



Weatherford Christian School

Parent and Student

Athletic Handbook

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed to give basic rules, regulations and important information concerning Weatherford Christian School's athletic program. These rules and regulations are not intended to punish, nor to restrict, but to protect and uphold the integrity of Weatherford Christian School and its sports program. These guidelines will help the students, parents, faculty and administration to be more aware of procedures and regulations concerning WCS athletics.

Please keep in mind that this handbook is simply a guide and not totally inclusive. As situations arise throughout the school year, the administration will make decisions concerning those occurrences. The rules included are basic and are to be used in conjunction with other regulations in the school program.

TO THE STUDENT

Your participation in the athletic program is completely voluntary. It is not required for graduation. However, those of you who try out and are chosen must understand the commitment you have made. You not only represent yourselves, but you participate as representatives of your fellow students, family, school, church and community. For this reason, you must assume certain ethical and moral obligations and standards of citizenship and conduct. You must be willing to set goals of excellence and invest the energy and time necessary to attain those goals.

When you are willing to discipline yourself, make the necessary sacrifices, and strive for the highest level of performance of which you are capable, the result will be excellence. You will have the privilege of participating in a program that will be a lifelong source of satisfaction and pride.

WCS ATHLETIC MISSION/PHILOSOPHY

WCS Athletics is driven by the school's mission- "to provide a Christ-centered educational environment where children are equipped for lives of Christian leadership and service." The WCS athletic department believes that Christian principles and values taught at home, in the classroom and through the church can also be put into practice through competition.

- Our student athletes demonstrate respect for opponents, officials, fans, and coaches in the highest standards of Christian character and sportsmanship.
- Coaches, players, and parents conduct themselves with humility and high character. We will win with dignity, and honor. If we lose, we will do so with class and respect.
- Through athletics we are able to learn the concept of hard work, humility, grace, as well as a team concept that teaches "the team" over "the individual". WCS athletes will maintain a selfless devotion to each other and the program.
- Excellence in the classroom takes precedents over athletic endeavors.
- Endure and persevere in the face of hard work and pressure. Keep your eyes fixed on the goal at hand.
- Play with everything you've got. Give 100% effort all the time in everything you do.
- Be grateful that God has given you the ability to play a game you love.

NONDISCRIMINATORY CLAUSE

Weatherford Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic, and other school-administered programs. Weatherford Christian does not discriminate against gender. It will define gender as how a person is anatomically created by God from birth.

PHYSICALS

ALL Elementary, Junior High, & High School Athletes are required to have an updated physical exam on file with the WCS Athletic Department. Athletes may not compete in practices (including tryouts) or games without a physical on file completed by a physician within the last 12 months. Due to insurance compliance, a one-week grace period is given from when the athlete's physical expires and when a new one is required to be turned into the athletic office. The exam should be completed on the WCS Physical Examination Forms that are available online on the Athletics page of the school website (www.wcslions.org). Parents should make sure to complete page 2 of the physical form, which is the Medical Release form.

ImPACT TESTING

WCS proudly utilizes an innovative program called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) in the secondary Athletic Program. All 6th thru 12th grade girls and boys participating in athletics are required to have ImPACT Testing done prior to participation in practices (including tryouts) or games. This program assists our team coaches & athletic director in evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). ImPACT is a computerized exam utilized to successfully diagnose and manage concussions. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury, ImPACT is used to help determine the severity of head injury and when the injury has fully healed. The initial baseline computerized exam is given to athletes before beginning sport practice or competition. Baseline Testing is required every two years as their young brain grows & matures. If a concussion is suspected, the athlete will be required to re-take the test 48 to 72 hours after the expected concussion. Both the preseason and post-injury test data is given to a local certified "ImPACT" doctor to help evaluate the injury. The student athlete will not return-to-play until the "ImPACT" doctor, Athletic Director, Team Coach, and parents all agree that it is appropriate and safe for the injured athlete.

Athletic Fees

All student-athletes are required to pay athletic fees prior to participation in Weatherford Christian School sports. Athletic fees go to offset some of, but not all, the cost that is required for WCS to have a sports program. In some instances athletes may be required to purchase equipment or uniform items. Managers are not required to pay athletic fees.

Practices

Practices are specifically designed to sharpen skills. These skills cannot be applied to contest situations if attendance at practices is inconsistent. Coaches spend valuable time preparing for practices and attendance is absolutely necessary.

- Players and managers must attend all practices unless cleared by the coach
- Coaches must be contacted if any athlete or manager must miss a practice due to illness or family emergency.
- Make up work may be assigned and decided upon by the coach
- Any player or manager who misses more than two unapproved practices may be removed from the team.
- Missed practices may result in loss of playing time and will reflect in the athletic grade.

Games

Attendance at games is highly important to the success of the WCS athletic department.

- Players and managers must attend all home and away games
- Coaches must be contacted if any athlete or manager must miss a game due to illness or family emergency.
- Parents should not their child by not allowing them to participate in games or practices for WCS athletic teams which they have committed to.
- Any player or manager that misses a game, tournament, ect., without permission from the coach, may be removed from the team.
- Missed games may result in loss of playing time and will be reflected in the athletic grade.

- The WCS athletic department will not tolerate any ejection, technical foul, or other misconduct penalty during a game. If such an intense occurs, the player or manager will be subject to punishment deemed necessary by the WCS athletic department up to removal from the team.
- Athletes and managers will ride the bus to and from games. If any athlete or manager needs to ride home from a game with their PARENTS, the parent must inform the coach in writing or in person.
- Some overnight travel may be required. If overnight travel is required the athlete or manager may be responsible for providing money for the stay.

Game schedules will be published prior to the start of each season. While changes will occur from time to time, the WCS athletic department will try it's best to avoid changing games as much as possible. If games are changed, parents and players will be informed in a timely manner.

Student pick up times

To ensure the safety of each child, a WCS coach or staff member is required to be on site until everyone has been picked up. Out of respect our coaches, athletes must be picked up from practices and games as soon as these events conclude.

Dress Code

Dress Code for practices and travel to the games will be as follows;

- No tank tops that exposes any undergarments
- Shorts must be appropriate length
- Sports bras for girls' basketball and track must be white, black, or navy blue. No bright colors.
- No profanity or inappropriate gestures, words, or pictures should be on any clothes worn during practices or to games.

Equipment and Uniforms

A majority of the expense for the WCS athletic department comes from the purchase of uniforms. To help cut down on the cost of replacing

uniforms we ask that all uniforms be properly maintained and returned to the coach as soon as the season is completed.

- Please wash all uniforms on machine wash cold/warm with mild detergent (no bleach) with lettered/numbered uniform pieces turned inside out.
- Please hang dry all uniforms. Do not use a dryer to dry uniforms as it causes numbers to deteriorate.
- Athletes are responsible for replacement of any uniform that is not returned or is not returned in good condition.

WCS athletic uniforms are only to be worn during athletic contest unless directed by coach.

Athletic Injuries

All injuries must be reported to the coach immediately. Injured athletes are expected to attend all practices/games unless approved otherwise through the coach. Injuries requiring medical attention need medical clearance for further participation.

Coaches' Policies

Each coach may establish additional rules for his or her team, which may extend beyond the handbook. The rules will be consistent with and not contradict other school practices and policies.

NCAA Clearinghouse

If any athlete looks to further their athletic career in a Division 1 or Division 2 college, they have certain responsibilities. Information concerning who needs to register with the Clearinghouse and what documents will be submitted can be found in The Guide for College Bound Student Athletes on the NCAA website, www.ncaastudent.org.

Athletic Eligibility Rules

To be academically eligible to participate in extracurricular events, WCS athletes must meet the qualifications set forth by TAPPS/CSAF. TAPPS/CSAF requires a 6-week eligibility-grading period. WCS will check grades at 6 weeks after the start of school. If at that time an athlete is failing he or she will become ineligible to participate in games/tournaments. Athletes may still travel to games but cannot play. Grades will then be checked again 3 weeks after the initial check. If the athlete at that time is passing all classes, he or she will be eligible to return to participating in games.

If an athlete is deemed ineligible due to grades, they are still required to fulfill their commitment to the team and finish out the season

If an athlete is suspended from WCS they are not eligible to practice or play with the team. After the suspension is resolved, they may return to the team. Some make up work from the coach may be required at that time.

Athletic Grades

Junior High and High School will receive PE/Athletic grades, which will be given by the coach or PE teacher. These grades are based upon attendance, attitude, and effort in practices and games.

Booster Club

Weatherford Christian Booster Club serves to support all WCS athletics. The booster club provides financial support and organizational support to our athletic department. We encourage all parents or supporter of WCS to get involved in WCS Booster Club.

Athletic Lettering Policy

Wearing the WCS letter jacket is considered both an honor and a privilege. Students who wear these jackets represent Weatherford

Christian School, which is a representation of our Lord and Savior. Therefore awarding letter jackets is up to the discretion of the administration of Weatherford Christian School.

Requirements for Lettering

- Must be on a varsity roster
- Must be in 9th – 12th grades.
- Must attend all games and practices, except when cleared by the coach.
- Must complete the entire season beginning to end.
- If, any academic ineligibility or injuries that occur during the season, the coach's discretion will be used to determine if the athlete's contribution to the team was significant enough to be awarded a letter.

Quitting a Team

There will be a 1-week trial period for any athlete at the start of a season. If within that 1-week time period the athlete decides the sport which he or she is in does not fit their schedule or ability they may leave the team with no recourse. If the athlete decides to quit the team after the said 1-week period, they will be ineligible to participate in another sport for a full season.

For instance, If a player quits volleyball half way through the season, that player will be deemed ineligible to play basketball for WCS the following winter season. If the player sits out of the basketball season and would like to run track or play golf during the spring season, then that player can do so.

Behavior

When participating in a sport for WCS, remember that you not only represent yourself, but also your team, school, and Jesus Christ. Your behavior as a WCS athlete does not stop at the playing field. It also extends to the halls of school, around town, and social media. Any

behavior that is deemed detrimental to the school or team may result in actions up to but not limited to dismissal from the team.

Weatherford Christian Administration reserves the right to suspend any athlete due to bad behavior in the classroom, playing field, etc.

“In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

FOR STUDENT ATHLETES: I have read the WCS Athletic Handbook, including the Student Athletic Code of Conduct shown above and understand that I may not participate without a signed copy of this document on file in the athletic office. I understand that these expectations are in place to help me grow and mature spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I understand that failure to uphold the expectations outlined above will endanger my athletic eligibility and may include, but not limited to, extra conditioning, suspensions, or removal from the team.

1. Student Athlete Signature:

Printed Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

2. Student Athlete Signature:

Printed Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

3. Student Athlete Signature:

Printed Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

FOR PARENTS OF ATHLETES: I have read the WCS Athletic Handbook, including the Parent Athletic Code of Conduct. I will support the Weatherford Christian School athletic program and personnel at all times through prayer and by attending and volunteering at WCS athletic events. I understand that misconduct may result in my expulsion from an event and possibly future events as well.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed

Name

Date: _____