slip, forward one copy to the coach, and keep a copy on file until the end of the current school year.

Practice Participation Requirements

10. If a student-athlete is in school for a minimum of ½ day and is participating on an extra-curricular team, that student-athlete is required to attend any after school extra-curricular practice or interscholastic contest that school day. An exception would be made if the student-athlete had a pre-approved or emergency family engagement, medical appointment, or any other acceptable prior planned absence.
11. If a student-athlete is going to miss an extra-curricular practice or contest, he/she must provide a written excuse or a phone call to their coach from his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) detailing the reason(s) for the absence. If this will be a reoccurring absence, this should be indicated in the first parent letter, and then this first letter will serve as the excused absence for the remainder of that season.
12. Absences from practice and games for all levels of athletics at WCS:

Athlete misses a practice or game for the following:

- Sickness
- Death in the family
- College visit
- School work
- Future college or athletic experience that impacts the athlete's future

Penalty – None, these would be considered excused, the coach will have the discretion to enforce a penalty if it seems necessary after discussing it with the principal or athletic director. This would be necessary if absences are abused.

Athlete misses practice or game for the following:

- Another practice or game in a sport not in season
- Detention
- Suspension from school for behavior (example- fighting, cheating, etc.)
- Court date
- Family vacations

Penalty: If a starter, they will not start until a ¼ of the contest is complete. If they are a reserve player they will not enter the game until after half the contest is over. **The school principal, athletic director, coach or advisor has the prerogative to establish additional rules and has the right to enforce a larger penalty pertaining to the extra-curricular activity supervised.**

Athlete misses practices or games for the following:

- **Suspended from school for alcohol**
- **Suspended from school for illegal Drugs**
- **Suspended from school for use of tobacco**

Penalty:

1st offense – suspension from all games for ¼ of the season.

2nd offense – suspension from all games and practices until further notice and must seek counsel from the athletic director to enroll in and complete a mutually agreed upon smoking or alcohol/drug use program. They must complete a professional chemical dependency evaluation at a mutually agreed upon treatment center. Proof of completion of this program is to be submitted to the school by the parents before the student-athlete can be reconsidered for eligibility.

Athlete- To play in a contest, the athlete must be present in school for at least ½ of a full school day.

Coaches: have the authority to make the consequence or penalty more severe if they deem it necessary to do so. They should take into consideration if the athlete that has been committed to the program when missing several practices or games throughout their career. If the missed practice or game occurs frequently then the consequence should be more severe.

Athletic Director has the authority to over rule any coach's policies or suspensions if he sees it necessary to do so.

Exceptions to rules: Coach must take into consideration the circumstances of each athlete and take each individual violation on a one on one basis. Coaches are encouraged to discuss the violation or missed practice or game with the athletic director to seek a decision.

Individual Conduct and Consequences

Classroom and School Discipline situations will be dealt with using the following procedures:

Any student or athlete who receives a disciplinary detention will be dealt with on a case by case basis based on the severity and frequency of the conduct. Consequences for the detention will be determined by the appropriate school principal in cooperation with the athletic director, the student's classroom teacher and his/her parent(s) or legal guardians(s).

13. 5th -6th Grade

- (a) First offense: Suspension from one contest.
- (b) Second offense: Suspension from two Contests.
- (c) Third Offense: Meeting with parents, Players, coach and athletic director.

14. 7th -12th Grade (detentions)

- (a) First offense: Suspensions from one contest
- (b) Second offense: Suspensions from two contests.
- (c) Third offense: Meeting with parents, player, coach and athletic director.

15. A student-athlete who is placed on disciplinary probation will be ineligible for participation in any extra-curricular practices or interscholastic contests for a period of time concurrent with the probation period.

Theft, vandalism, or the malicious destruction of property or equipment of any school or individual will not be tolerated.

16. First offense; Suspension from the team/activity for 5 school days. The Individual will not be allowed to participate in any practices or contests during the suspension period. At the end of this period, following counseling by the coach or advisor and the school administrator, a decision regarding further competition will be made.
17. Second offense: Suspension for the remainder of the school year from any extra-curricular activities and referral to the school administrator.

The Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, and /or illegal drugs. The use or possession of any substance prohibited by law is contrary to the principles of Westminster Christian School and such use or possession will result in the following:

18. First Offense: Suspension from the team/ activity $\frac{1}{4}$ of the season. The individual will be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular practices during the suspension period and will be encouraged to attend games or matches in street clothes.
19. Second offense: Suspension from the team/activity for the remainder of that season. At the end of this period, following counseling by the athletic director and school administrator, a decision regarding the future status of the student-athlete's eligibility will be made. At this point, the student-athlete will be asked to enroll in and complete, a mutually agreed upon smoking or alcohol/drug use program or completion of a professional chemical dependency evaluation at a mutually agreed upon treatment center. Proof of completion of this program is to be submitted to the school by the parents before the student-athlete can be reconsidered for eligibility.

Communication and Appeal of Consequences

Before any suspension under these rules takes effect, the student-athletes shall be verbally advised by the coach or advisor concerning the alleged violation and the student-athlete will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action for which he/she is being held responsible to the coach or advisor and the athletic director. If, after such a conference, the coach or advisor and athletic director are satisfied that the suspension is justified, the student-athlete will be notified.

Before any suspensions longer than one contest, the coach or advisor shall notify the athletic director and school administrator concerning the alleged violation. The student-athlete concerned may ask one or the other, or both to be present during any hearing. Final approval of any suspension for more than one contest must come from the school administrator.

The rules, regulations, policies, and procedures in the WCS Athletic Code shall apply to any violations on or off school premises.

Additional rules or regulations set forth by the coach or advisor must be submitted in writing and approved by the athletic director and school administrator. These additional rules and regulations must then be communicated to the student-athletes before that activity begins. A copy of any rules and regulations additions will be kept on file in the athletic office along with this code.

Athletic Awards

The athletic director in cooperation with the head coach or advisor will establish the requirements for achieving athletic awards in his/her respective sport. These requirements will be submitted in writing and will receive the approval of the administration before being distributed. As far as possible, all awards will be consistent with the standard for other sports within the school program.

20. **Participation Award** ó A certificate presented to each student-athlete who is a team member for a full sport season and/or does not qualify for any other award. This certificate is the only award that will be presented to the 5th ó 8th grade participants.

21. **Team and Individual Awards** - will be given by the coach of each High School Sport. These awards will be selected by the coach and/or players on the team.

22. **12 sport Award** – An athlete that participates in 3 seasons in a high school sport all 4 years.

23. **Stead Fast Warrior Award** – The athlete that shows determination, perseverance and commitment to the sports that they participated in without being concerned with themselves and putting their team mates first in everything they do.

24. **Senior Christian Athlete** ó Each year at the end of the school year, a senior male and female student-athlete will be selected as Senior Christian Athletes of the Year. The award is a plaque presented by the Westminster Christian School athletic department and a listing on a school plaque to be displayed on the school trophy case. Criteria for selection include the following: athletic accomplishments, academic achievement, moral and social leadership, Christian service, and dedication and loyalty to school and teams. Three males and three females will be nominated by faculty members from a complete list of senior student-athletes. The athletic director, in conjunction with the coaching staff and administration, will select the one male and one female representative

Westminster Christian School
Athletic Policy consent form

Athletes Name: _____ Male / Female

Grade: 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th (please circle one)

Circle all of the following that pertains to the athlete for the _____ school year:

Sports of interest:

Baseball	Cross Country	Softball
Basketball	Golf	Track
Cheerleading	Soccer	Volleyball

Athlete - Your signature on this form indicates that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Athletic Policy of Westminster Christian School.

Athlete's Signature

Date

Athlete's Birthday: _____

Parent/Guardian - Your signature on this form indicates that you have read, understand, and agree that your son/daughter will abide by the Athletic Policy of Westminster Christian School.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

*Please return to front desk or athletic office

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MEDICAL RELEASE / INSURANCE FORM

I/we hereby give my/our permission for _____ to participate in all athletic sports during the athletic season beginning in the _____ school year.

As a participant, or parent(s)/legal guardian(s), in the Westminster Christian School Athletic Program, I/we have read and understand all of the information outlined in the Westminster Christian School Athletic Code Consequences and Warrior Athlete's Pledge. I/we commit to abiding by the guidelines set forth. I/we also commit to accept the consequences in the unfortunate situation that my child or I is found in violation with the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Further, as parent(s)/legal guardian(s), I/we authorize WCS to provide emergency treatment of an injury to, or illness of, my child if qualified medical personnel consider treatment necessary and perform the treatment. This authorization is granted only if I cannot be reached and a reasonable effort has been made to do so.

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Pre-existing medical conditions (i.e. allergies or chronic illness) _____

Other(s) to contact in case of emergency: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance Information

My/our child and I/we are aware that participating in an athletic activity is potentially dangerous. I assume all risks associated with participation in this sport, including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, traffic, and other reasonable risk conditions associated with the activity. All such risks to my/our child are known and understood.

For those students who are actively engaged in extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics, proof of adequate insurance coverage must be presented by parents prior to the time that the student enters the activity or sport, or parents must complete the waiver of requirement for proof of medical insurance for athletic participation.

Insurance Carrier (Company): _____

Group #: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please return to front desk or athletic office

