



Ross County Christian Academy

Athletic Handbook

Mission and Vision

At Ross County Christian Academy, the Athletic Department is committed to fostering a Christ-centered environment where student-athletes can grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Guided by our faith, we aim to provide a transformative and holistic athletic experience that cultivates character, discipline, sportsmanship, and excellence.

Our mission is to develop student-athletes who exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ both on and off the field. Through competitive sports, we seek to instill values of integrity, teamwork, perseverance, and humility, while emphasizing the importance of fair play and respect for all individuals.

We strive to create a supportive community that encourages and celebrates individual growth, achievement, and contribution. Our coaches and staff are committed to nurturing talent, encouraging sportsmanship, and empowering athletes to discover and maximize their God-given abilities.

As we compete, we do so not only to win but also to glorify God through our efforts and actions. Our ultimate goal is to use athletics as a platform to positively impact our students, families, and communities, reflecting the love and grace of Christ in all that we do.

With faith as our foundation, we endeavor to create a legacy of compassionate, principled, and well-rounded individuals who will go forth to make a difference in the world, living out the values learned through their experiences in the Athletic Department of Ross County Christian Academy.

Scriptural Rational For Athletics

- Developing the whole person–Luke 2:52
- Teaching the principle of working hard for the Lord and not for man–Colossians 3:23
- Demonstrating love for one another–John 13:35
- Teaching preparation and performance for a contest and trusting the Lord with the results–Proverbs 21:31
- Teaching the importance of working together, including valuing the contributions of the weakest member–I Corinthians 12-26
- Teaching that victory comes from God–I Corinthians 15:57
- Teaching the value of team unity–Philippians 2:14
- Teaching how to set goals and strive to achieve them–Philippians 3:12-14

- Teaching the principle that we can do all things through Christ–Philippians 4:13
- Teaching the important life skill of patience–James 1:2-4

Purpose

The overarching purpose of RCCA’s Athletic Department is to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31)

Further:

- To be a testimony to the lost (teammates, fellow students, parents, fans, officials)
- To edify the saved
- To create fellowship among students, parents, and other schools
- To place the proper emphasis on winning and losing
- To develop the proper attitude towards those in authority (coach, referees)
- To provide a wholesome outlet for energy
- To exhibit the following characteristics:
 - Self-discipline
 - Self-control
 - Obedience
 - Individual responsibility
 - Determination
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership
 - Christ-like interaction

Standards

1. All extracurricular activities sponsored by RCCA are offered as opportunities for young people to enrich their lives. Of more importance is the opportunities they bring to be a testimony to the love of Jesus Christ. Our actions as coaches, players and fans should reflect a strong Christian commitment to character.
2. In addition to spiritual and academic achievements, extracurricular activities should be reflective of the high standards of RCCA.
3. RCCA athletic programs consist of school administration, coaches, athletes, families, and fans. It is important that all stakeholders are kept in direct communication related to schedules, events, and procedures.

4. The RCCA Athletic Department strives to provide quality programs that encourage participation by a large number of the student population. Participation on a team does not guarantee equal playing time for all athletes.

Student Requirements for Interscholastic Sports/Activities

All students who try out for an compete in interscholastic sports must complete the following:

Physical Examination:

Students must pass a physical examination prior to practice and competition. One physical will allow a student to compete in as many sports as he/she desires within a 12 month period. Prior to the first practice, a student shall undergo a thorough medical examination and be approved to participate in interscholastic athletic competition by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical examination. The Athletic Director or coach must have a copy of the physical examination on file prior to examination. RCCA employs the Ohio High School Athletic Association standard athletic physical form.

The physical examination must include, but is not limited to:

1. Documentation of a detailed review of the student's medical history with special attention to presence or absence of cardiovascular/pulmonary risks and/or previous significant injury and rehabilitation.
2. Documentation of satisfactory examination of the cardiopulmonary system.
3. Documentation of satisfactory sport-specific orthopedic screening.
4. A written statement by the examiner as to the fitness of the student to undertake the proposed athletic participation, with suggestions for activity modification, if necessary. Those licensed to perform physical examinations include a medical doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP), and Physician's Assistant (PA).

To resume activity following an illness and/or injury serious enough to require medical care, a participating student must present school officials with one of the following:

1. A physician's written release
2. Written release from the parent and a licensed medical professional familiar with the student's condition

Free sports physicals are offered every spring on the campus of RCCA High School.

Insurance

All students must be covered by medical insurance to participate in athletics.

Academic Standards

The opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities is a privilege granted to all RCCA students (some activities, however, are limited to specific age or grade levels). Participants in these voluntary programs are expected to conform to specific academic and behavioral standards established by the RCCA Board of Directors.

1. A student receiving 2 or more “D”s or “F”s will be placed on probation for 14 days. The student, the coach(es), and parents/guardians will be notified of the probation. Regular practice will continue during probation, but no participation in games or matches will be permitted. If the student raises his/her grades to the approved standard on or before the 14th day of the probation, they will be restored to full competitive status.
2. If the student does not raise his/her grades to the approved level within the 14 days, the probation will be moved to exclusion. Upon exclusion, the student will be barred from participating in all school sports/activities (including practices) until no grade is lower than 1 “D” and other grades are a “C-” or better. During this exclusion phase, once grades rise to passing or better, the student may return to practice the day following Athletic Director approval.
3. Any student excluded must sit out the next competition
4. An appeal may be presented to the Athletic Director in written form. The exclusion from a competition/activity will be enforced during the appeal procedure.

Absence from Practice

A student is expected to be in attendance at all team practices or rehearsals unless excused for illness or by prior approval. The penalty for an unexcused absence may be exclusion from the next contest.

Absenteeism and Truancy

Students who are absent from school for 3 or more periods of any day are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity or practice on that day. Exceptions to this policy (for

example, an appointment with a medical specialist) may be granted by a prior authorization from the Athletic Director or administrator.

Injuries

Every injury must be reported to the coach immediately. Please see information under Physical Examinations concerning returning to play after an injury.

Student Athlete Conduct

Suspension from School

If a student athlete is suspended from school for any reason, he/she will be ineligible from all activities during the period of suspension or the first game/match/meet following the suspension.

Classroom/School Behavior

Student athletes who have habitual problems in the classroom, at recess, lunch, and/or specials may be suspended from a team on a temporary basis or permanently if the problem continues.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A student athlete shall exhibit appropriate conduct in practice and/or contests.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in consequences assigned by the coach and Athletic Director including, but not limited to: loss of playing time, suspension from the team, or removal from team based on the frequency and severity of the infraction. School discipline may also be administered.

Physical Appearance

A student athlete shall maintain dress and grooming standards of the team set forth by the coach and/or Athletic Director. All RCCA student athletes must conduct themselves according to the Christian standards required at the school. A negative attitude or rebellious spirit can not only damage team unity and make a coach's job more difficult, but also reflects poorly on our Lord and RCCA. Therefore, this behavior will not be tolerated.

Team Rules

Student athletes will observe and follow any additional rules required by the coach/advisor providing that these rules do not interfere with moral, Biblical or mission standards.

Consequences

The coach, Athletic Director, and/or administrator may administer consequences for violations for rules, including suspension and expulsion from the team.

Coach's Code of Conduct

1. Each player will be treated fairly—in some situations, the needs of the team must be placed before the needs of a player. Coaches must use appropriate, Christ-like language when speaking to a player, a player's parent/guardian, official and/or fan.
2. Coaches will emphasize the importance of teaching players Christ-like character over teaching the skills of the specific sport.
3. Discipline issues with one player will never be addressed in front of the team or discussed with other players. Correction should be done in an instructive way.
4. Coaches will meet with parents/guardians regarding questions or concerns. However, meetings will be set up to do so. Never meet with a parent/guardian after a game or practice unless an appointment has been made for that time.
5. Coaches should not discuss strategies, playing time or other players with parents/guardians.

Parent's/Guardian's Code of Conduct

1. Let officials do their job. Do not argue with calls and please respect their decisions.
2. Be your student's biggest cheerleader! Do not pressure your student athlete. The goal is to improve your student's Christ-like character and athletic ability. Winning is nice, but it is secondary.
3. Do not talk about another player's performance during a game.
4. Never put down the coaches or any players on the team in front of your student, another player, or another player's parents/guardians.
5. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or event.



Go Eagles!