



Student-Parent Athletic Handbook

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

Faith Academy Charter School's athletic program is governed by policies established by the Faith Academy Charter School Board of Directors, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). The NCHSAA handbook can be viewed at www.nchsaa.org.

This athletic handbook contains rules, regulations and other information necessary for athletic directors and coaches to run their programs effectively and efficiently. A complete knowledge of these rules and regulations is vital to ensure that the interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing state and local policies.

This handbook is also designed to inform the student-athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) of the rules, regulations, and policies of the athletic department. The district's coaching staff believes that success in athletics is established and maintained through adherence to the principles outlined in this handbook. Although this handbook is not all-inclusive, it is the hope that it at least provides a foundation of information for athletes and their parents.

It is important to understand that all students will adhere to the Faith Academy Charter School Parent - Student Handbook and that consequences for violations will be given accordingly. Student-athletes are looked upon not only as representatives of the school, but as leaders among their respective student bodies. Any actions and behaviors that might compromise the efforts of good sportsmanship and ethical athletic practices are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide our participants with the best possible administration, supervision and instruction available.
- To provide our participants with quality facilities and equipment that is both safe and student friendly.
- To provide our participants with safe, quality transportation to and from all competitions and activities.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

If a student receives an F on their report card in a core class, he/she may not participate in athletic contests until adequate progress is shown. It is up to the school administration to determine if sufficient progress has been made in order to allow the student to continue playing. The student in question may still practice with the team during this time.

If a student receives 2 F's on their report card at the end of a semester, that student is ineligible to participate in athletics during the following semester.

If an athlete is "academically ineligible" at the beginning of any semester, that status is retained throughout the full semester.

DRESS

Athletes are to dress in an appropriate manner whenever they represent Faith Academy Charter School in accordance with Faith Academy Charter School Parent - Student Handbook at practice and for all games. Coaches may stipulate game day dress code.

EXPENSES

Should student-athletes or guardian(s) choose to make purchases related to athletic participation (e.g. camps, clothing, equipment for personal use, etc.), the expenses will be the sole responsibility of that athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). Faith Academy Charter School and/or the coaching staff will, in no way, cover or reimburse expenses of this nature at any time.

INSURANCE

By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all of the risks associated with participating in any sport or sporting event. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules and warnings, reporting physical problems to their coaches, following a proper conditioning program and inspecting their own equipment on a daily basis.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

If an athlete damages or loses their team uniform or school-issued equipment, the student-athlete is expected to make the appropriate restitution. All unpaid fees to the athletic department will be treated as any other unpaid school fee and could keep the student in question from participating in other school functions as a result.

PHYSICALS

All athletes must have a physical on file at school dated on or after May 2, 2021 before participating in a sport, including tryouts. The physical is valid for 395 days. All athletes must also have a signed Concussion Statement on file prior to participating. The Concussion Statement will be distributed to each athlete along with all other forms necessary for participation. Any student-athlete with a suspected concussion is not permitted to return to participation (practice or play) until the student-athlete receives written release from a licensed physician and completion of the concussion protocol. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to keep on file all required documentation for each student athlete.

SELECTION OF TEAMS

Students are encouraged to try out for multiple sports. Each coach has his/her own policy on how he/she selects the team. Coaches will explain their process of selection to all candidates before practices begin. Once an athlete begins the in-season training period for a sport, he/she should not quit while that sport is in season. If an athlete quits a sport, then he/she will be withheld from participation in another sport until that season has been completed (including the playoffs). The in-season coach and athletic director have the ability to override this particular rule if he/she feels that there are extenuating circumstances that have caused the athlete to quit the team.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill Development sessions and open facilities are allowed, but shall not be held during any tryout period of an in-season sport, during exams, or during the last five days of each semester. All skill development sessions must be voluntary and open to all athletically eligible students. Insurance is required for all those involved in skill development and off seasons, including camps.

TRANSPORTATION

As per the Faith Academy Charter School policy, the athletic department will provide transportation to and from athletic contests. All athletes must travel with the team to athletic events held away from the home school. After an away game, athletes will be allowed to travel home with a parent or legal guardian after the parent/guardian signs the child out with his/her student's coach.

WEATHER

Faith Academy Charter School will follow the North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules related to athletic activity and heat. All schools will have a heat illness prevention and management policy for all sanctioned activities and under no circumstances will there be any deviation from its implementation. When schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all school activities shall be suspended. This rule applies to all games, practices, rehearsals, etc.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

- Students must be properly enrolled in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade
- Students must meet the FACS attendance policy during the previous semester.
- Students must not practice or attend any meeting of the team or group on the day the student is absent from school.
- Students must not have been convicted of a felony or of an offense that could be a felony if committed by an adult.
- Students may not accept prizes, merchandise, money or anything that can be exchanged for money as a result of athletic participation in accordance with NCHSAA rules and regulations.

PRACTICE

A student may not practice or attend any meeting of the team or group on the day the student is absent from school. Team practice must not take place during an instructional day unless given special permission by the Lead Administrator or the Board of Directors. On teacher workdays, practice can only take place before the workday begins or after the workday ends. If schools are closed due to inclement weather, practices will be cancelled unless special permission is given by the Lead Administrator or the Board of Directors. Teams may not practice or assemble as a team with a coach on Sundays.

CONDUCT

Participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics, is a privilege, not a right. The Faith Academy Charter School Board of Directors expects all students who represent their school through participation in extracurricular activities to be good representatives of their school community. Students should dress, act and conduct themselves in a way that reflects positively on their school. Each student is expected to display good citizenship at all times. Taunting is expressly prohibited. Taunting includes actions or comments, which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Any student who fails to conduct himself or herself appropriately may have the privilege or participation limited or revoked. Students that have been suspended out-of-school (OSS) will not be allowed to practice or play.

HAZING

Hazing, Bullying or Intimidation of a Fellow Student – It shall be a violation of board policy for any student to engage in what is known as hazing or to aid or abet any other student in hazing. For the purpose of this policy, hazing is defined as follows: “to annoy any student by playing abusive or ridiculous tricks on him/her; to frighten, scold, beat, harass him/her; or to subject him/her to personal indignity.” Furthermore, deliberate intimidation, bullying or harassment in any form is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, name-calling, teasing, physical abuse, written or oral messages or visual images that deliberately intimidate, harass, or embarrass another individual. Such messages or images may include direct conversation, telephone messages, text messages, instant messages, internet postings, e-mails, photographic images, posters, signs, and other means of disseminating hurtful, embarrassing, vicious, or scurrilous remarks or content (G.S. 14-36 and 115C-391).

EJECTION POLICY

The policy applies to all persons involved in an athletic contest, including student-athletes, coaches, managers and game administrators. The following examples include behavior or conduct which will result in an ejection from a contest:

1. Fighting, which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:
 - An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsportsmanlike act toward an opponent that causes an opponent to retaliate
 - An attempt to strike an opponent with a fist, hands, arms, legs or feet.
 - An attempt to punch or kick an opponent, regardless of whether or not contact is made
 - Leaving the bench area to participate in a fight (contact or no contact)
 2. Biting observed by an official
 3. Profanity, taunting, baiting or spitting toward an opponent
 4. Obscene gestures, including gesturing in such a manner as to intimidate
 5. Disrespectfully addressing an official or physically contacting an official is subject to automatic expulsion and can result in ineligibility for remainder of career
- Penalty for an ejection for any of the above reasons:
- Ejection from any sporting contests means that you will miss the next two contests at that level (EXCEPTION: fighting equals 4 missed contests)

When an ejection occurs, an athlete must participate in the NFHSlearn.com Sportsmanship Course before they will be allowed to return. Athletes receiving two ejections for unacceptable behavior as defined above will be suspended from all sports for the remainder of the season. Receiving a third ejection in a school year will result in suspension from athletics for one calendar year (365 days from the date of the third ejection).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The NCHSAA and Faith Academy Charter School emphatically oppose the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by student-athletes. The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, performance enhancing substances, and illegal drugs is prohibited. Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of these or any mood modifying substances produce harmful effects.

An athlete shall not at any time, during school or out of school, and regardless of quantity:

1. Be in possession of, use or consume a beverage containing alcohol, performance enhancing drugs or illegal drugs
2. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia

TOBACCO

Possession of or use of tobacco products, lighters, matches, pipes, or any other related items are against the Faith Academy Charter School's Parent - Student Handbook. Athletes are prohibited from the use and/or possession of tobacco products and shall not possess, smoke, dip, chew or otherwise use any tobacco products at any time while on school premises, off school property or at any school-sponsored activity or event. Faith Academy Charter School's Parent - Student Handbook consequences will be followed for all athletes breaking this rule.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and coaching are both extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child is involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are

placed on him/her. This begins with clear communications from the coach of the sport.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team/season
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
5. Procedure if your child is injured during participation
6. Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM ATHLETES & PARENTS

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach
2. Parent's contact number, both home and emergency
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
4. Notification of special medical conditions
5. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior
4. Concerns about your child's academic performance
5. Safety of your child

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you had hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. The five items below should be left to the direction of the coach.

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Offensive/defensive philosophies
5. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Be willing to accept opinions and/or knowledge that you may not want to hear.

When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help resolve any concerns.

1. Student-Coach – open-door policy for all coaches
2. Parent-Coach – done by appointment

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IS:

1. Do not attempt to confront a coach immediately before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

2. Call the coach to schedule an appointment.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the school athletic director, he/she will set up a meeting for you.

THE NEXT STEP:

What can you do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and schedule an appointment with the school athletic director. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.
2. Call the school principal to discuss the situation.
3. Contact the Faith Academy Charter School Board of Directors.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

1. Ensure that your child understands that win or lose, you love him or her.
2. Assist your child in setting realistic goals.
3. Emphasize “improved” performance, not winning.
4. Emphasize academics first, athletics second.
5. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
6. Control your emotions at games and events.
7. Be a “cheerleader” for your child and other children on the team.
8. Respect your child’s coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
9. Respect the officials at your child’s games. Officials are human and do make mistakes. An official has never won or lost a ballgame to a call.
10. Never approach an official after a game. Emotions are usually pretty high at that time.
11. Be a positive role model for your child. Children pay attention to your actions.

Be sensible, responsible and keep priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a team’s record.

Faith Academy Charter School Athletic Program Participation Agreement

I _____ have read the Faith Academy Charter School Athletic

Parent and Student Handbook and understand as a **student** athlete I must abide by all

policies and procedures. As a **parent**, _____, I will support my child in the

participation in the Faith Academy Charter School Athletic Program and Faith Academy Charter

School Athletic Program Parent and Student Handbook

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Coach _____ Date _____

Athletic Director _____ Date _____ -

The Athletic Director must file all Faith Academy Charter School Athletic Program Participation Agreement Forms.



Instructions: The student athlete and his/her parent or legal custodian, must initial beside each statement acknowledging that they have read and understand the corresponding statement. The student-athlete should initial in the left column and the parent or legal custodian should initial in the right column. Some statements are applicable only to the student-athlete and should only be initialed by the student-athlete. This form must be completed for each student-athlete, even if there are multiple student-athletes in the household.

Student-Athlete Name: (please print) _____

Parent/Legal Custodian Name(s): (please print) _____

Student-Athlete Initials		Parent/Legal Custodian(s) Initials
	A concussion is a brain injury, which should be reported to my parent(s) or legal custodian(s), my or my child's coach(es), or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion cannot be "seen." Some signs and symptoms might be present immediately; however, other symptoms can appear hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.	Not Applicable
	If I think a teammate has a concussion, I should tell my coach(es), parent(s)/ legal custodian(s) or medical professional about the concussion.	Not Applicable
	I, or my child, will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my, or my child's, head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.	
	I, or my child, will need written permission from a medical professional trained in concussion management to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	Based on the latest data, most concussions take days or weeks to get better. A concussion may not go away, right away. I realize that resolution from a concussion is a process that may require more than one medical visit.	
	I realize that ER/Urgent Care physicians will not provide clearance to return to play or practice, if seen immediately or shortly after the injury.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I or my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes, repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.	
	I have read the concussion symptoms listed on the Student-Athlete/ Parent Legal Custodian Concussion Information Sheet.	
	I have asked an adult and/or medical professional to explain any information contained in the Student-Athlete & Parent Concussion Statement Form or Information Sheet that I do not understand.	

By signing below, we agree that we have read and understand the information contained in the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Custodian Concussion Statement Form, and have initialed appropriately beside each statement.