

Broadfording Christian Academy

Student Athlete Handbook

Revised 02-04-2013

BCA Philosophy of Athletic Programs

In all aspects of life, whether occupation or recreation, Christians must realize that they are to put Jesus Christ first in every situation. The student-athlete and coach are no exceptions to this rule; they should not place athletics before their relationship with God. The athlete and coach should find time to study God's word and pray as they strive to know Him and make Him known. The prayer is that our athletes become more like Christ because of the daily example of the coach, administration and teachers.

The student-athlete should develop a thirst to be the very best with his/her God-given talents. The coach performs a critical role in this development. The student-athlete should discern the difference between a prepared and unprepared coach. The prepared coach is enthusiastic about each day's practice and has a schedule of events to develop all student-athletes to their fullest potential. The coach should help student-athletes gain exposure and possible scholarships as they make the transition from high school to college.

During the battle of competition the student-athlete may feel cheated by an official's decision which the athlete assumes is unfair. The coach demonstrates leadership at this time by displayed attitude, actions, and communication to the officials. The coach should be in control of the team during all circumstances relating to competition and the school.

Winning is of great importance to the program; however, to sacrifice Christ-like qualities to win a physical victory does not achieve the goal. The student-athlete and coach should realize there are two victories: the spiritual and the physical. The goal should be to attain the spiritual victory at each practice and competition. The physical victory should be the next goal, and its meaning is made valid through the spiritual victory.

The student-athlete and coach have an awesome responsibility of maintaining Christ-like qualities. The athlete and coach are looked upon as leaders by the administration and are constantly being observed. These qualities are difficult to maintain unless Christ is the motivation. The student-athlete and coach may often feel pressure to perform for friends, but this is not the motivation that should enhance a Christ-centered athletic program. Colossians 3:23 tells us that we are to do all as unto the Lord rather than men. Athletics is an opportunity to practice the principles of God's Word, such as subjecting one's self to authority, working together as members of the body of Christ, and controlling emotions that arise in competition. Athletic competition offers an arena for the demonstration of our faith in Jesus Christ and opens the doors for active ministry.

Student Responsibilities Prior to Participating in Athletics at BCA

Before you can participate in practices or games for the team, you must have the following completed and turned into your coach:

1. SPORTS PHYSICAL (This form is necessary. There are serious legal liabilities for practicing or playing without the form turned into your coach).
2. ATHLETIC FEES PAID
3. PARENT PERMISSION FORM SIGNED (Again, a legal responsibility)

Broadfording Christian Academy Student-Athlete Pledge

By participating in extracurricular athletics at Broadfording Christian Academy, you are bound to support and demonstrate the following at all times:

1. Understanding that the purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being of the athlete by promoting Christ-like qualities through discipline and the life-lessons learned in competition;
2. To set a Christ-like example and testimony in all conduct at all times;
3. Avoiding the use of profanity;
4. Refraining from drugs and/or alcohol which will result in immediate suspension and probable dismissal from the team;
5. Abiding by any guidelines, policies, dress code, or rules established by the coach and his/her assistants;
6. Using the Matthew 18 principle to resolve conflict with teammates or coaches;
7. Respecting the decisions of coaches and officials and remain undemonstrative in accepting the decisions of coaches or officials;
8. Be punctual to practices and attend every practice and game unless a reasonable excuse is forwarded to the coach ahead of time;
9. Refrain from horseplay in the locker room;
10. Be encouraging to teammates and a "class act" towards opponents;
11. Maintain good study habits in order that you do not let the team down by becoming ineligible;
12. Return all equipment and uniforms loaned to you during the season;
13. Be mindful that you are a representative of Broadfording Christian Academy and that your behavior reflects directly on the quality of this school, its students, and all faculty and staff and that the administration will take steps necessary to preserve our image as striving for sportsmanship, spiritual, and academic excellence.
14. Understanding that playing sports at BCA is a privilege, not a right.

BCA Awards and Letters

At the end of the season or year, the Broadfording Christian Academy Athletic Department will hold a sports athletic banquet to recognize outstanding achievement according to the guiding principles and goals established by our athletic philosophy. Our goal is not only to recognize in each sport the obvious outward athletic abilities, talents, and achievements of the past year, but more importantly, we desire to recognize those inward Christ-like qualities that have been formed and displayed in athletes during the season. Therefore, the description of the athletic awards and the giving of those awards are necessarily correlated and intertwined with the character qualities our coaches emphasize during the season.

The following awards will be given for all sports:

1. **Most Valuable Player**—the MVP award is given to the athlete who made the greatest overall contribution to the team, athletically and spiritually. Although statistics are important, demonstrated character development is the most important criteria for this award. It is possible to not be the statistical leader of the team, yet be the MVP. Characteristics considered for this award include: athletic and spiritual leadership, intensity, determination, obedience, self-control, endurance, responsibility, respect, compassion, and dependability.
2. **Christian Character**—the Christian Character award is given to the athlete who best demonstrates spiritual leadership, Christ-like character, and spiritual insight. This athlete consistently shows Christian maturity in his or her relationship with Christ and reflects the following characteristics: boldness, enthusiasm, faith, humility, loyalty, virtue, meekness, discernment, sensitivity, courage, and wisdom.
3. **Total Release**—the ‘Total Release’ award (Hustle Award) is given to the athlete who consistently shows the greatest intensity in his or her performance. This athlete makes the most of his or her ability by continuously giving 100% effort in all aspects of the sport, whether in practice or in athletic competition. He or she best reflects Colossians 3:17 and 3:23. Character traits for this award include: intensity, determination, availability, obedience, diligence, enthusiasm, endurance, dependability and self-control.
4. **Most Improved**—the Most Improved award is presented to the athlete who demonstrates the most improvement in ability and character judged either from the beginning of the season to the end, or from one season to the next. Character traits for this award include: determination, diligence, contentment, dependability, enthusiasm, humility, attentiveness, flexibility, and intensity.
5. **Lion Award**—the Lion award is an annual award given to the outstanding male and female athlete who demonstrates the best all-round character, ability, and accomplishment. This award is determined by the collective vote of all BCA coaches.
6. For each individual sport, with approval of the Athletic Director, a head coach will have the discretion of presenting one additional award based on a specific Christ-like character trait that the coach emphasized and saw in a particular athlete during the season. This special award will be given to the student athlete who best exemplifies and demonstrates that specific Christ-like character trait.

Varsity Letters

Broadfording Christian Academy awards a letter in all varsity sports to players, cheerleaders, managers, trainers, statisticians, and audio-visual helpers who meet certain criteria. To earn a letter, the student should demonstrate growth in biblical character qualities and must attend and participate in a minimum of 80% of scheduled practices (exception: a viable medical reason, church, approved absence by coach). Athletes must compete in a minimum of 25% of the total games or matches scheduled. Varsity athletes must dress out for at least 95% of scheduled games, unless injured. Others involved in a sport must also attend and fulfill their particular responsibilities in at least 95% of scheduled games or matches. To letter in a sport, student athlete must not be a disciplinary problem. More than one disciplinary action taken against a student will disqualify that individual from lettering in that sport. Additionally, more than one unexcused absence from practice will disqualify that player from being awarded a letter. Student athletes in grades 6-8 may receive a letter in a varsity sport, if all other eligibility requirements are met. These special situations should be discussed with and approved by the Athletic Director and the coach involved.

Other Awards

The coach may submit a request to recognize athletes with additional awards by submitting the criteria for winning such an award to the athletic department and the administration for approval. The criteria explained in this handbook, as well as additional criteria developed by coaches for additional awards, must be fully explained to athletes prior to the season so each athlete is made aware of those goals and awards that can be earned.

Athletic Academic Probation

A student will be placed on academic probation when he or she receives more than one F at either progress report time or report card time. If a student is placed on academic probation for the reporting period, that student will be declared “ineligible”. An ineligible student will not be permitted to participate in games, or miss school time to travel with the team.

An ineligible student may be required to attend a weekly study hall held after school.

Ineligible students will be evaluated weekly to determine their eligibility status. After one week, if a student has raised his or her grades to an acceptable level, the student athlete may return to the team but must still attend the mandatory study halls until the next reporting interval (progress report or report card period).

Behavior and discipline can also factor into eligibility. Students suspended for any reason may not attend practice or games during the period of suspension. Students with repeated disciplinary offenses can be suspended or removed from the team at the discretion of the administration or athletic director.

The administration reserves the right to amend eligibility policies to improve student achievement and performance.

BCA may utilize a referral process known as a CST (Child Study Team). This process is designed to notify parents of a student’s academic deficiencies, identify potential remediation steps, and to implement a course of action designed to assist the student who desires to overcome poor grades. A CST could result in minor modifications or accommodations in the classroom, additional assigned study halls, after school tutoring by the teacher, Saturday school (fee-based), placement testing or screening, or potential referral to the HOPE Program Administrator for further evaluation to gather data designed to identify the student’s strengths and weaknesses.

Participation Guidelines

Rules Governing Participation in Athletics:

Students that participate in extracurricular activities assume additional responsibilities. The student athlete is a Broadfording Christian Academy Ambassador. Athletes should conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times and avoid situations that will bring the Broadfording Christian Academy into disrepute.

1. Drug/Alcohol Policy for Athletes:
 - a. Any athlete suspended under the school drug and alcohol policy may be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season and on probation the remainder of the school year in athletics.
 - b. Any use or possession of drugs or alcohol by student may result in dismissal, probation or other disciplinary action by the administration.
 - c. Use of tobacco in any form may result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal and/or probation.
2. Athletes must maintain passing grades according to school policy.
3. All athletes must be prompt for practice sessions as well as games.
4. Three absences from practice without permission, parental excuse or prior written notice may be grounds to dismiss a player from an athletic team. It is simply not fair to coaches or to teammates to inexplicably fail to report to practice or games without an appropriate excuse.
5. Any athlete driving to an event intending to take other athletes as passengers must have prior written permission from both the driver's parents, the passenger's parents, and the coach.
6. Any player dismissed from a varsity team for disciplinary reasons may no longer compete in that particular sport, until they serve a probationary period which is up to the discretion of the coaching staff involved, the athletic director, and the administration.
7. Additional rules and regulations may be included by the coach in charge of his/her particular sport with approval of the athletic director and principal.
8. All athletes must attend school a minimum of a half-day the day of a practice or an athletic contest to be eligible to participate on the day.
9. Permanent suspensions from teams, other than automatic suspension, shall be cleared through the athletic director and principal.
10. Students placed on suspension (In-School or Out-of-School) are not permitted to practice or participate in athletic events during the suspended period.
11. A probation period, dismissal, or revocation of the privileges of trying out for or participating in any varsity sport may be established at the discretion of the Athletic Department and Administration for:
 - a. Out-of-season and summer violations of Athletic Department rules and school policies and regulations.
 - b. Violations of the law and other acts which bring disrepute or embarrassment to the school "in" or "out of season".
 - c. No athlete should write articles to the news media criticizing fellow team members, coaches, administration, game officials, or other school personnel.
12. Be mindful that you are a representative of Broadfording Christian Academy and that your behavior reflects directly on the quality of this school, its students, and all faculty and staff and

that the administration will take steps necessary to preserve our image as striving for sportsmanship, spiritual, and academic excellence.

13. Understanding that playing sports at BCA is a privilege, not a right.
14. Students failing to turn in uniforms from the previous season's sport will not be allowed to participate in games until the uniform has been returned to the Athletic Department and verified by the Athletic Director.

BCA Athletic Appeal Process

“Quitting Policy”

“Moreover, if your brother shall trespass against you, go tell him his fault between the two of you alone; if he listens, you have gained a brother. But if he won’t listen, then take with you one or two more so you have witnesses to the conversation that what is said is true”. Matthew 18: 15-16.

Appeal Process for Addressing Concerns

Commitment to an athletic team is a serious responsibility and places the interests of the team well ahead of the individual. Quitting any sport at any time in the season is a poor Christian testimony and is an intolerable habit to acquire. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. There are instances, however when a student-athlete believes he or she has a good reason for dropping the sport. If this is the case, the procedure outlined below must be followed.

Any athlete who maintains a concern, dispute or grievance against a coach or the team that would cause the athlete to contemplate leaving the team must follow the procedures detailed below. Students failing to abide by the appeal process will forfeit participation in BCA athletics for the remainder of the current school year if the procedure is not followed and the athlete quits the team:

1. The athlete should make known his/her concerns to the team captains. The team captains will meet with the coach and the individual athlete to resolve the issue. If team captains are not available, the athlete should request a meeting with the coach and may ask a teammate to accompany him/her to the meeting. The coach is expected to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue at hand. At this point, the coach and athlete may mutually agree that it is in the best interest of both the player and the program to discontinue membership to the team. If the agreement is mutual, there is no penalty for leaving the team apart from the obvious forfeiture of awards and recognition at season’s end.
2. If the issue cannot be resolved, the athlete, coach, athletic director, principal and parents of the athlete will meet to resolve the issue. The administrative meeting with the athlete will facilitate discussion of the following: The nature of the athlete’s grievance; The nature of the coach’s position on the issue; Parent input.
3. At the conclusion of the meeting, the administration (principal, athletic director, and superintendent) will confer and reach a decision to resolve the matter within 3 days. The three days will allow the administration to engage in further fact-finding and consideration of the issue. Any decision made by the administration is binding and final.

Decisions made by the administration may include but are not limited to:

1. Removal of the athlete from the team (with forfeiture of end-of-season awards) but without jeopardizing participation in athletics for the next season;
2. Support for the coach’s position with the expectation that the athlete will do his/her utmost to continue to compete and abide by the decision;
3. Recommendations or mandates to the coach that will enhance the overall program and resolve the issue of concern with the student athlete.

Grievances or issues that WILL NOT be considered valid reasons for engaging in the appeal process include but are not limited to:

1. Coaching strategy that causes the student athlete to play a position he/she does not desire to play;
2. Coaching decisions or strategies directly related to competition or game play;
3. Timing of substitutions during games or “playing time”

The purpose of the appeal process is to provide a student athlete an opportunity to seek help with a difficult situation that is causing duress or loss of enthusiasm for competing in the sport. As a general rule, the administrative appeal process will NOT undermine the hierarchy of authority that exists between the player and the coach. The coach is hired to coach and the student athlete, who is not a coach, has agreed to compete and play, period. The administrative appeal process will consider the needs of the overall program, the school and the team before considering individual goals, statistics, or accomplishments.

Like the “Supreme Court”, the decision of the administrative appeal body is final. An athlete who fails or refuses to abide by the final decision of the administration during the appeal process will be not be permitted to participate in any sports for the remainder of the current academic school year.