



STINGRAYS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: LORA SPURLOCK

TWIN LAKES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

1. INTRODUCTION AND PHILOSOPHY

The mission of Twin Lakes Christian School's Athletic Department is to produce positive student-athletes who honor God and each other by exemplifying character and integrity on and off the field of play.

We strive to provide a safe environment for our student-athletes to maximize their God-given abilities in a competitive setting while learning important lessons in teamwork, cooperation, dedication, discipline, sportsmanship, integrity and proper work ethic.

2. PARENT AND SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

We value your support and you play an essential role in the overall experience of your student in our athletics program. Here are some expectations of you that will contribute to your student's success:

- Be positive and supportive without adding undue pressure or unrealistic expectations
- Be objective in regard to your player's skill level and role on the team
- Express support for the coach's judgment whether or not you fully agree. This will help your child do the same. Remember that all players, no matter how capable, can learn from correction or redirection by a coach
- Be flexible. Despite careful planning, schedule changes sometimes need to be made
- Build up and speak well of other team members
- If you have questions or concerns, express it to the appropriate person (ie: coach, athletic director) in a constructive way at an appropriate time
- Be supportive and positive towards opponents, opposing fans and officials – **NO booing, jeering, cursing, mocking, taunting or negative comments to officials, coaches, athletes and others.** A game official or the Athletic Director has the authority to remove a person from a game for unsportsmanlike behavior

3. STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

It is our goal to glorify God by winning with honor and losing with grace. Once you join a team here at TLCS, you are a representative of our school and, ultimately, of Christ. You are called to be good representatives of God and let your light shine before men (Matthew 5:16). Other schools and people from the community will evaluate our school based on your

conduct and attitudes on and off the field of play. You are expected to work hard to set a good example. You are expected to show respect at all times to fellow team members, coaches, opponents and officials (even if you disagree with a call).

4. ATTENDANCE

When an athlete joins a team, a commitment to attend the entire season of practices and games is made by the athlete as well as the parents/guardians. If an athlete has to miss a practice or a game, the coach should be consulted as soon as possible. Missing a practice may result in some team-specific consequences (ie: playing time).

5. ELIGIBILITY

A GPA of 2.5 or higher is required for the previous quarter when tryouts for a sport are required. A student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and no F's in any current class for the current season. Grade checks will be done on Monday morning and eligibility will be determined at that time for the week.

Students participating in athletics are required to be in attendance at school the full day the game is to take place. Excessive tardiness or absences will also result in ineligibility. Reasonable time for doctor or dental appointments is an exception.

Students' behavior must be in good standing. Disciplinary action taken with a student at school will result in appropriate team-specific consequences (decreased playing time, game suspension, etc)

6. PLAYING TIME

Athletes who make a team will not necessarily see equal playing time. No amount of participation time is guaranteed to any athlete. Playing time depends on skill, experience, attitude of the athlete and philosophy of the coach. We aim for students to see playing time at every game under normal conditions.

7. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If a conflict or concern arises between an athlete or parent and a coach, the first step is for the athlete/parent to discuss the situation with the coach. If no resolution is reached, the next step is a meeting with the AD and coach, and then, if necessary, a meeting with the principal.

Parents should NOT try to address a concern with a coach immediately after a game. The parent should instead schedule an appointment for a suitable time. If an athlete has a

concern, it is the responsibility of the athlete, not the parents, to address the issue with the coach.

Remember that the coach is the designated person in charge of the team. Parents may not understand or agree with all of the coach's philosophies or decisions, but are asked to be willing, despite disagreement, to give the benefit of the doubt and show support.

8. FUNDING

The athletic department at TLCS is NOT funded through tuition. There is a \$125 fee per sport which is non-refundable once the athlete has committed to the team. This helps pay for coaches, officials and site rental fees. We do not want finances to deter a student from participating in our sports program. If you require assistance so that your student can participate, please contact the Athletic Director.

9. SPORTS OFFERED

FALL SPORTS

- Co-ed Flag Football
- Girls Basketball
- Co-ed Cross Country

WINTER SPORTS

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Lacrosse
- Co-ed Soccer
- Girls Volleyball

SPRING SPORTS

- Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee
- Boys Volleyball
- Co-ed Track & Field