

Athletic Handbook

The purpose of our Christian school is to assist parents to educate their children to develop their talents and potential to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes for a life of responsible stewardship in God's kingdom. – Credo Christian High School Mission Statement

REFLECTING OUR MISSION STATEMENT IN ATHLETICS

Praise God – We acknowledge God as the creator and giver of all talents and abilities. We seek to bring him glory in everything we do. Our school athletics is often the face of the school in our local community and we seek to be ambassadors for Christ as we engage in these activities.

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” Psalm 150:6

Pursue Excellence – In thankfulness to God who gives us athletic talents, we strive to always do our best. We attempt to provide opportunities for the development of physical fitness, athletic skill and knowledge to put forth our best efforts in competition.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” Col 3:23

Build character – In a spirit of teamwork, athletes will learn character development, leadership skills, humility, service, courage, responsibility and cooperation. Coaches, athletes and parents will model Christ's love and purpose in their words and actions.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” Galatians 5:22,23a

Have fun – We will pursue an environment in athletics that will inspire and challenge athletes to develop their God-given talents in a joyful manner. We want athletes to love and embrace their participation in sports activities to the extent that they desire to remain active even after graduation from Credo.

“Be happy, young man (woman), while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth” Ecclesiastes 11:9

EXPECTATIONS

The school's extracurricular program is an important part of the cultural fabric of the school, as well as a focal point for the school community at large. Thus it is important that we outline clear expectations for all participants.

Academics

The academic side of schooling remains a priority and therefore academic achievement takes precedence over extra-curricular involvement. This means that students are expected to:

- Complete all homework assignments
- Approach subject teachers in advance of an absence to determine what material may be missed

Incomplete assignments, failed tests or other unacceptable academic progress (at mid-term review or end-of-term reports) may, at the discretion of the administration, become grounds for removing a student from his or her participation in the activity. Students who have recorded two or more failures (for the term or cumulative) will not be permitted to continue on the extra-curricular activity.

Students with one failure and/or a number of unacceptable marks (for example, 2-3 courses in the low 50's) may lose their place on the activity, and will likely be placed on contract. Students may be permitted to try out for an activity following an unacceptable report card but will not be permitted to participate in practices or events until a subsequent academic review has demonstrated a return to satisfactory grades.

Attendance

Any absence from regular classes on "event day" for reasons other than medical may disqualify the student from participating in the event that day. Attendance records will be reviewed and students with recurring attendance issues place their participation in jeopardy.

Participating students are expected to manage their time well and respect the need to attend school diligently. They need to show leadership in this respect, also encouraging their fellow participants to have positive records of attendance and punctuality.

Commitment

A high level of commitment is required from those who participate in extra-curricular events. Participation at all practices and events is very important. Students must understand that continued absence may jeopardize a position at that extra-curricular activity.

Behaviour

All students participating in extracurricular activities must set and maintain a high standard of behaviour. Students are ambassadors of Credo Christian High School and therefore the expectations go beyond mere compliance with the regulations in the student agenda. Students must demonstrate the use of suitable language, appropriate dress and conduct. Matters of

self-control and respect for other participants, and actions consistent with developing a healthy Christian lifestyle, are needed both on and off campus.

Any student, while serving a school suspension, will not be permitted to participate or attend any extracurricular events. Permission to continue as a participant after a school suspension may be granted after a written request from the student has been reviewed by the staff sponsor and Assistant Principal.

Health

Students representing CCHS are expected to maintain a high standard of health. Smoking, consumption of alcohol, or participation in anything connected to drugs, are activities which violate the Christian principle of bringing honour to God with our bodies, and obviously do not promote performance. Thus, for such activities there is zero tolerance.

Playing time

Grade 8 – these teams are required to have equality of playing time. This means that over the season, every effort must be made to share the playing time equally (equal playing time does not need to happen in every single game but should even out over the season). This does not mean that a coach must have two rigid lineups. We still encourage and allow for some coaching strategy within a game. We also allow for some variance and discretion to be used in a playoff or championship game setting. However, this level is a development year and every player needs to be given full opportunity to develop and contribute to the team.

Junior – This level is still a development year, but playing time is no longer required to be equal. Some players excel in certain positions and depending on the make-up of your team, some positions may be granted more playing time than others. However, it is still very important for every player to contribute in a significant way to the team with regards to playing time in a game setting. Every player should be played in every game for at least one or two shifts. There may be an instance in a certain game where a player is not played, but that is the very rare exception. Playing time variance at the coach's discretion may be used in a playoff or championship game setting.

Senior – Senior is the highest level of competition that Credo competes in. Playing at the senior level represents years of hard work and practice for the athletes. They have grown and advanced through the development levels and this is the time to showcase what Credo athletes can do. For most of the students this is the highest level of play they will ever participate in and those who have developed the most will see the most playing time and be given the opportunity to excel. Specific positions will be played by the athletes that have been trained for the skill set needed. At the same time, we value each member of the team and expect that they will be provided with opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to the team. Effort will be made by coaches to include all players whenever possible. Coach discretion may be used in a playoff or championship game setting.

Red Shirt Players

On very rare occasion, a coach may offer a player, who was not selected for the team, to be involved as a red shirt. A red shirt player is someone who attends practices, does not receive a uniform, does not pay sports fees and does not officially accompany the team to games. If the situation arises during the season, that the red shirt becomes a player, these parameters would change.

Calling Up Juniors

Our preference at CCHS is for players to play at their own grade level. Only in exceptional circumstances should students be allowed to play up (playing at a level above their age group). The intent is to value all levels of play and to give as many players the opportunity to participate. Situations that warrant juniors being called up are if there are not sufficient players to field a team at the senior level or if a certain skill set is missing and needs to be filled. When considering moving up a player, the player should be able to make a major contribution to the higher team; and should have sufficient playing time on that team to benefit his or her development as a player. A decision will be made based on discussions between the coach, player, parents and athletic director.

In some situations a coach may want to take juniors along to a tournament in case of injury to the regular players. In the event of a senior team qualifying for a provincial tournament, juniors may accompany the team to add depth to the bench.

Parent Approval

Parents are to be aware of these policies and must consent to having their children participate by signing the Parental Consent for Student Participation. All Parent Consent forms must be submitted prior to any participation.

Parents are expected to be supportive of the school's philosophy and practice in athletics. Support by parents of the Parent Expectation guidelines is critical. When attending athletics events, both home and away, parents are seen as ambassadors of CCHS. Conduct must reflect Christian standards!

Communication

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and intense. Conflicts and issues may arise between the athletic directors, coaches, staff members, students and/or parents. This is often the result of a lack of communication between those involved. The guidelines for dealing with these situation and complaints is consistent with the teachings found in scripture (Matthew 18 and Ephesians 4)

- All questions, problems or complaints should be discussed with the person directly. Resist the temptation to share the issue with others. Addressing something directly is hard to do and requires courage to face people with hard conversations. We encourage you to do the hard thing. Share truth with love.
- Never use social media to discuss conflict or emotionally charged issues. This is a recipe for disaster in relationships and in the community.

- If appropriate discussions do not lead to satisfactory resolution, it should then be brought to the Athletic Director
- If the resolution cannot be achieved, it should be presented to the Administration (specifically the Vice-principal)
- Finally when all of the above steps have been taken without resolution, the problem may be submitted to the School Board through written appeal. It will then be placed on the agenda of the School Board at its regularly scheduled meeting. Very rarely do athletic program issues become a school board agenda item.

It is suggested that athletes and/or parents avoid speaking with a coach about difficult issues at the following times:

- Either prior or immediately following an athletic competition (it is strongly suggested to allow for 24 hours to pass following an event before addressing a concern)
- During an active practice session
- During a time when students are present
- When there is not sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion

Confidentiality regarding these discussions is paramount of the integrity of our relationships. Be careful not to share things which were spoken in confidence.

Fees

The following fee structure applies:

- All senior level volleyball and basketball - \$150
- All junior level volleyball and basketball - \$125
- All grade 8 level volleyball and basketball - \$100
- Badminton - \$20
- Cross Country - \$20
- Senior Soccer - \$100
- Grade 8,9 Soccer - \$75
- Track and Field - \$40

All athletes must also purchase a Credo warm-up shirt (cost = \$25)

Please include this amount with your sport fees.

The shirt is not sport-specific and can be worn for multiple sports.

The athletic department uses these fees to pay for uniforms, transportation, officials, registration fees and other costs to the athletic program.

Please note that extra tournaments may require more funds; coaches should share those expectations with parents as soon as possible.

Under no circumstances will a player who has not submitted his/her fee and Parent Permission be permitted to play.

Transportation

Whenever possible, transportation using the school bus will be arranged by the coach. If the bus is not available, parent drivers will be used to transport the team. Parents are responsible for their child once the event has ended. Coaches are not required to transport athletes back to Credo.

Uniforms

If you are participating in a sport requiring a school uniform, it will be provided to you free of charge.