

# **EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES**

## **Welcome**

We are excited that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in athletics at Conway Christian School. We pray that this experience is a positive one that helps to build lifelong friendships and memories. It is our desire that our coaches run their programs in a way that not only helps build skills to compete at the highest level in their sport but the skills to be Godly men and women as well.

## **Mission**

Through a competitive environment, CCS Athletics mission is to equip our student-athletes with Godly character and desire to do all for the glory of God.

## **Philosophy**

Athletics at CCS is designed to provide an opportunity for students to participate in championship-caliber sports in a God-honoring environment.

At Conway Christian School, we believe a robust athletics program is essential to an excellent education. Whether on the field or in the stands, our students benefit from the rich community and school spirit that sports provide. With a total of 30 athletic teams, there is something for everyone on our campus.

An athletic program in a Christian school exists to guide the young people involved in a better understanding of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many circumstances arise in preparation for, and during, athletic competition that offer opportunities for God's principles to be applied in the lives of the athletes. The goal of the Christian school athletic program is to seize these opportunities. Dedicated coaches help young people relate the

victories and defeats, the hard work, and teamwork to their daily walk with the Lord.

### **Expectations**

We need the support and cooperation of each parent to achieve our goals. We ask that parents contribute to their students' success and growth by:

- 1. Praying regularly for your student, his/her coach and team.**
  - a. Pray specifically for the Lord to be at work in your student's life as well as those of his/her teammates.
  - b. Pray especially for the coach. As fallible humans, every coach will make mistakes, but we have the assurance that God can work all things together for your student's good.
  - c. Pray that all the circumstances of the season will be used of God to teach what He wants your son/daughter to learn.
- 2. Be a positive fan.**
  - a. Your student needs to know that you love and support him/her, no matter what. Whether starting or sitting on the bench, after a score or a miss, your love and encouragement needs to be unconditional just as Christ's is for us.
  - b. As our society grows increasingly negative, coarse and vulgar, we have an opportunity to be a witness to other teams and their fans by cheering positively at games and respecting the calls of the officials even when we disagree.
  - c. Anyone can complain and criticize what they don't like or agree with - it takes the grace of God to forgive, to return good for evil, but in so doing we have an opportunity to show the world that Christ does make a difference.
  - d. Determine as a fan to help Conway Christian School have a positive witness for Christ. We ask our fans to encourage each other and be sure to always be a positive witness at games. Ask

yourself, “Would my behavior as a fan make it possible for me to share Jesus Christ with those who listened to me and watched me in our stands?”

- e. Pray that when other fans attend our games, they will notice something different about us and that the difference will be positive.
- 3. Follow the athletic department rules.** Each team will have its own rules. However, the following rules are true for all our teams:
- a. **At least one parent must attend the team pre-season meeting.** If both parents miss the meeting, the student will not be allowed to play in a contest or match until at least one of the parents meets one-on-one with the coach.
  - b. **If an athlete has a question about expectations or what his/her role is on the team, the student should first go to the coach for these answers.** It is important for the student to talk about his/her performance with the coach. This is a life skill we want each of our student athletes to have. If the student is still unclear after speaking with the coach, a conference with the student, parent and coach can be arranged. In most cases these conversations should take place at times, other than game day, but in no case will these discussions take place before or after a contest.
  - c. A parent can talk to the coach about anything related to the student athlete, teams, season, etc. but **not playing time, coaching strategies and calling of plays.** These are subjective calls that each coach must make according to his/her own discretion. While coaches welcome conversations about what a student can do to improve their athletic performance and make a positive contribution to their team, it is more beneficial to the team, to the athlete, and to the parent/coach relationship if parents refrain from discussions focusing on playing time, coaching strategies and calling of plays.
  - d. There may be times when parents may differ or will have taken offense with a particular coach following constructive

conversations. **We ask that parents go directly to the coach, not other parents or fans, and see if the matter can be resolved.** Please don't let the coaches hear that you are displeased or have a problem from anyone but you personally. If the issue isn't satisfactorily resolved at the coach or head coach level, then the concern may go to the athletic director. If the issue is unable to be resolved, parents will be encouraged to discuss the matter with the head of school. If we commit to resolving the concerns that we believe are wrong in this way, we all will benefit.

By following these guidelines and rules, our student athletes will be given the best chance to experience athletics at CCS in a positive and productive environment.

If you have questions about the expectations, please talk to your student's coach or call the Athletic Director. Thank you for partnering with us to make your student's experience through sports a positive one.

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