

Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy

**ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK**



2011-2012

"Home of the Patriots"

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Philosophy of Athletics

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31

Athletics are part of God's creation. As such, athletics are intended to bring glory to our Heavenly Father. Christians are commanded to be different from the world around them, and this should be demonstrated in the conduct of all student-athletes on and off the playing field. Student-athletes should be taught to play sports and to live life from a Christian perspective rather than man's perspective. A team establishes many goals, none of which should be greater than bringing glory to our Lord and Savior. As a church school, attitudes and actions from all who are involved in the athletic program should be obviously different from that of a secular school or sports organization. Unfortunately, sometimes observers may be turned away from the Lord because of conduct from coaches, student-athletes, or spectators on and off the playing field. Christians are called by the Lord to be a light on a hill even in an athletic contest. Compromise of these standards cannot occur simply to achieve athletic benefit or success.

Athletics from a Christian perspective should have several distinct characteristics that when followed, allow coaches, student-athletes, and spectators to bring glory to God. These characteristics help the student-athlete in particular to build a strong foundation in developing Christian character and leadership.

The following ideas are vital in developing those characteristics of all involves in our athletic program:

Athletics are part of the whole person. The world teaches that there is a legitimate difference between morality in sports and morality in everyday life. This is not taught by Jesus Christ. When the “fruit of the Spirit” is discussed in Galatians 5:22-23, there is no mention made to indicate that these traits are different depending on the circumstances in which a person may find himself or herself. As a result of being involved in an athletic program, a student-athlete will experience many emotions from joy to sorrow, pride to humility, and camaraderie to loneliness. All responses to these emotions on and off the playing field should be an indication of the Holy Spirit working in a person's life. In addition, it is important that both coaches and parents take an active role in using all situations and experiences in a student-athlete's life to foster an environment to develop spiritual maturity and leadership.

A person's worth is not based on his/her athletic performance. The Bible instructs that a Christian's self worth does not rest in any deed done or ability demonstrated. It is based solely upon our position in Jesus Christ. Mark 8:34 says, “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” A student-athlete's self worth is not determined by a win-loss record or the ability to execute a particular athletic skill. This is God's example to us, in that while we were yet sinners He loved us and sent His Son to die for us. Therefore, FBTA's athletic success will be determined on the Christ-like characteristics and qualities being nurtured in the lives of our student-athletes in the athletic program.

Victory and defeat are given from the hand of God. The Bible records numerous accounts of God's people enduring victories and defeats in all aspects of their lives. While not always understanding the reason for a particular situation, a Christian must accept all situations that

happen as being allowed by the Lord fulfilling His plan for the student-athlete's life. In the athletic realm, those situations may be victories or defeats. Accepting these victories or defeats as part of God's will does not mean that a Christian should not do his/her best. Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" Showing a lack of effort or "losing for the sake of Christ" is not bringing glory to God. **FBTA's emphasis in this area is two-fold: prepare to win and give 100%; then allow God to exercise His will and accept that joyfully.** (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Conduct of a Christian Student-Athlete

1 Thessalonians 5:12-23

The conduct of a Christian athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that behavior be Christ-like in all areas, especially the following:

On The Field

A Christian student-athlete never uses profanity or illegal tactics. A quality Christian student-athlete should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous and expected to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game whether in defeat or victory. Fits of temper, boasting, taunting, ridiculing, and complaining in any form or fashion cannot be tolerated. A Christian student-athlete's goal is to have complete self-control at all times.

Respect for Authority

Officials in a game insure that the game is played fairly and by the rules. A Christian student-athlete will show the utmost respect to the officials at all times, regardless of the outcome of a game. Christian student-athletes should be leaders by showing proper respect to all faculty and staff members at all times. Excuses should not and cannot be made for unacceptable behavior in this area of respect for authority from a Christian student-athlete.

In the Classroom

A Christian student-athlete always strives to do his or her best academically. The Christian student-athlete must plan his or her time carefully to provide sufficient energy for his or her studies to insure acceptable grades and to maintain academic eligibility.

On Trips

Each Christian student-athlete is an ambassador for both Jesus Christ and FBTA while traveling to and from away games. Every bench, locker room, bleachers, restaurant, and school vehicle should be left cleaner than how they were found. Respect and obedience should be shown at all times to the drivers of the vehicles that the team uses.

Athletic Program Affiliation

FBTA participates in the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools (ODACS) athletic conference. Since 1976, ODACS is an association of Virginia Christian schools that are ministries of independent Baptist churches and is the Virginia affiliate of the American Association of Christian Schools. ODACS offers state tournaments in volleyball, basketball, and soccer for girls and in soccer, basketball, and baseball for boys. While the majority of the games will occur against other ODACS schools, non-conference games may be scheduled against other like-faith schools as well. Game scores and conference standings can be followed throughout the season on the ODACS website at www.vaodacs.com.

School Mascot and Team Colors

The Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy official school mascot is the Patriot, named “Gil the Patriot”. Our official school colors are royal and gold though most teams will wear royal and white.

Athletic Teams and Seasons

FBTA is blessed to offer a full sports program for 7th-12th grade students in three separate seasons during each academic year. Generally speaking, a junior varsity team consists of 7th-10th grade students and a varsity team consists of 11th-12th grade students although 7th-10th grade students may play varsity at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

The following sports are available:

Fall Season (Aug-Oct)	Boys’ Varsity and Junior Varsity Soccer Girls’ Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball
Winter Season (Nov-Feb)	Boys’ Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball Girls’ Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball Girls’ Varsity Cheerleading Girls’ Junior Varsity Cheerleading*
Spring Season (Mar-May)	Boys’ Intramural Sports Program/Varsity Volleyball Girls’ Soccer

* Depending on number of players, a junior varsity team may or may not be made available. If a separate junior varsity team is not available, then the varsity team will carry additional players on the roster to accommodate the younger players.

Athletic Eligibility

While participating in athletics is considered an extra-curricular activity, the student-athlete must meet several requirements in order to be able to try out for the team and maintain active playing status once the athletic season has begun. The requirements are as follows:

Medical

A current, completed physical form filled out and signed by the student-athlete’s physician must be on file in the Academy Office prior to the start of the first game. The physical remains current for one year. An Athletic Physical Form is available to download from the Academy website.

Financial

A Sports Participation Fee will be charged to each student-athlete’s account once his or her name is officially added to a specific team’s roster including any student managers and bookkeepers. Payment should be submitted to the Finance Office. Please refer to the annual Academy Fee structure for current fees charged.

Athletic Handbook Agreement

The Athletic Handbook Agreement needs to be on file with the Athletic Director before the student-athlete can participate in any scheduled game. This form may be obtained from the Academy website under “Sports Programs.”

Academic

An Academic Eligibility Report will be generated by the Academy Office around the 4th Tuesday of every academic quarter and every two (2) weeks thereafter for the remainder of that quarter. At the time the Academic Eligibility Report is generated, if a student-athlete has an average in any course other than Bible below 70% and/or an average in Bible below 75%, he/she will be placed on Academic Probation for the next two (2) weeks beginning the Wednesday following the Report through the Tuesday that the next report is generated. While on Academic Probation, the student-athlete must attend all practices and will be required to attend all home games and sit on the team’s bench dressed in his/her Academy uniform unless otherwise directed by the Athletic Director. Student-athletes on Academic Probation will not, however, be allowed to travel with the team to away games. Failure to attend practices or home games while on Academic Probation may result in further discipline including dismissal from a team.

A student-athlete may not become eligible until he or she has an average in any course other than Bible higher than 69% and an average in Bible higher than 74%. Additionally, the student-athlete placed on Academic Probation must not have more than two (2) 0% grades in any one subject, not due to absences, before the next Academic Eligibility Report is generated.

If a student-athlete remains on Academic Probation for two (2) consecutive terms, he or she will not be allowed to attend practices until the student-athlete becomes eligible to participate. The student-athlete must continue to attend home games and sit on the team’s bench.

If a student-athlete becomes ineligible for a third time, consecutive or non-consecutive during one athletic season, the student athlete will be dismissed from the team. The Junior/Senior High School Principal will be responsible for any decision regarding a student-athlete’s academic standing.

Eligibility for a student-athlete who fails any course for the quarter will be determined by the Administration.

Conduct

All student-athletes are expected to maintain conduct in accordance with the Academy Advisor and Athletic Handbook. Student-athletes who are found to have inappropriate conduct during any athletic event may be suspended from participation in any practices or games at the discretion of the Athletic Director or Administration.

A “Demerit Eligibility” report is generated each Tuesday by the Academy Office during the academic year. The following pertains to athletic eligibility in regards to the FBTA Demerit Management System:

Student-athletes who receive 4 or more demerits in a given week may not be eligible for participation in the next scheduled sport’s game. Student-athletes who receive 8

or more demerits in a given week may not be eligible for participation in the next two or more scheduled sport's games. The student-athlete's merit record will be taken into consideration when determining participation.

Athletic Team Travel

Parental/Guardian Permission Slip

A permission slip filled out and signed by the student-athlete's parent or guardian must be on file with the Athletic Director prior to the student-athlete traveling with the team. This permission slip also serves as a medical release/emergency contact form. Permission slips for each perspective season can be downloaded from the Academy website.

Game-Day Transportation

Student-athletes will ride to away games in an approved Academy vehicle. Student-athletes may not drive to away games unless written permission is given by the parent or guardian. Student-athletes must return with the team unless written or verbal permission is given by the parent or guardian.

Dinner after Away Games

Teams may stop for dinner at a fast-food restaurant on the return trip from an away game if the return time is scheduled to be after 7:30pm. Student-athletes are responsible for providing his or her money for food.

Uniform Distribution and Care

Upon final determination of the athletic team roster, team uniforms will be distributed to all student-athletes on the roster. The following guidelines pertain to the handling and care of team uniforms by the individual student-athlete:

- All uniforms are to be cleaned and maintained according to the uniform label throughout the athletic season by the student-athlete and should only be worn for approved Academy functions.
- Any damage to a uniform must be reported to the team coach immediately. Student-athletes may be held liable for any repair or replacement costs.
- All uniforms are to be cleaned and returned by the student-athlete to the Athletic Director the Friday after the final game of the athletic season or at a date set by the Athletic Director.
- Disciplinary action may be taken should the uniform not be returned by that Friday, including, but not limited to a late fee, withholding of report cards and disabling InfoDirect access.

Absences, Tardiness, and Late Pick-up for Practices and Games

Absences

School- If a student-athlete is absent from school for illness or other situation, he or she cannot attend practice that day. If a student-athlete goes home sick during the school day, he or she must notify his or her coach in order to be excused from practice.

When a student-athlete is absent from school due to a preplanned family or church activity, the student-athlete will be excused from practice and/or games for that period of time as long as his or her coach is notified two weeks in advance of the activity. Upon the student-athlete's return, he or she is not guaranteed his or her previous position (e.g., on the starting team). If the student-athlete misses the practice prior to a game for this reason, he or she may not start and/or may not play in the first quarter of the game. However, he or she must dress out with the team.

Practices/Games- Any absence that is not reported prior to that absence will be considered unexcused. The first unexcused absence from practice or game may result in the student-athlete not being allowed to play in the next scheduled game. The second unexcused absence may result in missing additional games. A third unexcused absence may result in the student-athlete being dismissed from the team. If a student-athlete does not play in a scheduled game(s) due to unexcused absences, he or she must still suit up and sit with the team for the game.

Tardiness

School- In the event of illness in the morning or an appointment, the student-athlete must arrive at school by 12:30pm in order to be allowed to attend practice that day and/or participate in a scheduled game that day. A note from the student-athlete's parent or doctor is required.

Practice/Games- If a student-athlete is late to practice twice in a week for an unexcused reason, he or she may not participate in the next game. Leaving early from practice or a game without the coach's prior approval may have the same consequence.

Late Pick-up

Student-athletes must be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of a practice or game. For all away games, student-athletes will be required to notify parents of the expected return time. If a student-athlete is not picked up within the allotted 30 minute grace period, a late pick-up fee will be charged. The late pick-up fee is \$12 per **half hour** or any part thereof for **each** student-athlete. All fees will be billed through the Finance Office.

Dress Requirements for Practice and Game Days

The following dress guidelines will apply at all times during all athletic seasons:

- Young men will meet the Academy Handbook standards for hair length and style at all times during the athletic season. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- Jeans and jean skirts are not allowed except on Spirit Days.
- Sleeveless shirts are not allowed.
- Secular and non-conservative Christian college-logoed apparel are not allowed.
- Bracelets, chains, pendants, and medallions for young men are not allowed.
- Sunglasses and hats are not to be worn indoors.
- iPods, MP3 players, hand held games and cell phones are allowed on the bus at the discretion of the bus driver/coach as long as headphones are not used.

- iPods, MP3 players, hand held games and cell phones are not allowed at the game venue.

During the School Day

Student-athletes are to wear their required school uniform as described in the Academy Advisor.

Attendance at Games but not in Team Uniform

Student-athletes that are in attendance at games, but not dressed in the team uniform must either wear the Academy uniform or “Business Casual” attire at all times. The following guidelines are to be followed for “Business Casual” attire:

Young Men

- Neat, long or short-sleeved dress shirt or a polo shirt that is neatly tucked in.
- Neat khaki-type pants.

Young Women

- Loose fitting shirt, sweater, blouse or polo shirt
- Loose fitting skirt or dress that falls below the knee when standing and sitting. Khaki skirt is allowed.
- Neat shoes. No tennis shoes or flip flops allowed.

While in Team Uniform

For student-athletes who are not playing, but are in the assigned team uniform at a game, the following dress guidelines must be followed:

Young Men and Young Women

- Only Academy issued sweatshirts, long-sleeve shirts or team warm-ups (young men only) may be worn over the uniform.
- Only athletic sandals, cleats, or tennis shoes may be worn. Slippers and flip-flops are not allowed.

Departing the Away Sport’s Venue and Returning on the Bus

For student-athletes who are leaving the away sport’s venue and returning to FBTA on the bus, the following dress guidelines must be followed:

Young Men

- Academy uniform, “Business Casual,” team issued warm-up suits, or attire as defined above while in the team uniform may be worn.

Young Women

- Academy uniform, “Business Casual,” or attire as defined above while in the team uniform may be worn.
- Due to colder weather conditions, young ladies may wear sweatpants on the bus to and from an away game at the discretion of the Athletic Director and coach. The sweatpants must be removed prior to exiting the bus at the away venue and may not be put back on until re-entering the bus.

Athletic Awards

Athletics are opportunities to not only help a student-athlete develop his or her God given talents and abilities, but also to help him or her lay a foundation for God honoring character. Coaching is a tool used in athletics to help train those student-athletes for their Christian life. Work ethic, ability to be coached, servant/leadership skills, and the presence of a strong Christian testimony are some ways that a coaching staff can evaluate student-athletes and their progress toward Christian maturity. In FBTA's athletic program, these evaluations are demonstrated through the giving of several awards at the Academy's Annual Athletic Sports Banquet. The following awards are presented:

Team Captain Award

These certificates go to every captain of all teams in recognition of their leadership throughout the season.

Most Improved Player Award

This award is given to the one player on each team whose performance exhibited the highest level of dedication, perseverance, and effort. It is based on how hard the player works in practice and in games to improve not just the player, but the rest of the team. Attitude and effort play a major role in this award.

Players' Choice Award

This trophy is voted on by the players. It is given to one player on each team who is an example to his or her teammates in his or her level of play, sportsmanship, perseverance, and effort.

Coaches Award

This trophy goes to the one player from each team selected by the coaches who demonstrates Godly character, dedication, and sportsmanship. This player works hard to implement what the coach is teaching and is willing to play wherever the coach thinks is best. This player helps others to do better and is an overall blessing to the team.

Athletic Director's Award

This is the highest trophy awarded given to one who demonstrates the highest level of Christian character, academics, athletic skill, and school spirit. This player impacts the teams by showing a desire for godliness while building team unity. He or she is supportive of the coaching staff and the school administration. These players have consistently been eligible and have demonstrated academic and discipline. He or she uses his or her God given athletic ability to fulfill our Athletic motto "All for Christ" in every area of his or her life.