

Faith Christian School Athletic Handbook



Williams Bay, Wisconsin

2023-2024

INTRODUCTION

Shepherding each individual to their athletic potential is an integral part of our educational program. The participation in FCS athletics is about far more than physical challenges and accomplishments. It is about using the vehicle of athletics to discover one's true identity in Jesus Christ and to be made "mature, and complete, not lacking anything"(James 1:4) as a result of these very tangible opportunities.

We see the values of Love, Learn, and Lead as applicable to the court/field and we hope that each athlete is able to grow in these areas as follows:

- Love** - We are devoted to teaching our athletes how to not only show a love for the sport they are participating in but love for God, each other, coaches, officials, and opponents.
- Learn** - We desire to provide an opportunity for athletes to learn and grow the skills needed to be successful in their sport, but all in life skills such as, hard-work and time management.
- Lead** - We are committed to raising up leaders at all levels who can physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually lead others during games and practices.

Athletics is one of the key components of a comprehensive Christ-Centered Education at Faith Christian School. It is an opportunity to develop character that will prepare students physically, emotionally, and spiritually as part of the overall discipleship process. The purpose of this athletic program is to offer interscholastic sports which encourage our students to develop skills, responsibilities, commitment, teamwork, sportsmanship, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. We hope that our student-athletes realize that while they practice and compete in their sport, they are representing their team, school, family and most importantly, Jesus Christ. All actions should promote a Christ-like spirit, a wholesome attitude, and loyalty to both team and school.

When your son or daughter enlists in one of our sports programs, he or she commits our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations which includes the following:

- to provide adequate facilities and equipment
- to provide qualified coaches
- to provide equal contests with skilled and certified officials

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

FALL SPORTS

Boys Soccer	Varsity Middle School (co-ed)
Girls Tennis	Varsity (co-op)*
Girls Volleyball	Varsity Junior Varsity Middle School

WINTER SPORTS

Boys Basketball	Varsity Junior Varsity Middle School
Girls Basketball	Varsity Middle School

SPRING SPORTS

Boys Baseball	Varsity
Boys Tennis	Varsity (co-op)*
Coed Track	Varsity Middle School
Boys Golf	Varsity

*On a yearly basis, the athletic programs offered will be evaluated for potential additions. Based on interest and review by the Athletic Director, School Administration, and School Board, and aligning with the mission and vision for Faith Christian School Athletics, a co-op will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a co-op is determined to be mutually beneficial to the schools involved and supports our statement of faith and athletic philosophy, then the application process with the conferences and WIAA would begin.

ATHLETIC FEES

Middle School Athletic Fee- \$110 per sport

High School Athletic Fee- \$175 per sport

You will be billed through FACTS once the sport season and roster has been set.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

This handbook serves as a foundation for athletics as part of the entire Christ-Centered Educational process at Faith Christian School, which includes parental involvement. It is our hope to maintain a program that will further each student's educational, physical and spiritual maturity.

By allowing your child to participate, you have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations. Please support the scheduled practices, games, and other demands on your time and finances. 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 student-athletes with a lasting educational, physical, and spiritual experience is appreciated.

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:

- We ask that your son/daughter seriously consider their participation on a team. We have explained to them the importance of athletics being a priority if they choose to be a part of the team. Therefore, we ask you to help them in making that decision and, if your son/daughter does choose to participate, that you will help them to abide by the commitment they have made for the entire season.
- Please remember that when you attend a game that you are an ambassador for FCS and our athletic program. A good fan focuses on encouraging and uplifting their own team and does not focus on demeaning the other team, officials, coaches, or your own team members. We expect parents to maintain this encouraging and uplifting attitude while representing FCS.
- As a parent of a student-athlete involved in the FCS athletic program you are asked to consider becoming actively involved in the FCS Booster Club, Eagle Nation. Our booster program supports K-12 athletic programs and offers opportunities for involvement

throughout the year. If interested in getting involved contact Jessica Viss at jviss@compounDesign.com

- As a parent of a student-athlete involved in the FCS athletic program you are **required** to volunteer at any middle or high school home games/tournaments. The assistance parents provide is vital to maintaining a positive, engaging atmosphere that will keep our program running for years to come.
 - At the beginning of each season, there will be a volunteer list for which you will be assigned to volunteer. If you are unable to volunteer during your slot, it is your responsibility to get the slot filled with someone else.
 - At a minimum, every parent will be required to volunteer 2 hours per sport season per student-athlete that you have

The proper method to address a concern

If a problem arises, please remember the Matthew 18 principle:

- Please discuss the issue with the person directly (see steps below)
- Avoid gossip
- Galatians 6:10: "...Let us do good to all men, and especially to those of who are of the household of the faith."

STEP -1-

The athlete and/or the parent speaks directly with the coach at an appropriate time. Generally, a meeting should be scheduled at a time and place conducive to a calm and productive conversation. Almost every situation should be resolved after Step 1.

STEP -2-

1. Should the concern not be resolved, the athlete should request a meeting that includes their parent(s) and the coach provided a parent has not been involved at this point.
2. If the parent has already been involved, a meeting should be scheduled with the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will determine if the initial meeting should include the coach. A meeting with all parties involved should take place at some point in the process.

STEP -3-

If the meeting between the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic director does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the athletic director to include athlete, parent, coach, athletic director, and the Head of School. The conference will be moderated by the Head of School and will deal with specific issues which the parent will submit to the Head of School in writing prior to the meeting.

Appropriate concerns the athlete/parent may address with the coaching staff:

1. The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically.

2. Ways to help the athlete improve his/her performance and skill level.
3. Concerns about the athlete's behavior in school, practices, and games.

Areas that are not appropriate for parents to discuss with coaches:

1. An individual's playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play selection, rosters, and opponent selection.
4. Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Please carefully read this handbook and prayerfully consider your commitment to athletics at Faith Christian School

We are very pleased that you are considering participating on a Faith Christian School athletic team. We expect that you will consider this a privilege and work very hard to bring honor to your team, school, and Jesus Christ.

Much will be expected of you over the course of the season. Athletics are demanding of your time and energy. Please carefully consider your decision because, if you choose to participate, we will expect your best effort and for you to fulfill your commitment. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such emphasis on good training habits. Failure to comply with coaches' rules of training may jeopardize the athlete's position on the squad.

We believe participation will be a great benefit to you. Not only will you learn about a sport, but you'll experience Christ-centered life lessons in a competitive environment.

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 you make the team a priority in your life and that your priorities are in the proper order. Christ should be centered in all that you do. Please consider the cost of your commitment to your team. Missing practice and/or games has lasting effects on team development beyond your own. If there ever is a conflict in schedules, you are required to let your coach know immediately. Please keep up with your daily school work and be consistent in all areas of your life.

- As a student-athlete involved in the FCS athletic program you are **required** to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per sport season that you participate in.

SEASONAL SPORTS MEETINGS

Parents and student-athletes will be required to attend at least one seasonal sport meeting (fall and winter) prior to the start of the season. If you are unable to attend the fall meeting, you **MUST** attend the winter meeting.

SPORTS SCHEDULES

A master athletics calendar will be listed on the school website under the Athletics section and the school calendar.

ATHLETIC DRESS CODE

- Athletes shall refer to the student hand book for basic dress code requirements.
- Each coach will determine gameday school attire, with approval of the Athletic Director. Uniforms must not be worn during the school day.
- This standard of dress applies both before and after games on road trips.
- Practice attire will include appropriate shorts, T-shirts, and athletic shoes.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- The FCS athletic department works hard to supply all of our athletes with quality uniforms. Uniforms will be given to the athlete by the Athletic Director at the beginning of the season.
- These uniforms are often expensive. To be good stewards of our resources, we require that all participants take excellent care of their uniforms.

- Uniforms are to be washed at home, it is important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations and/or coach's instructions when washing or drying uniforms. The athlete will be charged for a replacement if any uniform is damaged.
- Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season. After the season has ended, an appropriate uniform replacement fee will be charged to the athlete if the uniform has not been returned or if the uniform has been damaged beyond repair.

ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

Players: Practice starts and ends at the time set by the coach. If your practice times are 3:30 to 5:30, then you are to be on the court, field, etc dressed and ready to begin before the 3:30 deadline.

Parents: Be sure to pick up your athlete on time. Coaches will be strongly encouraged to end their practices on time.

- **Missing Practices (Excused)** As a rule there is no acceptable excuse for missing practice. However, we understand there may be some rare occasions when an unforeseeable circumstance arises. If this occurs, you must notify your coach by 1PM, so that the coach may make adjustments to practice plans. It is the responsibility of the athlete, not the parent. Please notify coaches as early as possible for conflicts that might arise.
- **School Attendance** Student athletes must be in attendance for at least ½ of the day to be eligible to participate in athletics practice or competitions the same day. (½ day = a minimum of 2 Blocks of a 4 period block schedule or 4 periods of an 8 period day).
- **Excused Absences** These may include but are not be limited to a death in the family, illness, funerals, and college visits. Work is not considered an excused absence.
- **Missing Practices (Unexcused)** If one skips a practice or has a rare occasion that you must miss practice and don't notify the coach in the proper time frame, it will be considered unexcused.
- **Unexcused Absences** Each coach will determine the penalties for an unexcused absence. If you accumulate a total of three unexcused absences from practices or games, then you very well may no longer be a member of that team.
- **Detentions** Any detentions received by the athlete must be served on the assigned day. The athlete should attend practice after the detention and the coach will determine the penalty for missing that portion of practice.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Below are the academic requirements for participation in any extracurricular activities at FCS. It is important to remember to support your team. Faith Christian School recommends that God, your family, your school, and your team take precedent in that particular order. Continue to check grades in Renweb.

Requirements:

- At the time of reporting (Friday mornings unless otherwise stated) a student-athlete must maintain no more than **one (1) failing grade**.
- If the student-athlete has more than one failing grade, they are determined ineligible to play for the following week, beginning **Sunday** and ending **Saturday** end of day.
- Student-athletes that appear on the ineligibility list for 3 consecutive weeks may be dismissed from the team.

Important to Note:

- Eligibility status will be determined every Friday and communicated to students, parents, coaches, and the athletic director regarding the participant’s weekly status.
- Eligibility periods are listed in the [Eligibility Calendar](#).

ATHLETIC INJURIES

Faith Christian School does not carry a student insurance policy, student-athletes are covered under family policies.

The WIAA has a concussion insurance policy available to any WIAA athlete. Since we are a part of the WIAA, all of our athletes can apply for some coverage once a concussion has occurred. If this is something you are interested in and would like more information please ask the Athletic Director to pass the information along.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

The safety of transportation is so important to us as we travel to and from games at other schools. Coaches will work together with their respected teams to arrange transportation for all the players. It is our desire to arrange a bus for the students to ride in, however in hopes to reallocate money in our budget for updated equipment, jerseys and athletic needs, we feel that it is appropriate to have families drive personal vehicles to most games (especially in the dry seasons, fall and spring).

It will be the coaches responsibility to know who will be riding with whom to the games and that everyone is either picked up by a parent or driven home by another family.

We ask that if you will be driving students other than your own, that you please fill out our **Annual FCS Chaperone Information** form found in the office.

***Student-athletes are NOT allowed to drive from school to an away game that they are participating in.**

Pages 10-12 are for High School athletes only

All parents must attend the Athletic Information Meeting prior to the start of sport season in which their son/daughter is participating. ***The following form must be signed by parents and student-athletes who plan to participate; then need to be submitted to the school office or Athletic Director before the athlete is allowed to begin the first practice of an athletic season annually.***

- A current **WIAA Physical Card (Green)- 9th & 11th grades or Alternate Year Card (Cream) 10th & 12 grades** must be on file in the school office.

EARNING A VARSITY LETTER

Interscholastic sports are an important part of high school life. The **varsity letter pins** reward an athlete's dedication and success in a particular sport.

The standard for achieving the varsity letter (and or pins) requires an athlete to participate in a Varsity level sport the entire season. With the availability of Letterman Jackets, the pins are what will distinguish Varsity Athletes. We do have expectations of our Varsity Athletes and if they are met, they will receive a letter and/or pin at awards night.

Letter Jackets are available and may be purchased. Please contact the Athletic Director for further information.

Examples include:

- a clear identification of an athlete who is an important part of the success of the team
- consistent attendance and willing participation at practice --no game suspensions or unexcused absences
- a senior who has faithfully committed to the team for four years
- team managers that play important roles in the success of the team

Awards Night

There will be a High School Athletic Awards Night designated to recognize Athletic Achievements. This event allows coaches to be given adequate time to share with the athletes, families, and friends the enthusiasm, successes, and challenges of the season. Awards will be presented as well. Each coach will award Participation Certificates to each player along with higher level awards to those who showed a higher level of skill, commitment, and Christ-centered attitudes.

Additional awards may include:

Participation certificates- presented to those who completed the season (JV)

Varsity Sports Letter- awarded to first time varsity

Sport Pin- awarded to first time varsity letter winners

Service Bars- given to those previous letter winners signifying receiving another letter

Captains Pins- given to those designated as team leaders by the coach

Stat Letter- presented to those students designated as statisticians for games

Stat Pins- presented to those students designated as statisticians for games

All Conference Awards and All County Recognition Awards

Athlete of the Year

Eagle Award (per sport, JV- certificate and Varsity- plaque)

- The athlete who displays spiritual, academic, and sports leadership on and off the court. At FCS this is considered the most prestigious award an athlete can earn.

Most Improved (per sport, JV- certificate and Varsity- plaque)

- The winner will have increased the impact they have on the team in a positive way from the beginning to the end of the season. This is done by improving the overall skill level of play but other factors, such as attitude toward teammates, coaches, and umpires are also taken into account

Most Valuable (per sport, JV- certificate and Varsity- plaque)

- In team sports, a Most Valuable Player award is an honor bestowed upon an individual (or individuals, in the instance of a tie) whose individual performance is the greatest in an entire league, for a particular competition, or on a specific team.

WIAA INFORMATION

What is the WIAA?

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association is a voluntary, unincorporated, nonprofit organization. There are 500+ schools in the membership, which has a diversified membership of public high schools, nonpublic high schools, public middle schools, and nonpublic middle schools.

As defined by its Constitution, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association is a voluntary, unincorporated, private and nonprofit organization. The purpose of the Association is...

... to organize, develop and control an interscholastic athletic program that will promote the ideals of its membership and the opportunities for member schools' participation.

...to emphasize interscholastic athletics as a partner with other school activities in the total education process, and to formulate and maintain policies that will cultivate the high ideals of good citizenship and sportsmanship.

...to promote uniformity of standards in interscholastic athletic competition, and prevent exploitation by special interest groups of the school program and the individual's ability.

Faith Christian School is a member of the WIAA and responsible to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by this organization. Each sport follows the conditions set forth in the Season Regulations Manual given to every coach. The preseason, length of season, minimum days of practice, scrimmages, date of first game, and maximum number of allowed games along with other policies are outlined very thoroughly. Faith Christian School is currently a member in good standing and strives to continue in that tradition. This allows our school to compete in the State Tournament at the end of every season.

*Information from the www.wiaawi.org