



# Athletic Handbook

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# Mooresville Christian Academy Athletic Handbook

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## MISSION

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**Complementing Christian families and churches, by providing an excellent Christ-centered education, preparing young people to grow in faith, scholarship, leadership, and stewardship.**

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## PHILOSOPHY

I Corinthians 10:31 states, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

MCA extracurricular programs are designed to enrich the student with a Christian educational experience. The athletic programs are designed to help develop a healthy attitude toward competition and of winning and losing in life. The nature of sports is such that there are more losers than winners. We as Christians, must learn how to lose gracefully, and when God permits us to win, to do so gracefully as well.

The Christian philosophy of athletics must stem directly from the school's Christian philosophy of education. The ultimate goal must be "*to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ*" (Romans 8:29) and to "*develop the spiritual part of the athlete so that the Holy Spirit is in control and directing his or her mind and body.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

It is the goal of MCA athletics that the athletes develop positive Christ-like character qualities and express them through the medium of athletics. Athletics is a microcosm of life. The athletes are confronted with all types of life situations, perfect learning situations for teaching Biblical principles. It is the job of the coaches to properly direct them in these situations so as to build the character qualities. Athletics should help foster vital relationships among team members coming from the team concept and direct leadership of the Christian coach.

There should be a commitment to excellence in each particular sport. "*Do heartily as unto the Lord*" Colossians 3:23. Athletics are a means to an end, not an end in themselves, in that athletics represent one aspect of the educational program, not the main focus of the program. It is a goal that the student becomes a well-rounded individual, striving toward his God-given potential. The athletic program shall provide well-planned and well-balanced inter-scholastic

activities for as many participants as possible, consistent with available facilities, or personnel, and financial support. The athletic program shall be planned so as to present a minimal amount of interference with the academic program. The athletic program shall function so as to involve not only the participants, but also the student body and school community. The athletic program shall provide an opportunity for the loyalty of parents, and friends of the school to be renewed, strengthened, and united.

We at MCA, expect our coaches, players, and students, to represent the school in a manner that is respectful of others, on and off the field of play. We also encourage and endorse the enthusiastic support of constituents and friends. In the process, we expect all such constituents and friends to uphold the same high standards that we expect of our students, which is to be ambassadors of Christ Jesus. Opposing teams and their fans are to be treated as honored guests.

In order for any MCA sports program to glorify God, each participant and parents of the participants, must agree to abide by the academic and Christian intent of the rules. While not all instances can be addressed, each participant must understand the programs are designed to enhance the educational experience.

It shall be a goal to win the contest. This winning attitude encompasses both spiritual and physical victory (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) *"Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown of laurel that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly, I do not fight like a man shadow boxing. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

A coach shall play as many players as possible, but not necessarily all in any one game. Throughout the course of a season, the coach will make every effort to schedule games that will present opportunities to students not usually on the starting team.

### **MATTHEW 18 PRINCIPLE**

Matthew 18:15-17 states, "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his faults between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

At MCA, we request that the Matthew 18 Principle be followed when dealing with others, which also applies to the athletic program. Any questions, concerns, or complaints should always begin at the appropriate level and communicate through the proper channels: athlete, coaching staff, athletic director, principle and school board.

## **STANDARDS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES', COACHES', AND SPECTATORS' BEHAVIOR**

MCA conducts an interscholastic sports program in the belief that competitive team experiences contribute significantly to the development of character, mutual support, and school spirit. Sportsmanship is an important part of this training.

We expect our coaches, our players, and our students to represent the school in a manner that is respectful of others on and off the field of play. We also encourage and endorse the enthusiastic support of constituents and friends. In the process, we expect all such constituents and friends to uphold the same high standards that we expect of our students. Opposing teams and their fans are to be treated as honored guests. The administration is directed to implement these policies, and those established by the league, at all levels of competition.

### **Student Athletes:**

1. Commit for the entire season and be ready to practice, learn, and play.
2. Complete a physical exam form (signed by a doctor) on file in the MCA office, before they will be allowed to practice or participate in games.
3. Pay the athletic fee before the first game. If this is a hardship, contact the athletic director to make special arrangements.
4. Arrive to all practices and games on time. If you are going to miss a practice, the coach should be notified immediately.
5. Maintain a solid academic standing. The athletes will be responsible for daily workload for those participating in athletics. As an athlete, it is his/her responsibility to keep up daily work and use time wisely.
6. Show respect for the fellow players, coaches, and officials, as well as the opposing teams, coaches, and fans.
7. Perform to your potential and have fun learning the sport.

### **Parents:**

1. Commit your child athlete for the entire season.
2. Practice timeliness, by making sure your athlete arrives on time to all practices and games. Likewise, please be on time to pick up your athlete after every practice and game. Regarding away games, an approximate return time will be established, but cell phones will be used to inform parents when the team is running late.
3. Positively support and do not criticize the officials or coaching staff.

4. Encourage your athlete and his/her team, but do not insult or discourage your athlete or any other participating athletes.

### **Parent/Coach Communications:**

Both parents and coaches have extremely difficult jobs. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to children.

- A. Communication procedures that parents should expect from the student athlete's coach:
  1. General philosophy of your coach.
  2. Expectations of the coach
  3. Locations and times of all practices and games
  4. Team requirements, such as fees and special equipment
  5. Procedure followed, if your child is injured during participation
  6. Discipline that will result in denial of your child's participation
- B. Communication procedures that coaches should expect from the student athlete's parents:
  1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach, following the Matthew 18 Principle
  2. Notification of any schedule conflicts, well in advance
  3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

### **Parent/Coach Conferences:**

Your child's involvement in the athletic programs here at MCA can be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is greatly encouraged.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parents. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or game.** These can be emotional times for both parent and coaches. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

- A. If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, please take the following steps:
  1. Call to setup an appointment.
  2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director; he/she will set up the meeting for you.
- B. After the parent/coach conference, if the parent is not satisfied with the resolution, then follow these steps:

1. Call and setup an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

## **STUDENT ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY**

### **Behavior:**

An athlete in extra-curricular activities is representing MCA, and participation requires a willing spirit. Any athlete who consistently defies authority or conducts himself/herself inappropriately will be on behavioral accountability. Examples of inappropriate behavior would be the following: foul language, fighting, continual loss of temper, cheating, disrespect of opposing teams or coaches, arguing with the officials, etc.

After consultation with the athlete and the authority involved. The coaches, athletic director, and administrator may declare an athlete ineligible for a specified number of games or until there has been a significant improvement on the part of the athlete. Parents of the athlete will be notified in writing of such ineligibility.

### **Academics:**

In order for students to be eligible for extra-curricular activities, they must meet the following requirement:

1. All students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in a sport for that season.
2. A student may not participate with an "F" in any class. The student can regain his/her eligibility after a period of five school days by having a statement signed by the teacher in the failing class that the grade has been raised to passing.
3. Students, who are ineligible because of the "F", may practice at the principle or Athletic Director's discretion.
4. In order for students to participate in extra-curricular activities they must be in school the day of the activity.
5. Students must be in attendance at school the day after any extra-curricular activity, unless an excused notice, signed by the parent, is given to the office.
  - a. The excuse "I was too tired" **IS NOT** an excused absence.
  - b. If a student receives an unexcused absence for the above reason, he will be ineligible for the next game day or activity.
6. If a student is suspended from school for any reason, he will be ineligible for a period to be determined by the administration.
7. There may be circumstances concerning a student's eligibility that are not covered by the above stipulations, there the school administration will make the final decision concerning eligibility.

Grades will be checked by report card and interim reports. If the student receives a failing grade, the student may not participate until the grades are passing and at least one week has passed since the failure. Students, who fail at the end of the year, must wait two weeks to be eligible for the next school year.

**“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” I Corinthians 9:24-27**



## Transportation Permission Slip

I, \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for my athlete,  
(Parent's name)

\_\_\_\_\_, to ride to the away athletic  
(Athlete's name)

games in the school bus, coach's vehicle, or other parent vehicles. I understand this permission slip is valid for all the away games during this season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



## Athletic Handbook Statement of Faith

I have read and understand the Athletic Handbook, and I agree to follow the standards that have been set for this year. I will also practice the Matthew 18 Principles if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Athlete's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Athlete's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)