

A.O.K. ATHLETICS

“Putting Christ in the Contest”

The purpose of athletics in our Christian schools is to provide student with an opportunity to develop their athletic abilities in an inter-scholastic setting. It is the league’s goal to provide organizational structure, coaching, and a competitive environment which is consistent with our educational philosophies and the Christian faith. Although competitive in nature, athletics are a cooperative venture among several parties.

Coaches

Coaches will assume the responsibility to conduct themselves in ways consistent with the Christian faith as they lead and direct young people in athletic endeavors (Proverbs 16:32).

This includes:

1. showing respect for opposing players, coaches, and contest officials. It is particularly important that coaches model appropriate behavior and respect for officials who may be in error. The team’s behavior is often a reflection of the coach.
2. facilitating fair and healthy competition by upholding not only the stated rules, but also the spirit of the rules.
3. modeling how to be victorious without being boastful and how to lose without bitterness.
4. assuming responsibility for the behavior and demeanor of our athletes before, during, and immediately following a contest.
5. recognizing the value of all team members and communicating with them openly about their role on the team.

Student athletes

Student athletes will strive to conduct themselves in ways consistent with the Christian faith (Proverbs 20:11).

This includes:

1. placing the good of the team ahead of personal accomplishment or recognition.
2. respecting all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
3. allowing coaches to handle disagreements with officials.
4. recognizing the spirit and intensity of competition, while at the same time maintaining a spirit of cooperation and fair play.
5. not seeking pleasure from the degradation of an opponent.
6. avoiding personal confrontation with opponents and officials, including inappropriate remarks, taunting, or any action meant to put an opponent down.

Parents

Parents of athletes will strive to conduct themselves in such a way that brings glory to God (I Thessalonians 5:11).

This includes:

1. providing encouragement for their children as well as the children of others even when their teammates are playing more.
2. showing respect for the abilities and efforts of the opponent.
3. demonstrating respect for officials even when their decisions are questionable or even wrong.
4. modeling for their child how to handle disagreements with the coach by communicating with the coach about problems rather than other players or parents
5. approaching the athletic director only after communication with the coach has failed to solve difficult situations.

Athletic Directors

Athletic directors will provide the organizational structure needed for competition to take place in a way glorifying to God (Matthew 18:15).

This includes:

1. assuming responsibility for the behavior and demeanor of our school's coaches, parents, and players.
2. communicating to coaches, parents, and players expectations for participation in the league.
3. communicating to representative of our school when they need reproof for inappropriate behavior.
4. communicating with the athletic director of other schools to inform them of situations that need attention.

I acknowledge the importance of cooperation in athletics and agree to fulfill my responsibilities as outlined above.

_____ Date _____
(signed – athlete)

_____ Date _____
(signed – parent)

_____ Date _____
(signed – coach)

_____ Date _____
(signed – Athletic Director)