

Athletic Handbook

2016-2017



HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
RED WOLVES

Haywood Christian Academy
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Table of Content

1. Philosophy
2. Goals of the Program
3. Vision of the Program
4. Sports Offered
5. Participation
6. Academic Eligibility
7. Physicals
8. Financial Obligations
9. Transportation
10. Dress Code
11. Uniforms
12. Inclement Weather
13. Attendance Policy
14. Homework Policy
15. School Absences Due to Athletic Events
16. Post-Game Day Policy
17. Communication Guidelines
18. Service Opportunities
19. Quitting
20. Sportsmanship
21. Athletic Awards
22. Lettering
23. Athletic Chain of Command

1. Philosophy

Athletics at Haywood Christian Academy are an integral part of the school's total educational program and stems directly from the school's mission, vision, core values and philosophy of education. Athletics are important but should not take the place of academics, church or family commitments. It strives to instill positive Christ-like character that is expressed openly through athletic completion.

Athletes should be aware that participation in sports is a privilege, **not a right**, and that athletes earn that privilege through academic achievement, athletic skill, work ethic and a respectful attitude.

While varsity teams put a greater emphasis on winning, the purpose of the middle school program is to prepare athletes for the varsity level. Winning is not the only goal of middle school teams, but this experience does attempt to teach team commitment and a winning attitude and at the same time develop the skills of the individual athlete. The purpose of the athletic program, regardless of age level, is to develop endurance, strength, coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork as well as to develop recreational habits that will be of value in later life. Athletics also provide opportunities to respond in times of adversity with Christian character.

2. Goals of the Programs

The goals of the HCA Athletic program are to:

- Represent the person of Jesus Christ in the area of athletic competition
- Allow students to use their God-given physical abilities and talent
- Develop student athletes who are playing to glorify and honor God as well as develop discipline and self-controlled attitudes
- Teach our students the benefit of physical fitness, training and competition as a means to take care of God's temple
- Teach the value of athletic competition, leadership and teamwork

3. Vision of the Program

The vision for our program is reflected in our athletes, coaches, parents and department as a whole.

- Athletes who genuinely have a love for God and the confidence to represent Him at all times on and off the court/field
- Coaches who love their athletes, work hard to improve team skills, and model leadership and humility to everyone they come in contact with

- Parents who support and pray for our coaches and athletes, and volunteer time toward the improvement of our athletic program
- An Athletic Department and Administration that is organized, dedicated, involved, and excited about the successes of our athletic teams

4. Sports Offered

Fall: Middle School Boys Soccer
Middle School Volleyball
High School Boys Soccer
High School Volleyball

Winter: Middle School Boys Basketball
Middle School/High School Cheerleading (5th-12th)
Middle School/High School Girls Basketball (8th -12th)
High School Boys Basketball

Spring: Middle School Girls Soccer
High School Girls Soccer

5. Participation

All teams at HCA are expected to play hard in the true spirit of competition; however, there is a different emphasis at each level of play:

Middle School (grades 5-8): At the Middle School level (5th-8th grades), the opportunity exists for students to participate on an athletic team while they explore their personal gifts and talents in the area of athletics. For many students, this may be their first experience with competitive athletics requiring personal practice time in addition to schedule after-school practices, while balancing academic responsibilities. At this level, coaches are encouraged to distribute playing time as fairly as possible, based on the athlete's commitment and ability to develop skills at practices, without sacrificing the good of the team.

Varsity (grades 9-12): The objective of the varsity level is to exhibit impeccable sportsmanship and excellence. Varsity athletics is highly competitive and advanced. At this level the athlete will be scrutinized more thoroughly in his/her character, ability, attitudes and skills. Playing time will be entirely at the discretion of the coach. Coaches will communicate with players about their roles, coaches' expectations, and general playing time expectations.

Homeschool student athletes (grades 5-12): Homeschooled students are eligible to play at the Middle and Varsity level. Homeschooled athletes will be held to the same standards of behavior, academic performance, and try-out requirements as full-time HCA students. A sports physical, sports fees and all appropriate forms must be submitted to the athletic department prior to play. A class schedule must be submitted to the Athletic Director within 2 week of the start of the season.

6. Academic Eligibility

Haywood Christian Academy considers the student-athlete to be a student first and an athlete second. This means that academic achievement takes precedent over athletic participation. Therefore, HCA holds their student-athletes to a higher standard.

- Eligibility applies to all students who participate in extracurricular activities.
- Students must have a "C-" (70%) average or above in each subject
- Eligibility is determined at Progress Report time and at the completion of each 9 week grading period.
- If a student-athlete is ineligible, he/she will be placed on probation for 2 weeks. They will be allowed to participate in practice or games during the probation period. Parents will be notified by the athletic director and a meeting with student and AD will take place.
- At the end of the 2 week probation period a grade check will be requested by the athletic director. If progress has be made the athletic will be off of probation.
- If not, another 1 week period will ensue. At this point the student will not be able to participate in practice or games.
- A student who has not brought up their grade after this 3 week probation period will be removed from the team roster.
- The administration/athletic director, with input from the faculty and parents/guardians, reserves the right to grant eligibility to students that demonstrate excellent effort but fail to meet the above guidelines.

7. Physicals

All student-athletes are required to have had an athletic physical within the previous twelve (12) months to participation in athletics. Forms are available in the high school office. No student athlete will be allowed to participate in athletic contests or practice with the team until they have a completed and signed physical form on file with the athletic director.

8. Financial Obligations

A \$110 sports fee is assessed each time an athlete makes a team and is not refundable after the first week of practice. The fee will be billed to the parent's account after the team roster is posted.

9. Transportation

HCA's goal is to provide transportation for teams to all games. However parent volunteer may be needed if school transportation is unavailable. ***Athletes must travel with the team.*** There are two exceptions upon notification of the coach: (1) a player may ride home with his/her parents after the game; or, (2) a player may return with another parent provided his/her parents have granted ***written permission.*** ***Parents may not give permission for a player to ride with another student.***

10. Dress Code

Athletic Dress code will be standard for home and away games. As with the school dress code, our goal is for athletes to be modest and neat. Coaches may have specific requirements for team members and will address this issue in team meetings. At school prior to the athletic event, teams should look uniform. It is up to the coach of each sport to decide on a "team outfit" for the day. The standard of dress applies both before and after games on road trips. Remember that you represent not only yourself but also the school, your team and the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to look as sharp as possible.

11. Uniforms

In an effort to maintain the inventory of all Haywood Christian Academy athletic uniforms (jerseys, shorts, pants, etc.), the following procedures will be required of all athletes participating in all HCA sports.

1. Student-athletes are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Uniforms will be distributed prior to the first contest of the season by the assistant athletic director. Athletic uniforms are issued to athletes for the sole purpose of athletic contest participation. Uniforms are the property of HCA. They should **not** be worn to school, practice or any other time but games days.

2. Parents (or coaches if requested) are to maintain the cleaning and quality of the uniforms during the athletic season. Washing instructions: Use cold water, not fabric softener, and **do not** dry.

3. At the end of each athletic season, all uniforms should be cleaned and returned to the assistant athletic director or the school office, within 2 weeks of the last game.

4. The parent or guardian of the student-athlete is responsible for the replacement cost of any lost or damaged school issued equipment or uniform. Any lost or unreturned uniforms will be assessed a fee of up to \$100, 30 days after the last game of the season. Transcripts (i.e. - college) will not be sent from HCA until either a uniform is returned or the assessed fee is paid.

12. Inclement Weather

On days when school is cancelled due to weather, middle school will not practice but varsity coaches may arrange practices at the school in conjunction with the Athletic Director. These are optional workouts and the safety of the athlete is of foremost importance. Decisions about games on days when school is cancelled will be made by the principals and the athletic directors of the schools involved. A decision will be made and communication will be made by 12pm.

13. Attendance Policy

Student-athletes are expected to attend all classes, practices and games regularly unless otherwise cleared by the coach and athletic director. Student-athletes must attend school the same day of practice or game in order to be eligible to participate. If a student-athlete is absent because of illness they will not be allowed to participate in practices or games for that day. Students must be at school no later than 11:30 AM and may not leave before 11:30 PM to be eligible for that day's athletic activity (excused tardiness or dismissal is an exception). A late home or away contest is not an excuse to be tardy on the next school day. Excessive attendance or tardy infractions will lead to suspension from athletic competition.

14. Homework Policy

Athletes are required to complete all assignments before they can participate in extracurricular practices. Athletic games are the only exception to after school help class, but any missing work on days of games or performances must be completed in the following day's help class.

15. School Absences Due to Athletic Events

An athlete who is aware of an athletic competition causing him/her to be absent part of the school day is responsible for keeping up with his/her schoolwork. Any work due during a period the athlete will miss should be turned in before leaving for the athletic event. Any tests the athlete will miss should be taken ahead of time, if possible. Otherwise, the athlete must work out an arrangement with the teacher ahead of time for making up the test. Under no circumstances should an athlete fail to talk with a teacher whose class he/she will miss at least a day ahead of time. Athletes are responsible to obtain the day's assignments before dismissal and submitting these assignments the next time the class meets.

16. Post-Game Day Policy

Athletes need to be at the school the day after games. We have experienced problems with players coming to school late or not at all the day after games because they are sleeping in. Athletes that do this will not be allowed to play the first half of the next game.

17. Communication Guidelines:

It is inevitable that questions and concerns will arise throughout the course of an athletic season. In the hopes that they will all be handled appropriately, efficiently, and professionally, the following guidelines have been established.

1. Before, during and after a game is not an appropriate time to approach a coach. Take some time to think about what your question is before you address any concerns.
2. If appropriate, talk with your son or daughter about your question. What is your child's perspective? Can your child solve the problem him or herself?
3. Set up a meeting with the coach if you still have questions. This should be an informational meeting where parties ask questions, listen, and discuss. Remember that the coach makes decisions for the good of the team based on practice, ability, attitude, and chemistry.
4. If questions remain, set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach and yourself. * See item #24 - Chain of Command

18. Service Opportunities

Every year the concession stand raises thousands of dollars for athletics. The money raised is used to provide athletes with uniforms, equipment, and other items their sports might require. The parents will not be expected to fulfill that duty during a time when their athlete is participating in a game unless they choose. If there are multiple children participating during one season, the expectation to work does not increase. The specific number of times required varies with the sport, number of contests, etc. A sign up for duties and dates will begin of each season. Volunteers will have a week time period to sign up for a required service time of their choice. After that, families will be assigned a day and time to service. If you can't fulfill your service it is YOUR responsibility to get another parent to cover your duty.

19. Red Wolf Pride Team

With you, we can make a difference!

The Haywood Christian Academy Athletic Department budget exceeds \$35,000 annually. The Athletic Department is not funded through tuition dollars. Gate receipts, concession sales and fundraising activities keep the athletic program strong. HCA Fundraising activities make a huge difference. The Red Wolf Pride Team helps raise money for athletics by organizing a community of families to work together at a variety of sporting events. Our goal is to help our athletic department and students be successful and this is a great opportunity to help HCA be the best it can be!

Parent involvement in Pride Team activities benefit our athletes and advance our Athletic Program. See the partial list below of Pride Team activity opportunities.

Concession Stand
Special Lunch Program
Café to Go
Banner Spots
Poinsettia Sale

20. Quitting

Once an athlete has made the commitment to participate and has either attended a practice or checked out equipment, the athlete must complete the season. If a student-athlete quits a team, he/she forfeits the privilege of participation in other sports for the remainder of the school year. Special exceptions may be granted in unique circumstances.

1. A student may drop off the team any time before the first game without penalty. After that period of time, no student may quit the team without penalty. There should be a strong sense of belonging to the team even when personal injuries would restrict the individual's participation in practices and games. An injured player is expected to be at all practices and games (provided he/she is physically able).
2. Any athlete who quits a team will forfeit his/her right to play athletics during the next seasons. (Example: An athlete who quits basketball must sit out all spring sports.)
3. An athlete who leaves the team because of two consecutive academic probations will not be considered as quitting.
4. An athlete who quits will be removed from the team roster and forfeit any post-season rewards such as team pictures, athletic banquet awards, etc.
5. An athlete who withdraws from school will not be eligible to continue to complete on any HCA team and forfeit any post-season awards and recognition.
6. The only exceptions to the above rules would be for death in the family or serious injury. The Athletic Director and the Administrator will decide any exceptions.

21. Sportsmanship

Athletes, coaches, fans, and parents at Haywood Christian Academy are expected to display an attitude of Christ-likeness before, during and after athletic contests. This includes attitudes toward our own team members, coaches, opposing teams, fans, and officials.

ATHLETES - We believe all HCA athletes should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in the pursuit of excellence without regard to the score, opponent, time, or official. As Christian athletes display these characteristics, good things usually happen: teams are successful, players are motivated, fans and supportive and enthusiastic, parents are proud, perspective athletes want to participate, and hopefully non-believers are drawn to Christ.

HCA COACHES - Because of our commitment to excellence, coaches at HCA are one of the most significant components of our athletic program. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like attitudes and behavior for our student athletes and parents while under pressure themselves. They are participants and mentors at the same time. One of the most pivotal roles of the coach is to develop athletes who reveal Christ-like behavior while under competitive pressures. Coaches have great responsibilities, but also great opportunities, to mold young lives for Christ.

Any coach receiving an unsportsmanlike penalty (technical foul, yellow or red card) will be required to meet with the Athletic Director following the first offense and with the Athletic Director and HCA Administrator for any subsequent offenses. Any coach with repeat offenses may be subject to suspension or dismissal.

HCA PARENTS AND FANS - Fans are an integral part of all athletic events. They serve to validate the positive values learned through athletics and to support the efforts and successes of HCA teams and athletes. It is required that fans refrain from negative comments toward officials, coaches, or players involved in a contest. All parents should be proud and positive supporters of their student athletes. Likewise, athletes should be proud of their parents' behavior as spectators and level of involvement. Positive encouragement offered to support both the athlete and his/her team will contribute toward reaching their fullest potential.

22. Athletic Awards

1. Only athletes who finish the season still on the team roster will be recognized at the athletic banquet.
2. Middle School teams will award up to four individual recognitions for each sport. Varsity teams will award up to four individual recognitions for each sport. The Coach and Athletic Director will determine the categories and numbers of awards given per team.
3. A Coach may choose from the following types of awards:
 1. MVP
 2. Offense Award
 3. Defense Award
 5. Coach's Award
 6. Outstanding Player
 7. Hustle Award
 8. Most Improved Player
 9. Leadership Award
4. Scholar Athlete awards are given to High School HCA students who maintain a 3.5 GPA as of 3rd quarter in the current school year. This is a cumulative GPA beginning with student's freshman year.
5. The highest honor to be given at the Athletic Banquet will be the Alpha Award. This will be given to a Senior/Junior athlete who demonstrates leadership, a positive attitude, team spirit and sportsmanship both in athletics and around the school while maintaining a high standard of Christ-likeness.

23. Lettering

An athlete must be a student in good standing at Haywood Christian Academy and member of a Varsity Athletic Team to letter. Varsity Letters are a significant honor given to HCA High School student-athletes. Lettering criteria will be determined by the Athletic Director.

24. Athletic Chain of Command

At Haywood Christian Academy, the following chain of command is in effect. If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of our athletic program, the athletes should first contact the appropriate coach. If there is no resolution, he or she would then go to the head coach, etc.

1. Head Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Head of School