



Temple Christian Academy Athletic Guidelines

Philosophy

Temple Christian Academy offers a variety of sports for students in all grades. We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom, at home, and through the local church can be put into practice through athletics. Athletics allow the student to develop and use his/her God-given ability to glorify God. Because the arena of competition is usually surrounded with pressure, the athlete is tested, and true character revealed. (Colossians 3:17) Opportunity for character growth readily presents itself through athletic competition. Athletics at TCA is an integral part of a student athlete's curriculum, though it is a voluntary extracurricular activity. Our philosophy can be summed up by the phrase "doing our best as we strive to be the best." (Colossians 3:23) We believe as Christians that we are commanded by Scripture always to do OUR best. As believers, we are not to waste the talent God has given us by giving anything less than total commitment through participation and maximum effort. (Philippians 4:13) We also believe we should STRIVE to be THE best at what we do. Being the best at anything, whether it is a national merit scholar or the state champion in basketball, is a worthy and admirable goal of any Christian. Becoming the best may not always be the result of our athletic program; however, doing OUR best for God's glory must be.

We believe each sport at TCA should be developed into a program which honors our Lord Jesus Christ. The Athletic Director is responsible for providing leadership, a consistent structure, and ensuring that the school's philosophies are implemented at all levels of the program. The program should build pride among the participants and support among the student body. Parents are valued as partners in this process of athletic education.

Objectives

- Exhibiting the splendor of God's creative power evident in the unique capabilities of the human mind, body, and spirit. (Genesis 1:27)
- Developing and exhibiting a strong work ethic. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- Developing and exhibiting exceptional unity and teamwork. (I Corinthians 12:12)
- Developing and exhibiting self-control. (Galatians 5:22)
- Loving the opponent. (Romans 12:16-17)
- Respecting and praying for each other. (II Corinthians 1:11)

Eligibility Requirements

1. Students are required to pay a one-time athletic fee of \$125 to TCA prior to participation in any sports program. This fee includes all the necessities required to run an athletic program such as uniforms, referees, equipment, etc.
2. In accordance with the SCACS rules, the following grade requirements apply and will be checked at every progress report and report card. All participants in all programs must maintain at least a 70/C- average overall with no failing grades at the time of eligibility check. Students whose grades fall below the requirements at the time grades are issued will be placed on academic probation for two weeks during which time they cannot participate in practices or games.
3. Any homeschool student who wishes to participate in the TCA athletic program must take 1 core subject (mathematics, English, science, history, foreign language) at TCA.
4. Any athlete with more than 1 Level 3 infraction during the school year will be dismissed from the team.
5. At the discretion of the administration, athletes receiving disciplinary action while at school or a school function will not play in the next scheduled game.
6. All athletes must be in class at least half the day of a game or practice in order to play or practice that afternoon or evening. If athletes are too sick to come to school, they are too sick to practice or play. However, a medical appointment or a pre-arranged absence with the administration may be excusable.
7. Attendance to practice is mandatory for each team's success; unexcused absences from a practice will be handled by the individual coach.
8. Every athlete is required to have a medical exam/health assessment/parental consent form completely filled out and on file with the Athletic Director before participation.

Guidelines for Players

1. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ, their families, and TCA.
2. Cell phones may only be used to call parents prior to the arrival at TCA. No headphones or ear buds are allowed at any time. (please see TCA parent-student handbook for further explanation)
3. Players may not ride home from an away game with anyone other than their own parents unless prior permission has been granted by the coach or Athletic Director. This is for the safety of your children.
4. We want our athletes to look neat and modest. We are representing not only TCA, but also our Lord. On game days, players must abide by the following dress code: ladies must wear dresses or blouses and skirts, and men must wear dress shirts, ties, and slacks. Jeans may NOT be worn on game days. Some exceptions may apply throughout the season at the discretion of the coach or Athletic Director.

5. Players must follow student handbook guidelines in reference to dress code for practice attire. Ladies and men should dress in t-shirts with sleeves and shorts to the knee; sweat pants are also allowed.

Guidelines for Parents/Spectators

1. All fans and parents, along with athletes and coaches, are expected to exhibit a positive attitude towards the opposing team and the officials. Displays of arrogance, temper, rudeness, dishonesty, or disrespect towards officials, opposing teams, or the coaches will be taken seriously by the administration and Athletic Director of TCA.
2. Parents should not “coach” from the stands during any game. This can only be detrimental as the coach needs the full attention and concentration of his/her players. Parents negatively approaching the coach or player on the bench during the game, half-time, or immediately after a game prior to the post-game meeting, will not be overlooked. **The team, players, and coaches should be able to expect full support from the parents during victories and defeats.**
3. It is reasonable to expect that any parent that has permitted his/her child to participate in the athletic program should be supportive of the team’s coach. **Each coach has the full responsibility and authority to determine which players are entered into the games, when, and for how long.** This is determined on the basis of what will best benefit the team as a whole and upon such characteristics as talent, motivation, experience, and spiritual character.
4. If an issue cannot be resolved in a reasonable manner between a parent and a coach, then a meeting should be scheduled with the parent, coach, and Athletic Director.

I have read and agree to the rules and regulations set forth by the coaches, Athletic Director, and administration of Temple Christian Academy. I understand that it is my responsibility to uphold these guidelines and be supportive of and respectful to all coaches, the Athletic Director, and the administration of TCA, understanding that giving respect to these authoritative figures ultimately displays respect for God’s authority.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent