



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Speech:

Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt..."

- Questionable language or "slang" words will not be tolerated. The athlete will never engage in any language that can be termed "trash talking" or use profanity or questionable slang. Example: In basketball, chanting "air-ball" or screaming while the opponent is on the free-throw line shows poor sportsmanship. In baseball, making noise while an opponent is at bat shows poor sportsmanship.
- The athlete will address the coaches and officials with respect. The athlete will address the coach as "Coach" or "Mr., Miss or Mrs." and will take concerns or complaints directly to him or her. Insubordination and divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. The athlete will address officials as "Sir" or "Ma'am."
- Never criticize the officials or coaches. These individuals represent the authority figure. Obedience to authority is not optional and is not predicated on whether or not you agree with it. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God.

Our Relationships:

John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

- Develop relationships and a good rapport with teammates and coaches. God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to develop life-long friendships.
- Develop relationships and a good rapport with classmates. Do not attempt to set yourself upon a pedestal. Your classmates will not respect or support you.
- Develop relationships and a good rapport with students from other schools. Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others.

Our Unity:

I Corinthians 12:12-13 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...”

- Develop unity within your team. “It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.” John Wooden.
- Develop unity within our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different abilities and, therefore, different roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else’s role. Be busy fulfilling your role.
- Develop unity within the Kingdom. We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met – to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful. Pray for them as you pray for FBA.

Our Motives:

I Corinthians 10:31 “...do all to the Glory of God.”

- Be motivated by the love of God. Living for Him because He died for us.
- Strive for victory in order to glorify God.
- Demonstrating Christ in our lives by abiding by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair “gamesmanship” will not be tolerated.
- Committed to excellence. In all areas – faith, practice, academics and game preparation.
- Play and act like a CHAMPION!

Our Behavior:

I John 2:6 “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

- The athlete will maintain a good reputation.
- The athlete’s character will be in good standing with the administration, faculty, staff and church.
- The athlete will meet all eligibility requirements.
- The athlete will know and understand all requirements.
- The athlete will know all of the expectations of their team and will follow them both in action and in spirit.
- The athlete will show respect for all coaches, trainers and all staff personnel. This includes the game plans, methods and philosophies.
- The athlete will show respect for their teammates.
- The athlete will respect the seriousness of their commitment by attending all practices, meetings and games as prescribed at the beginning of the season and by working together to accomplish a common goal. Help to hold your teammates accountable for their actions.
- The athlete will maintain a high standard of appearance. Both in and out of the arena adhering to the strictest interpretations of the school dress code and the team dress and uniform code.
- The athlete will demonstrate Christ-like character. Both in and out of the arena showing respect in speech and actions for game officials, opponents and all those associated with our opponents.
- The athlete will never engage in fighting.

- The athlete will maintain self control at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be penalized. Penalties include, but are not limited to, suspensions or dismissal from the team. The athlete will know and understand our philosophy.
- The athlete will respect the eternal effects of their speech and actions as they represent themselves, their families, their school, their church and ultimately their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To develop students with Christian character and a biblical worldview, equipping them for life, learning, and leadership. “Renewing our minds...Surrendering our hearts to Christ.” Romans 12:1-2

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

To use athletics as a platform where student athletes will develop strong Christian character and a biblical worldview; striving to reach individual and team athletic excellence in a competitive athletic arena, while reaching our community for Jesus Christ.

***Simply Stated:* Kingdom Athletics at First Baptist Academy is the working of God in and through the lives of Christians by the means of athletics. Vision Statement: Our vision is twofold- First we strive for success, which is defined by the legendary UCLA Basketball, Coach John Wooden, “Success is peace of mind knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.” Second, we desire servant-hood, to live a life on a daily basis where one is willing to put another’s well being before his/her own.**

PHILOSOPHY:

First Baptist Academy Athletic Department will provide opportunity to field competitive athletic teams in a variety of interscholastic sports. Coaches, parents, spectators, and student-athletes are expected to participate in and/or support these programs following the principles & policies of First Baptist Academy and First Baptist Church Naples.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

For sports with multiple levels of participation (Varsity, Junior Varsity, A Team 7-8, B Team 6-7), First Baptist Academy supports the following organizational structure. Each of the multi-level sport teams will be considered a unified program. They will all share common goals and cooperation among coaches.

Boys Sports: FALL

- Cross Country (ES 3-5 grade; MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Football (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Golf (*Varsity 6-12 grade)

Boys Sports: WINTER

- Basketball (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Soccer (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)

Boys Sports: SPRING

- Baseball (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Track & Field (ES 3-5 grade; MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)

Girls Sports: FALL

- Cheer-Spirit Squad (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Cross Country (ES 3-5 grade; MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Volleyball (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)

Girls Sports: WINTER

- Basketball (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Cheer-Spirit Squad (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)
- Soccer (MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)

Girls Sports: SPRING

- Tennis (*Varsity 6-12 grade)
- Track & Field (ES 3-5 grade; MS 6-8 grade; Varsity 9-12 grade)

** MS must be able to play at a varsity level*

First Baptist Academy adheres to the athletic and academic policies and bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and at the middle school level we compete in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC). FHSAA bylaws are available online on the FHSAA website. The bylaws/policies outlined in this handbook are a brief synopsis of what is available in the full version of the FHSAA Handbook.

MULTIPLE LEVEL SPORT PROGRAMS

B Team Level (Grades 6-7)

Our goal for the student-athlete, at the middle school level, is to introduce and teach various sports. As an athletic program we teach and practice different fundamentals and athletic skills necessary for success in a variety of sports. We will also strive to develop a foundation of commitment to team, sport, and individual effort. Our goal at this level is to see as many student-athletes participate and enjoy the athletic activities we offer at FBA while improving in their sport specific fundamental skill sets.

A Team Level (Grades 6-8)

Our goal for the student-athlete at the A Team level is to further develop the fundamental skills necessary for athletic achievement. At this level we will further introduce and practice the specific skills needed for each individual sport. Further emphasis will be placed on such areas as: commitment to team and sport, and the development of a positive competitive spirit.

Junior Varsity (Grades 6-11)

Our goal for the student-athlete at the JV level is to continue to build on individual and sport specific fundamental skills, as well as commitment to team and sport. We will also take a more serious approach to competition. At this level we will develop team concepts, and more intricate strategies and tactics for each individual sport.

Varsity (Grades 6-12)

Our goal at the Varsity level is for our student-athletes to possess the ability, skill, commitment, and determination for intense interscholastic competition. All of the other program values such as 9 fundamental skills, team concepts and strategies and tactics for each individual sport are all important aspects of the varsity experience as well.

REQUIRED FORMS

Before a student is permitted to try out, practice, compete, be given equipment or a uniform, he/she must have on file with the Athletic Office the following documentation:

- ❖ EL2 Form – Participation Physical Evaluation. NO alternative form will be accepted
- ❖ EL3 Form – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate
- ❖ Athlete Code of Conduct Signature Page
- ❖ ImPACT Testing Form {football athletes & high school athletes only}
 - Consent to have student-athlete participate in pre-concussion cognitive testing and post-concussion testing if needed.
- ❖ GA4 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting. (If applicable)
 - This form is for students **who changed schools any time during his/her high school career, after having begun the 9th grade in another school.**

Home School Extension Students are required to have the same forms as a standard student, in addition to the following:

- ❖ EL7 Form- Athletic Participation Registration Form for Home Education Student
- ❖ EL7V Form- Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education office.
 - This form is used in place of the EL7 Form if you have previously registered with the Home Education Office.
- ❖ EL9 Form – Home Education Student Academic Progress Report **must** be turned in to the athletic office after first semester to academically qualify for second semester.

International Students are required to have the same forms as a standard student, in addition to the following:

- ❖ EL 4 Form – Registration of Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student.

All of the above forms are available on the FBA website or from the Athletic Office.

SEASONS DEFINED

It is the philosophy of the FBA Athletic Department that the beginning of a new sport season should not conflict with an in-season coach and/or athlete from bringing a current season to a successful conclusion. It is with the interest of all sports that the following policy has been formulated:

- An athlete is expected to practice with his/her team until the conclusion of the final interscholastic competition.
- An athlete who quits prior to conclusion of the sport season will NOT be permitted to practice for another sport until the current sport concludes its season.
- In those sports where entire teams qualify for the post-season (district level and above play), an athlete who quits may not begin to practice for another sport until the team is eliminated from further competition.
- In those sports where individuals, rather than teams, qualify for postseason play, an athlete who quits prior to the conclusion of the season will not be permitted to practice until the conclusion of the regular season schedule or district tournament, where applicable. However, if BOTH the coach of the team losing the athlete and the coach of the team gaining the athlete agree, this policy may be waived and the athlete may be release to begin practicing with the new team. This exception will occur only when the best interest of all the athletes in both programs are respected. The Athletic Director must endorse any waiver of this policy before the student can attend practice with his/her new team.
- When a team has completed its season, as defined above, athletes are to be released to practice for the next sport season.

FHSAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Middle School / High School Grading Scale:

- A 90-100 = 4.0
- B 80-89 = 3.0
- C 70-79 = 2.0
- D 60-69 = 1.0
- F 0-59 = 0.0

Eligibility Requirements (Grades 6-12)

FHSAA Policy 9.4.1- 2.0 GPA Required for Academic Eligibility. A middle/junior high student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester.

A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester (§ 1006.15(3)(a)1, F.S.). Final grades previously earned by the student from another school shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

9.4.1.2- Academic Eligibility/Ineligibility is for a Semester. A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically eligible for that entire semester. Likewise, a student who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically ineligible for that entire semester, except as provided by Bylaw

9.4.5.1.2. The student's academic eligibility for each successive semester will depend upon his/her cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the previous semester.

9.4.1.5- Academic Performance Contract. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by (§ 1003.4282, F.S.), must, upon discovery, execute and fulfill the requirements of an Academic Performance Contract between the student, the school, and the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, which at a minimum must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent (i.e. adult education, Florida Virtual School, etc.), between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary. (§ 1006.15(3)(a)2, F.S.).

FHSAA BEHAVIORAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Proper behavior must be demonstrated whether in school or during competition. The consequences for improper behavior may be temporary, or permanent, suspension from a team, as deemed necessary by administration.

9.5- FHSAA LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY POLICY

9.5.1 High School Student Has Four Years of Eligibility. A student is limited to four consecutive school years of eligibility beginning with school year he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has four years of participation. After four consecutive school years, the student is permanently ineligible, unless clear and convincing evidence of a hardship, as defined in Bylaw 10.4.4, has been accepted by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

9.5.1.1 Student Whose Limit of Eligibility Expires During Sports Season. A student whose four-year limit of eligibility expires during the season of a sport in which the student is participating may complete the season if the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements. The student, however, will not be permitted to participate in any other sport that begins after his/her limit of eligibility has expired.

9.5.1.2 Participation Prior to High School Does Not Affect Limit of Eligibility. A student's four-year limit of high school eligibility is not affected by the student's participation in interscholastic athletics before beginning the ninth grade for the first time.

9.5.2 A 6th, 7th or 8th Grade Student Has 1-Year Limit of Eligibility in Each Grade. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student may participate only one year in each grade level. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the grade being repeated.

9.3.2- FHSAA TRANSFER POLICY

A transfer occurs when a student makes any change in schools after he/she establishes residency at a school each year.

A student who transfers from one school to another will be eligible at the new school provided the student qualifies under one of the following:

- 9.3.2 Transfer Eligibility. A student who transfers from one school to another during the school year may seek to immediately join an existing team if the roster for the specific interscholastic or interscholastic extracurricular activity has not reached that activity's identified maximum size, provided the coach for the activity determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate (§ 1006.15(9)(a), F.S.). The student may not be declared ineligible because the student did not have the opportunity to comply with qualifying requirements or provided the student qualifies under one of the following:
 - ◆ 9.3.2.1 Move to New Residence.
 - ◆ 9.3.2.2 Move to New Residence Following Marriage.
- 9.3.2.3 Transfer after Starting a Sport.
 - ◆ 9.3.3 Qualifying Transfer Student Becomes Eligible on Sixth Day of Attendance.
 - ◆ 9.3.3.1 Transfer Student Must Provide Academic Records.
- 9.3.3.2 Transfer Student's Former School Must Verify Eligibility Status Upon Request.

- 9.3.3.3 Transfer Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained.
- 9.3.4 Ineligible Student Cannot Transfer to Become Eligible.
 - ◆ 9.3.4.1 Students Under Expulsion. A student who has been expelled by a school district or school shall not be considered eligible at any member school during the length of the expulsion.
- 9.3.5.1 Student Who Transfers After the Florida High School State Championship Series in a Sport Begins.
 - ◆ 9.3.5.2 Student Who Participated in a State Championship Series in Another State.

9.6- FHSAA AGE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

- 9.6.1 High School Age Limit. A student may participate at the high school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months if the student has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility.
- 9.6.2.1 When Junior High Age Limit Applies. The 16 year 9 month junior high school age limit applies to a participating student only when: (a) Teams representing junior high schools compete against each other; or (b) Teams representing the junior high school departments of combination junior-senior high schools compete against each other.
- 9.6.3 Middle School Age Limit. A student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 15 years 9 months.

HOME SCHOOL POLICY/PROCEDURES

Once a student has been accepted as part of the FBA Home School Extension Program, the Admissions Director would direct the family to contact the Athletic Office for the necessary sports paperwork to participate in FBA Athletics. Only after being verified as an enrolled HSE Student and the proper athletic participation forms have been submitted to the Athletic Office, will the athlete be permitted to try-out, practice, or compete in a FBA sport.

To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must:

- (a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides
- (b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate
- (c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students
- (d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation (EL9 Form)
- (e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements
- (f) must be approved by the FHSAA Office



SPORT PARTICIPATION FEES

All FBA/HSE student-athletes who participate in sports activities are responsible for the appropriate participation fee per season/per sport. This fee will be billed via RenWeb within 30 days of the season starting. Payment may be made by check or credit card. Credit card payments must be made via your RenWeb account. 13

- Football \$125
- All other Sports \$100
- Elementary Sports \$50

TRANSPORTATION

Parent/Guardian Athletic Activity & Transportation Release: It is expected when transportation is provided for an athletic event, all student-athletes will take advantage of transportation to and/or from the away athletic event.

When a student is enrolled either as a new student or reroled for the next school year, during the enrollment process, he or she gives permission for the student-athlete to ride a school provided vehicle and also authorizes an FBA coach or an FBA representative to obtain medical attention for your child in the event of an emergency while either participating in or traveling to and from a school sponsored athletic event.

Transportation of Athletes: All athletes will ride to an away game in a school bus, van, or other approved transportation under the direct supervision of their coach, assistant coach, and/or approved chaperone.

At the completion of the contest an athlete may be permitted to leave with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). However, this is at the discretion of the coach. It is required that a parent/guardian speak directly with the coach, informing the coach of their departure. If an athlete is to leave with someone other than his/her parent or guardian, an Alternate Travel Release Form is required to be given to the coach informing him/her of these arrangements prior to departure for the game.

Alternate Travel: There may be a time when a student will need to ride with someone other than the coach due to special circumstances or drive themselves. In these incidences, a special permission slip is available on the school website (Alternate Travel Release Form) that must be printed, signed by the parent/guardian, and faxed back to the Athletic Office (239-449-4490), or given to the coach prior to departure to the game.



TEAM SCHEDULES

FBA Website {www.fbalions.org}: Game schedules may be obtained through the school website in two separate locations:

- ❖ On the main page under Upcoming Events- Click View Calendar and scroll down to Lions Athletic Calendar. This calendar can be viewed with all upcoming athletic events or can be filtered by individual sport.
- ❖ On the Athletics page of the website... Choose season and individual sport
- ❖ ParentsWeb in RenWeb... Today/Tomorrow's Events

ATTENDANCE POLICY: EXCUSED

- ❖ Students must be in attendance at least four class periods in order to participate in a contest scheduled for that day.
- ❖ If a student is absent for part or all of the day and is granted a non-illness related excused absence (doctor appointment, funeral, college visit), the student may participate in the practice/game with the permission of the Athletic Director.
- ❖ On Early Release Day's athletes MUST check in no later than 8:30 am to be eligible to participate in games the same day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: UNEXCUSED

- ❖ Any unexcused absence from school, regardless if it is only for a partial day, will cause the student to be unable to participate in the practice/game.
- ❖ Any student who serves an In-School Suspension (ISS) or an Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be ineligible to participate. Moreover, an athlete who is disciplined by the principal for isolated or repeated acts of misbehavior, is subject to immediate ineligibility, the duration of which to be determined by the principal.

HEAT & CONCUSSION POLICY

Any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, vomiting, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professionals as defined by FHSAA.

ImPACT Program: All NEW TO FBA JV & Varsity Student-Athletes & MS football athletes will undergo Immediate Post-concussion Assessment & Cognitive testing (ImPACT). A baseline test will be administered by the Athletic Trainer on staff. This test is a non-evasive, computer-based test which gives a baseline of pre-concussion data, which is kept on file at a secure ImPACT website. If a head injury is suspected, the athlete may undergo post-concussion ImPACT testing

to determine when/if an athlete will be permitted to resume active participation. Testing results may be released to the athlete's primary care physician, neurologist, or other treating physician. Written clearance from a physician and normal progression through a series of steps administered by the Athletic Trainer are also required before return to play is approved. There is NO charge for this test. The test will be readministered every two years.

THORGUARD LIGHTNING POLICY

The object of this policy is to institute safeguards against the hazards of potential lightning risks. In order to minimize risk, administration has installed the ThorGuard System.

The ThorGuard System is a totally integrated advance warning system that continuously monitors the atmosphere's electrostatic energy as far away as 15 miles and evaluates the potential for lightning within an area of approximately 2 miles in radius.

This system alerts coaches/administrators via text message of an impending lightning strike in the vicinity of the campus. The ThorGuard System will sound a warning horn to proceed to cover as quickly as possible. Athletes and fans will be directed where to proceed to cover.

During practices/games, student-athletes will not be permitted by his/her coach to leave the safety of a shelter during a red alert from ThorGuard until the red alert has been lifted.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

Each athlete is responsible for proper care of the uniform and equipment they are issued by the school. Uniforms should be kept clean and have a neat appearance for each game. In some incidences the coach may collect uniforms for laundering.

At the end of the season, the athlete should return the uniform clean to the coach, **not the school athletic office**. The athlete will be responsible to pay for the replacement of a uniform not returned, or returned damaged beyond normal wear and tear.

WINGED FOOT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARD NOMINEE

The Winged Foot Scholar-Athlete Award is designed to recognize the **top senior scholar-athletes** in Collier County's high schools, public and private. The program pays tribute to "Winged Foot Nominees" consisting of one senior scholar-athlete, selected by school officials, to represent each high school.

Applicants must meet a set of criteria in order to apply. The winning representative from each high school will receive a \$5,000 scholarship award. The Winged Foot Scholarship Award winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship award, an elegant Winged Foot Trophy, along with his/her name engraved on the original Winged Foot Trophy displayed at Lutgert Insurance. Applications will be made available to students in April.



END OF THE YEAR ALL SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT

This event is held annually in May for all student-athletes who participated in a high school level Varsity or JV sport during the school year. It is highly encouraged that all student-athletes and their parents attend.

Middle school level teams will receive a sport participation certificate during a MS Chapel or special assembly at the end of the season of the sport.

STUDENT-ATHLETE INSURANCE

All FBA students, including FBA Homeschool Extension Students, are covered under a secondary accident/injury insurance policy that covers your child during school hours and school sponsored events. This includes all interscholastic sport practices and games.

Claims must be filed with your personal carrier first and then with the school's carrier.

The benefits are limited and are not designed to pay all the medical expenses incurred and should serve as a secondary policy.

When your child is injured, an accident report will be completed by the coach or supervisor of the activity in which your child was participating then forwarded on to the Business Office for processing. Once the Business Office receives the report, you will be emailed forms and a copy of the report so you may file a claim with the school's insurance carrier. If you do not have a primary insurance policy, the school policy would serve as your primary insurance carrier.

Have questions about the secondary insurance policy, please contact Cindy Case in the FBA Business Office at 239.596.8600 x 256.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER IN ATHLETICS?

All volunteers & coaches assisting with any FBA team must be cleared by the Human Resources office.

A volunteer and/or coaching application must be completed and returned to the FBA Athletic Office. Once returned, you will be contacted the athletic director for a brief meeting. Following the meeting, you will be asked to submit to fingerprinting by the HR office. Once cleared, you will be notified by the athletic department you are all set to begin to volunteer.

