

Interscholastic Sports Handbook

Winter Haven Christian School  
Athletic Handbook  
2016-2017



**WARRIORS**

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## **General Information**

### **Philosophy**

The program of interscholastic athletics at Winter Haven Christian School is designed to develop within each athlete Christian values and Christian attitudes toward one another. It allows for the development of physical skills in individual and team sports and for proper health habits to aide in the development of these skills.

- To recognize that each individual student is a unique creation of God.
- To provide the opportunities for maximum participation for all students in a variety of activities and play.
- To develop within each athlete the individual and team skills necessary to compete successfully and reach for that individual, God given potential.
- To develop within each athlete strong team spirit and loyalty to the school.
- To instill positive sportsmanship in every athlete.

### **General Beliefs**

We believe that the purpose of the program is to emphasize that being an athlete is not just about sports, but it's also an opportunity for ministry.

- We believe that playing on a team is a privilege, not a right.
- We believe that each sport provides an activity through which students may express themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally.
- We believe that the coaches have a unique opportunity to direct and encourage students in the development of their lives.

### **Administration Structure**

- Athletics are to be closely aligned with the general instructional program and properly articulated with the other departments of WHCS.
- Athletics is to be conducted under the rules of the Florida High School Athletic Association and Central Florida Athletic Conference.
- The athletes at WHCS should play to win, but winning should never be overshadowed by spiritual or educational goals.
- The Athletic Director has been assigned by the Principal to administer the athletic program. Head coaches are directly responsible to the Athletic Director and are charged with the supervision of those assistant coaches related to their program.

### **Chain of Events for Conflict**

- The athlete should discuss the issue with the Head coach and try to come to an understanding.
- If the above discussion does not provide an adequate solution to the issue, the parent should meet with the coach to discuss the issue.
- If the above discussion does not provide an adequate solution to the issue, the athlete and the parent should discuss the issue with the Athletic Director.

- If the above discussion does not provide an adequate solution to the issue, the athlete and parent should discuss the issue with the Principal.

## **Coaches**

### **Application for Coaching**

To be a coach at WHCS, the Coaches Application is to be filled out and submitted to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will turn those applications in to the Principal, who will get approval from the Board.

### **Fingerprinting**

It is requirement for all persons working on the WHCS campus to have their fingerprints on file with the Florida Law Enforcement Office. WHCS will pay for each coach to have their fingerprints made. Please set this appointment up in the school office.

### **Supplement for Coaches**

At this current time, all coaches, Head and Assistant, will be on a volunteer basis. There are volunteer hours that can be earned. See the school office for more information on this program.

### **Coach's Demeanor**

WHCS recognizes that the coach's conduct is to be above reproach. When with the athletes, the coach is to:

- Instruct the athletes to address of him/her as "coach" plus last name.
- Set the team standards high and expect each athlete to meet them.
- Be a friend but not a buddy. A professional attitude is to be maintained at all times.
- Listen when an athlete needs to talk. A problem may exist that merits extra consideration.
- Be a role model by showing how problems should be faced and solved.
- Be consistent and fair. Have no favorites.
- Be positive, even in situations where there is disappointment with the team's performance or conduct. Make certain that the words you speak and the actions you take result in profitable learning for the athletes.
- Refrain from using words that have double meanings.
- Refrain from physical contact (male coach) with female athletes.

### **Assistant Coaches**

Anyone who desires to be an Assistant Coach must fill out an application, be fingerprinted, and go through the approval process.

### **Materials for Distribution**

All materials, letters, flyers, etc. for distribution to athletes and parents are to have prior approval from the Athletic Director.

### **Fund-raising**

There will be a number of fundraising opportunities available throughout the year. Each coach is expected to participate and see that his/her players participate.

### **Required Forms**

All athletes are required to have a physical examination. Before an athlete may participate in the first practice the following forms must be turned into the Athletic Director and filled in the office:

- Athletic Participate Form
- Commitment to Excellence
- Parents Code of Conduct
- Concussion & Heat Illness Information Release Form
- County Participation Physical Evaluation
- Consent and Release from Liability Certificate

### **Try-outs**

Teams will be selected based on skill and attitude. Being a member of one of our teams is not a right, but a privilege. Students from a lower grade level may be placed on a higher-level team with the Athletic Director's approval. Cuts are to be approved by the Athletic Director before any discussion with the athletes.

### **Parent Meeting**

Each team will have an organizational meeting prior to the first match of the season. The following information must be covered:

- Parent volunteer sign -up
- Athletic paperwork/Fees
- Practice schedule
- Game schedule
- Team rules
- Parent code of conduct
- Uniform distribution/care/return

### **Music**

All music for home games or matches must have approval from the Athletic Director. Music may not have any harmful or inappropriate language or themes.

### **Team Photographs**

Team photographs will be scheduled and taken by a photographer designated by the Athletic Director. All players must be in uniform when these photos are taken. Only coaches, players and managers will be allowed to be in the pictures. Every effort will be made to make sure everyone is present for the photos.

### **Equipment Care**

The sports equipment is expensive! It is to be guarded and accounted for after each practice and game. At no time is equipment to be left at the game site. A request may be submitted in writing to the Athletic Director for any equipment a coach feels is necessary for his/her team.

### **Uniforms**

The school will purchase all uniforms. Each team may purchase new uniforms on a four or five year rotation or when necessary by wear. New styles do not justify a need for new uniforms. The uniform is loaned to the athlete, and he/she is responsible for its care. It is to be cleaned for each game. The athletes need to wash the uniform properly. They are to be washed alone with a mild detergent and line dried – NEVER put uniforms in the dryer. Failure to follow these guidelines will require replacement and payment by the athlete.

### **Eligibility Guidelines**

WHCS is a member of the Central Florida Athletic Conference and will adhere to the eligibility guidelines outlined by the Conference. Questions pertaining to the CFAC rules and regulations should be directed to the Athletic Director.

A student is eligible to participate in conference contact sports (soccer, flag football and basketball) if he/she turns 12 years old before September 1 or is enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, or if he/she turns 19 years old after September 1. Any student, who turns 16 years old before September 1, may not participate in any Junior Varsity conference sport. Non-contact sports have no minimum age requirement.

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and be passing all classes (“D” or higher) to remain eligible to compete in games. They are allowed, however, to continue practice if agreed upon by the parent/guardian, administration and coaching staff in order to keep in training.

### **Practices**

- For consistency, the coach for each sport will establish the basic practice times.
- All Wednesday practices must end by 5:30PM to allow for church attendance. Athletes cannot be punished for not practicing on Wednesdays, or any other day, due to church activities.
- All practices should begin with prayer.
- If practicing in a gym, outsiders should not be in the gym unless given permission by the coach.
- While in the gym, all players must stay inside the gym and in eyesight of the coach.
- Athletes are to always be in the range of their coach’s vision.
- After a practice or game, the coach must not leave the property until the last athlete has been picked up.

- Athletes who have been asked to withdraw from the team or WHCS may not be in the gym or on the field during a practice.
- There will be NO Sunday practices.
- An upcoming sport may be promoted or begin practice before the current season has ended. If the upcoming sport needs a facility, the current sport has priority.
- In the event of inclement weather, there will be a 30 minute delay. This is concordance with the FSHAA.

### **Post Season Awards**

At the end of each season, coaches may hold awards parties. To receive an award, the athlete should be present at the awards ceremony unless a valid reason is provided. Parties are to be in accordance with school guidelines.

### **Athletes**

#### **Player Conduct**

Abusive language, rude or disrespectful behavior, and fighting will not be tolerated. All technical fouls, red cards, and unsportsmanlike conduct by players will be reported to the Athletic Director and the CFAC, if necessary. Discipline may include suspension from the team for a determined number of days, weeks, or contests.

If an athlete is on External Suspension on the day of a game, he/she is not allowed to be on campus or attend any school sponsored event that day (on or off campus) including games and practices.

An athlete's participation in any of the following items listed below will result in expulsion from the team:

- Smoking
- Drinking of alcoholic beverages
- Using drugs
- Displaying poor class or travel conduct
- Persistent violation of team dress code
- Continual use of unacceptable language

#### **Policy on Schoolwork Missed Due to Early Departure**

When leaving school early for an athletic event, all schoolwork, including quizzes, tests, and homework, are to be completed and turned in before departure.

#### **Initiation**

No initiation or hazing of any kind is allowed. No athlete will be allowed to take advantage of another athlete in any way. If the rule is violated, discipline of the team will result.

#### **Performance Enhancing Drugs**

The use of any anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs by a student athlete is not permissible and is considered to be an act of gross un- sportsmanlike conduct. A student athlete discovered to be using such substances will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic

contest until medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of those substances.

### **School Attendance**

To participate in an afternoon or evening sport, the athlete is required to be in school 50% of the school day.

### **Practice and Game Attendance**

Prior notice is to be given to the coach for any absences. If prior notice is possible, but neglected, the absence will be counted unexcused. The following are considered excused absences for practice or games:

- Illness
- Unavoidable medical appointments
- Death in the family
- Private academic tutoring
- Special family situations
- Special church activities

### **Leave of Absence/Withdrawal from a Sport**

Athletes may not take a "leave of absence" from the team, unless for medical reason or if deemed necessary by the coach and the Athletic Director. Players who leave may not be allowed to play in future years or in other sports. A letter of reinstatement must be approved by the Athletic Director before returning to the team.

### **Dual – Sport Athletes**

A player committed to one sport may not quit during the season to participate in another sport. WHCS athletes may participate in multiple sports within a season, but must be approved by the coaches and the Athletic Director.

### **Requirements**

All athletes must get a physical. All athletes must pay a seasonal sports fee of \$100 per player per "season". A "season" is defined as a fall sport, a winter sport, or a spring sport. Not to exceed 3 fees in a school year. Payment Plans are available upon request of the Athletic Director.

All athletes must complete the following forms:

- WHCS Athletic Participation Form
- WHCS Athletes Commitment to Excellent
- WHCS Parents Code of Conduct
- FHSAA/Polk County Consent and Release from Liability Certificate EL3
- FHSAA/Polk County Participation Physical Evaluation EL2