



**Parent/Student Athletics
Handbook
2026-2027**

Athletics Mission Statement

Our mission is to create an encouraging, motivating, and cultivating athletic program for our student athletes, while holding our student athletes to a Christ-like standard of living, through sports and academic excellence.

Athletics Vision

The Courtney Christian School Athletics Department vision is to create an environment that inspires, encourages, and molds our student athletes to be the best they can possibly be. The foundation of our success will be based on mutual respect and trust on and off the field and court. Athletics offers a unique opportunity to build character through adversity, triumph, and defeat.

Message from the Director of Athletics

I believe that being a Christian student athlete presents an amazing opportunity to be a bold example to the world around us of Jesus' love and redemption promise. Discipline, hard work, respect, and communication skills are always learned in a healthy athletic environment. My goal is to hire qualified coaches that are strong in their Christian faith so that they can mentor and train our young athletes. My prayer is that our parents will partner with me to help our student athletes and coaches accomplish these goals.

Student Athlete Acknowledgment

As a student athlete, I understand that I represent Courtney Christian School. I acknowledge the rules that are in place are for my growth in athletic success.

K5-8 Sports Offered		
Fall Season Sept.-Oct.	Winter Season Nov.-Feb.	Spring Season Feb.-May
Cross Country (K5-8)	Boys & Girls Basketball (5-8)	Track & Field (K5-8)
Volleyball (5-8)		Baseball/ Softball (5-8)
Flag Football (5-8)		Boys and Girls Basketball (3-4)

Cheer is offered for 5th-12th grades for the entire school year. Little Lions are K5-4th grade in the fall.

***Each sport will have its own fee to participate. A variety of factors determine the cost of each sport including, but not limited to, the facility used, length of season, number of coaches needed, and cost of equipment. We will do our best to keep costs as low as possible.

Tryouts

There may be a tryout period to determine the students' level of play. In cases where there is an excessive number of players than what is needed for a team roster, some players will be cut. Players in K5-6 will have the option to continue to practice with the team to improve their skills, but they will not play in games nor be required to attend games. This opportunity is offered free of charge. This will allow them to gain the necessary skills in preparation for next year's tryouts.

In order to be eligible to participate (practice or games), the following requirements must be met:

- **All academic eligibility requirements must be met (2.0 GPA or higher and may not have more than 1 F)**
- **A physical exam form must be on file in the athletic office (form can be found on the CCS website)**
- **A medical and authorization release form must be on file in the athletic office (form can be found on the CCS website)**
- **A signed handbook sheet must be on file in the athletic office.**

Expectations for Athletes and Coaches

What athletes can expect from coaches:

- To be led by example.
- To always place emotional and physical well-being ahead of personal desire to win.
- To be treated fairly and receive encouragement regardless of the athlete's level of skill.
- To recognize the contribution each athlete has made to the team.
- To never give up on players, the team, or themselves.
- To teach athletes self-discipline and develop mental toughness.
- To demonstrate enthusiasm, clear communication, and positive motivation.
- To provide fair, firm, and consistent discipline that works towards team goals.

- To start and end practice at the time previously communicated.

What coaches can expect from athletes:

- To be always respectful.
- To always be a team player, remaining loyal to teammates, coaches, and school.
- To be in the best possible condition physically and emotionally.
- To not complain to about any issues.
- To discuss any issues with the coach. (See parent coach guidelines)
- To keep emotions under control without losing enthusiasm.
- To adhere to all school and team rules.
- To maintain a respectful attitude towards official's rulings and calls.
- To make a commitment of honor and integrity no matter if they win or lose.
- To be on time to practice, and to be picked up at the schedule end time.
- To strive to do their best at practice and games with a goal of continually becoming better at their sport.

School Discipline Obligations

- Any student that has disciplinary obligations must complete that before practice or game. Disciplinary obligations will not be postponed due to athletic reasons.
- The Athletic Director /Head Coach may remove a student athlete from a team if excessive disciplinary problems occur.
- If a situation arises where discipline action is required regarding practices or games, the Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach may meet with the athlete and their parents/guardians.

Game & Practice Guidelines

- All parents, students, and fans must remain in the stands or behind designated areas. Parents should not be in team areas at any time during games, unless asked by the coach or officials. All tryouts and practices are closed. Parents may not stay in the gym or directly on the field. They may drop off their athlete and wait in their car, wait on a nearby field, or come back at the designated ending practice time.
- Athletes must wear the issued uniform for all games.
- Athletes must follow team rules and guidelines established by the Head Coach.
- If a student is unable to attend practice or a game, notice needs to be given to the Head Coach as soon as possible.

- A practice/game is considered excused if the athlete is sick and presents a doctor's excuse or if there is a death in the immediate family.
- A practice/game is considered unexcused if an athlete simply does not show up or is not there because of discipline obligations.
- If an athlete misses 3 practices or 1 game unexcused he/she will be excused from the team for the remainder of the season. **(Varsity Level Only)**
- If there will be a known conflict with a prior commitment inside or outside of school that with practices/games, the Head Coach must be notified. The Head Coach and Athletic Director will use their discretion in allowing the athlete to join the team or not. **(JV Level Only)**
- **If a student is absent, he/she must attend school at least half the day to be eligible to participate in practice or competition unless a valid excuse is approved by the Athletic Director.**
- Students are not allowed to access any facilities without proper supervision. Practices may not begin without a Coach or Athletic Director present. No unsupervised playing in the gym at any time.
- Cleats and muddy shoes must be removed before entering any building. Only appropriate shoes are to be worn on gym floor.
- Courtney Christian School will not tolerate profanity, inappropriate behavior, or poor sportsmanship from players, parents, fans, or coaches. Players/ Spectators are subject to suspension from the game or team. In situations that warrant, Hammond Police Dept will be called to assist in the removal of anyone not cooperating. Each event will have an authorized CCS staff member or authorized adult to ensure these guidelines are respected.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices must be put away during practice/games. They may be used once practice/game is over to call parents/guardians.
- Always leave the facility better than you found it. Pickup any trash, store equipment properly, and take all personal belongings.
- All practices and games should have the athlete's full attention. Being foolish, playing on the bench, or wandering away from team without the coach's permission will result in disciplinary action.
- Early dismissal and missed school days for competitions:
 - There are some occasions that teams will have an early dismissal in order to travel to a game on time. Student athletes must make arrangements with teachers for all academic responsibilities regarding handing in, on time, all assignments due on days they are excused from class to attend athletic contests. This must be done PRIOR to leaving early.

- For early dismissal, a car tag must be visible. If a student is riding with a teammate, a note or email must be sent to school from the parent/guardian of the student riding with another teammate.
- Coaches will not be alone with a student without another person present
- Student athletes/Coaches should not contact one another directly via cell phone or by becoming a friend/follower on social media
- Coaches will determine who starts a game and how much gametime each athlete receives based on performance at practices and performance during current game as well as sportsmanship and effort. Coaches will allow every athlete to play in each game for grades K5-6, but the amount of time will vary based on the previous examples.
- Once an athlete enters the 7th grade, athletics will become competitive. Coaches will not only determine an athlete's playing time but will determine whether an athlete will play or not play from competition to competition.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Courtney Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its athletics.

Athletic Department Medical Policies and Procedures

- All injuries must be reported to the Coach as soon as possible. Coaches will take necessary steps to document injury and notify parents/guardians as well as the Athletic Director. In emergency situations, emergency medical personnel may be contacted. (See medical release form)
- Any athlete unable to complete a practice due to injury will be required to sit out until their physician or sports medicine releases them.
- An injured athlete is still considered part of the team and will be expected to be present at games and practices until released by the Coach.
- See student handbook regarding quarantine time regarding contagious illnesses.

Parental Support and Conduct

- By taking an interest in your athlete's sport, you will increase their desire to excel in it.
- Model good sportsmanship for your athlete by respecting all opponents and officials.
- Make your athlete aware that whether they win or lose, they are loved, and his/her efforts are respected and appreciated.

- Respect the position of the Head Coach and Assistant Coach. Do not coach from the sidelines. Do not raise concerns with a coach immediately before or after a game. Please be respectful if a situation arises that needs to be addressed. The Athletic Director and Principal may be called in for a meeting if necessary.

Team Communication

- All teams will use the free GroupMe, Remind or Sportsyou app regarding communication. Parents/guardians, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, and the Athletic Director will be invited to be on the team group. The schedule will also be uploaded for reference. Please keep these groups free from opinions, criticism, or communication that does not directly relate to the entire team.
- It is not uncommon for games to be rescheduled for various reasons. We understand that this can be an inconvenience and will avoid it when at all possible. When this does happen, notice will be given via your team app as soon as the Athletic Director or Head Coach is notified.

Sportsmanship

- Fans, both adults and students, are an important part of every athletic event. Here at Courtney Christian School, we expect anyone affiliated with our school to display the highest level of sportsmanship during/after games. We must remember that both adults and students are to be a witness of Jesus Christ in our words and actions. Occasionally, fan behavior can harm an athletic event. The following is a list of behavior that is not appropriate:
 - Taunting
 - Verbal abuse of officials, coaches, players, or opposing fans
 - Obscene gestures
 - Throwing objects
 - Signs or posters that degrade teams, officials, or players
 - Vandalism
 - Violence
 - Consumption of drugs or alcohol

Opportunities to Grow Spiritually

- Each team will have periodic times to grow in their faith through their sport. This may include a guest speaker at a practice or a time to be encouraged and challenged by a Coach or the Athletic Director.
- Each coach will be encouraged to have one "team building" event soon after the first couple of weeks of practice. This will promote the athletes to work together, get to know each other better, and learn to trust and respect the team as a whole. Please make every attempt possible to have your athlete at this special event.
- Every practice and game will begin and end with prayer. It will be strongly recommended to invite the opposing team/officials to join in this so we can learn how to be bold in our faith.

Parent Responsibilities

- In order for games to run smoothly, parents are required to sign up to work concessions and the gate. Once a schedule is made, slots will be divided up by the number of players, and each family can sign up for the required number of shifts. If siblings play on the same team, parents will not have to work double shifts. If an emergency arises and you are unable to work your shift, it is the parent's responsibility to find a suitable replacement.
- At the end of your shift, you will be responsible for filling out a form indicating how much money you have in your money bag, as well signing the form.
- We ask that all parents take pride in the space that our team has used and look around to clean up our area. In keeping with our mandate of dominion, we should strive to leave the facility better than we found it.

Parent/Student Athletics Handbook
Acknowledgement Form

I, _____ have read and understand the rules and guidelines of the Courtney Christian School Student Athletics Handbook. This handbook will serve as my guide during my athletic career at CCS. I will follow the rules of the handbook. I will always do my best to represent my school with integrity and to pursue victory with honor.

Student Signature _____

I agree additionally as a parent/guardian to support my athlete's compliance with the rules, policies, and procedures contained in this handbook.

Parent's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____