



**WEDDINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
13901 Providence Road, Weddington, NC 28104

# **Athletics**

## **Student and Parent Handbook**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord you are serving.”*  
*Colossians 3:23-24*

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## INTRODUCTION

WCA's athletic program provides students with the opportunity to grow as student-athletes and positive Christian role models. Our goal is to glorify Christ, our Lord and Savior, by fostering teamwork and sportsmanship on every team. We are dedicated to promoting the school's core values of challenging the mind, preparing the heart, and nurturing the soul.

### SECTION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE WCA ATHLETICS PROGRAM

- Weddington Christian Academy offers a variety of middle school and high school athletic programs in which student-athletes can participate.
- WCA Athletics is made up of 13 teams participating in 8 different sports for our student body beginning in the 5th grade.
- WCA is a member of the Tri-County Athletic Conference (TCAC).

### SECTION 2: PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 5–10 can participate in team sports, unless otherwise stated. In some years, fourth graders have been allowed on the middle school cross-country team.
- Students must be currently enrolled at WCA or registered in a home education program in order to participate in a WCA team sport.
- Any homeschooled student who wished to participate in a WCA athletic program must meet all other WCA Handbook eligibility requirements.
- The homeschool student-athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other student-athletes.

### SECTION 3: ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- To participate in team sports, students must maintain acceptable academic performance, defined as having no more than **two D's** or **one F** in their courses. Eligibility will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period.
- Students who exceed these thresholds will be placed on academic probation and given an additional three weeks to improve their grades. During the probation period, students may continue to practice with the team and will be permitted to compete in games or events.
- If academic standards are not met by the end of the probation period, the student will be deemed ineligible to participate until the next review. This policy emphasizes the importance of academic achievement while allowing students the opportunity to address and improve their performance.

### SECTION 4: ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

As representatives of our school and community, student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of character, integrity, and sportsmanship. Participation in athletics is a privilege that comes with the responsibility to consistently demonstrate Christ-like behavior both on and off the field or court.

#### *Expectations for Student-Athletes:*

- 1. Respect for Others**  
Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and fans with kindness, fairness, and respect, regardless of circumstances.
- 2. Integrity and Honesty**  
Uphold the truth in all actions and decisions. Avoid cheating, dishonesty, or any behavior that compromises the integrity of the team or sport.
- 3. Sportsmanship**  
Celebrate victories with humility and accept defeat with grace. Demonstrate self-control and a positive attitude, refraining from inappropriate language or actions.
- 4. Responsibility**  
Be accountable for your actions, both in and out of athletics. This includes maintaining academic eligibility, attending practices and games punctually, and fulfilling team commitments.
- 5. Servant Leadership**  
Lead by example through acts of service, encouragement, and support for teammates, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration.
- 6. Community Representation**  
Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects positively on your school, team, and faith, whether in public, online, or private settings.

### *Consequences for Violations:*

- Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, loss of playing time, suspension, or removal from the team, at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and administration
- By embracing these principles, student-athletes honor their faith, their teammates, the school, and the broader community they represent.

## SECTION 5: PLAYING TIME

At WCA, we believe in fostering opportunities for all students to experience the benefits of teamwork, commitment, and personal growth through athletics.

Participation on a team does not guarantee game play. **Playing time is earned** through dedication, effort, and performance. Coaches will make playing time decisions based on the following criteria:

1. **Game Situation**  
Playing time may vary depending on the competitive demands of each game, including the score, opponent, and overall strategy.
2. **Skills and Abilities**  
Players who demonstrate proficiency in their sport, consistent improvement, and a strong understanding of team dynamics will be prioritized for game play.
3. **Work Ethic and Attitude**  
A positive attitude, commitment to practice, respect for teammates and coaches, and a willingness to learn are essential to earning playing time.
4. **Team Needs**  
Coaches will consider the needs of the team and may adjust lineups and rotations to maximize team success.

Every player will have opportunities to develop their skills and contribute to the team, whether in practice or games. Coaches are committed to providing guidance and feedback to help players grow in their abilities and understanding of the sport.

Additionally, students are responsible for dedicating personal time outside of school to practicing the skills and techniques taught by their coaches in order to improve.

By honoring this policy, WCA ensures a balance between inclusivity and maintaining a competitive, team-centered approach.

## SECTION 6: PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

At WCA, the support and involvement of parents are vital to the success of our athletic programs. To foster a positive and collaborative environment, we ask parents to fulfill the following responsibilities:

### *Team Support*

Parents are required to actively support the team by volunteering for roles such as:

- Assisting with ticket sales during at least 2 home games.
- Helping with post-game clean-up of the facility.
- Scorekeeping or managing other team-related tasks as needed.

Volunteer opportunities will be communicated by coaches or team coordinators, and your participation is greatly appreciated.

### *General Expectations*

Parents are also asked to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all games and events, serving as positive role models for athletes.
- Communicate respectfully with coaches and school staff regarding team matters.
- Encourage their children to take personal responsibility for their commitment to the team and to advocate for themselves in communicating with coaches and teammates.

By working together, parents, coaches, and athletes can ensure a successful and enriching athletic experience for everyone involved.

## **SECTION 7: TRANSPORTATION**

At WCA, we are committed to providing transportation for all road games during the athletic seasons. However, there may be occasions when vehicles or drivers are unavailable. In such cases, players and their parents will need to arrange their own transportation to and from games, meets, and practices.

While the school strives to coordinate transportation for events whenever possible, this service cannot be guaranteed and should not be assumed. Families are encouraged to have contingency plans in place to ensure reliable transportation for their student-athletes.

Coaches and team coordinators will communicate any transportation updates or changes as early as possible. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that all athletes can participate in scheduled events.



## SECTION 8: TWO-SPORT ATHLETES

While WCA encourages students to explore their athletic interests, participation in two sports during the same season is generally not recommended due to the challenges it presents in managing time, energy, and commitments. However, under specific circumstances, students may be permitted to participate in two sports during the same season if the following conditions are met:

### 1. **Academic Eligibility**

The student must meet all academic eligibility requirements and demonstrate the ability to maintain their academic performance despite the increased demands.

### 2. **Sport Compatibility**

The two sports should have similar training demands to minimize conflicts and reduce the risk of overtraining or injury.

### 3. **Impact on Study Time**

Participation in two sports must not interfere with the student's ability to dedicate sufficient time to their studies or academic responsibilities.

### 4. **Coaches' Agreement**

Both coaches must agree to the arrangement and collaboratively establish a schedule. This includes managing the athlete's attendance at practices and games in a way that considers the best interests of the athlete and both teams.

### 5. **Prioritization**

In the event of scheduling conflicts, coaches and the athlete must determine a clear prioritization of practices and competitions to avoid overcommitment.

Although this option is available, it should be approached with careful consideration. Balancing two sports within the same season is not ideal and may limit the athlete's ability to fully develop in either sport or focus on academic and personal growth. Students and families are encouraged to thoughtfully evaluate this choice and prioritize the best path for long-term success and well-being.

## SECTION 9: SCHOOL-ISSUED UNIFORMS

Each season, students are issued a game-day uniform, and it is the responsibility of the student and their parents to properly care for and maintain the uniform. The following policies must be observed:

### 1. **Care and Washing Instructions**

- Uniforms must be cleaned after each game/match/meet.
- Wash uniforms with like colors in cold water.
- Use a dryer only on LOW heat, and promptly remove the uniform to hang it.
- **DO NOT IRON** the uniform.

### 2. **Usage Guidelines**

- Uniforms are to be worn only during scheduled games, contests, or special events as directed by the coach.

### 3. **Alterations**

- Do not alter, modify, or change the uniform in any way.

### 4. **Return of Uniforms**

- Uniforms must be washed and returned to the coach within one week of the final game.

### 5. **Replacement and Cleaning Fees**

- If a uniform is not returned or is returned damaged, parents will be charged the cost of replacing the uniform or any necessary cleaning fees.

By adhering to this policy, we ensure that uniforms remain in excellent condition for future seasons and reflect the professionalism and pride of WCA athletics.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

*Thank you to all parents and athletes for your commitment, dedication, and support of WCA's athletics program and the sport you have chosen to participate in. Your involvement, both on and off the field, is invaluable in creating a positive and impactful experience for our student-athletes. As we look toward the future and continued growth of our program, we are grateful for the many ways our community contributes to its success. Together, we can ensure WCA athletics continues to thrive for years to come*

- Coach Sanders

