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DISCLAIMER

Participation in athletic competition includes the inherent risk of injury, which may range in severity from minor injury, to disabling injury, even to death. Although serious injuries are uncommon in structured, supervised athletic programs, it is virtually impossible to eliminate all risk. Participants can and do have the responsibility in helping reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules of each sporting activity, reporting all physical problems to coaches, following proper guidelines for safe play in athletic competition, and inspecting the integrity of their own equipment. Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) takes all necessary precautions to provide student-athletes a proper and safe environment for competing athletically.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The approach to athletics at CAA flows naturally from the school's philosophy of Christian education. The purpose and intent of our athletics program is to bring glory to God through our participation and involvement in individual and team sports activities, and to develop within those who participate the character traits of Jesus Christ. We desire for our student-athletes to grow spiritually by teaching them to think and act like Christ in the competitive arena, and to model Godly character through their words, attitudes and deeds.

A key objective of the CAA Athletics Department is to develop each student-athlete spiritually, so that the Holy Spirit controls and directs his or her mind and body in every athletic endeavor (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Within that philosophical framework, it is our goal that our coaches desire to train, disciple, and encourage student-athletes to perform athletically to the maximum of his or her potential in order to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus, the primary goal of athletics/sports at CAA is to provide a program that develops a Christ-like character in all student-athletes, encourages physical activity and fitness, builds individual and teamwork skills, promotes school pride, and provides opportunities for positive witness in the community.

OUR LEAGUE

Columbus Adventist Academy participates in the Charter School Athletic Association of Ohio (CAA of Ohio). In some cases, CAA of Ohio provides CAA with coaches for our teams. While CAA cannot guarantee that these coaches will ensure strict adherence to our philosophy, relationships between coaches and players will be regularly monitored.

CAA ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

1. CAA Board
2. Athletics League
3. Principal
4. Athletics Director
5. Head Coaches
6. Assistant Coaches

OUR PURPOSE

The CAA Athletics Handbook outlines for administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents important information concerning the athletics program at CAA. It is comprehensive, yet not exhaustive. Any comments or suggestions should be directed to the Athletics Director.

The athletics program is an important part of the overall educational experience of the students at CAA, and must necessarily conform to the school's philosophy of Christian education. Athletic competition must never be allowed to damage the testimony of Christ or the philosophy and ministry of the school.

CAA's athletics program aims to accomplish the following objectives.

1. To develop, nurture and affirm students for a lifetime of service to God and humanity.
2. To develop within each student-athlete the positive character qualities of Jesus Christ, conforming ourselves to His image, and openly expressing those characteristics to others through athletic competition.
3. To learn to give maximum effort for the glory of God in every aspect of the athletics program.
4. To glorify God in word and deed by presenting a positive witness and testimony for Jesus Christ to the lost.
5. To teach the biblical principle of respect for authority; players respect for coaches; coaches, players and fans respect for officials; and all a respect and reverence for God.
6. To instill within every player the principle of setting aside individual desires and goals for the good of the team.
7. To provide opportunities within athletic competition to learn self-discipline and self-control, because true individual character traits are often revealed in the heat of competition.
8. To encourage and provide opportunities for student-athletes to cultivate a healthy body.

SPORTS OFFERED

CAA belongs to the Charter School Athletic Association of Ohio. Several avenues of athletic competition are available to our students.

Girls	Boys	Coed
Grades K-8 Basketball Grades 5-8 Volleyball	Grades K-8 Basketball	Grades K-8 Soccer Grades K-8 Track and Field

In the lower grades, the goal is to lay an athletic foundation of a Christian worldview, quality instruction and a fundamental approach to each sport. At this level, coaches will focus on teaching the rules of the game, basic skills, and good sportsmanship.

For the upper grades, the primary goal is to teach game fundamentals, teamwork, sportsmanship, the concept of commitment, respect for authority, and most importantly, development of the student-athlete spiritually. At this level, coaches attempt to refine the basic concepts learned to participate, with greater emphasis on teamwork, skill improvement, and a greater depth of spiritual growth.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To maintain athletic eligibility for a sport, students must remain self-disciplined in the classroom. Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate.

- All participants are required to have a valid Student Health History and Report of Physical Exam on file.
- Students must submit a current a Student-Parent Athletic Participation Contract and Parent Permission Form and a Parent-Student Concussion Statement before being allowed to participate in practices or contests.
- All student-athletes must pay the Athletics Fee. Students may not participate in contests until this has been paid.
- Students must achieve a minimum 2.0 grade point average with no D's or F's for the most recently completed marking period and no more than one failing grade. Academic eligibility is determined on the date report cards are issued and remains until the next report card is issued.
- In addition to other infractions, a student may be suspended or removed from a team for unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to classes or team practices.
- Students may participate in more than one interscholastic sport in one season.
- A student may not participate when he/she is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPATION

The CAA Athletics Department depends on the support and involvement of parents in its goal to develop student-athletes into the image and likeness of Christ through athletic competition. To build those desired character qualities in our student-athletes, parents must agree with the school's philosophy of Christian education and the school's athletic philosophy. Parents should also be supportive of the decisions of the Athletics Director and the coaches and always use the Matthew 18 principle in any conflict or misunderstanding. Both winning and losing in athletic competition provide valuable biblical and life lessons for our students that might not ever be learned anywhere else.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

One of the purposes of the sports program is the development of individual skills in the students. Among members of a team there will be a wide range of skills and experience. In order to develop the skills of all team members, it is necessary that students be provided the opportunity to improve their skills on the court or field during competition. The following guidelines will be observed to ensure equitable student participation.

Level 1 Players: These student-athletes are either novices or have minimal skills and experience in the sport.

Level 1 Players will play a minimum of 3 minutes per sporting event.

Level 2 Players: These student-athletes have basic to intermediate skills and some experience in the sport.

Level 2 Players will play a minimum of 5 minutes per sporting event.

Level 3 Players: These student-athletes have advanced skills and experience in the sport.

Level 3 Players will play a minimum of 8 minutes per sporting event.

*Coaches will make the determination of the skill level of each student-athlete.

**Beyond these minimum playing time guidelines, coaches will make the final decisions regarding playing time for any student-athlete.

***Playing time may be impacted by disciplinary measures imposed by the coach(es).

QUITTING A TEAM

All CAA student-athletes are expected to honor their commitment to their teams if they are selected to represent CAA in any sport. Any CAA student-athlete who quits a team before the completion of that season will not be given the privilege of participating in another sport until the completion of the prior sport's season. Any CAA student-athlete who quits a team is automatically off the team for the remainder of that season.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY

Parents and fans should model biblical behavior while watching our student-athletes in fierce athletic competition because that modeled behavior is just as important as the behavior of the student-athletes on the field and/or court. These principles should guide us as Christian parents and fans of our student-athletes.

1. Show proper respect to the players of both teams, remembering that each one is someone's son or daughter. Likewise, respect the visiting crowd, treating them just as you would like to be treated in their gym or at their field.
2. Show proper respect for the officials and their legitimate position of authority over the game.
3. Remember that the other team's players, coaches, and fans are not our enemies, just our opponents in a game.
4. Please DO NOT boo, hiss, or otherwise disrespect an official's decision or a player's performance.
5. Remember that the Lord sees our actions, and He knows our thoughts and the intent of our hearts.

For each home and away sports activity, the coach for each individual sport must have in his or her possession copies of the Student Health History and Report of Physical Exam for every member on that team.

The 24-Hour Rule

At CAA, in accordance with who we are in Christ, we ask all parents to wait at least 24 hours before speaking to any coach about matters related to game decisions. We ask parents to abide by the following procedure when questioning any CAA coach.

1. Wait at least 24 hours prior to requesting a meeting.
2. Call or email to set up an appointment.
3. If at all possible, meet face-to-face, per Matthew 18:15.
4. Be respectful and courteous.

If the need arises to have a discussion with a coach, the discussion must be limited to your student. In meeting with any coach, please understand that playing time as well as other students will never be topics open to discussion. You are the advocate for your student; conversations outside that realm can result in gossip and rumor, which the CAA Athletics Department takes a strong stance against. For all disputes, please follow the chain of command as listed in the “CAA Athletics Administrative Structure” section.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

Even though every coach in each individual sport may have specific rules and guidelines for that sport, the following rules are in effect for all student-athletes at CAA.

1. Demonstrate Christian behavior in all aspects of the game on and off the court and/or field. Respect God, others and yourself using self-control in all circumstances.
2. Make academics a priority.
3. Absolutely no use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time (365 days per year). Proven use constitutes permanent expulsion from the team (1 Thessalonians 5:15, Proverbs 15:1).
4. Meet time commitments for practices and games. Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory. Discipline will occur after the first unexcused absence and dismissal from the team after the third unexcused absence.
5. Improper or questionable language will not be permitted. Disciplinary measures will be taken for the first offense and expulsion from the team for the second offense. Improper language includes: swearing, “in your face” boasting, and disrespect to officials, players, or coaches.
6. Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach an athletic department, and respect calls and decisions made by game officials.
7. Athletic competition is great fun; however, no foolish horseplay or reckless behavior will be tolerated. Show concern for others and never intentionally injure another player.
8. Athletes should strive to obtain a minimum of eight hours of sleep per night. Prioritize your activities and manage your time.
9. Athletes should maintain a proper diet. Avoid junk food or eating food with “empty calories. Remember, to compete well, your body must be fueled properly.
10. Because CAA is a Christian school, people watch for consistency in our testimony. Therefore, in addition to watching what you say, always be aware of your actions.

Injuries

It is very important that all injuries are reported to the coach so that proper aid may be given. This includes injuries or problems that occur outside the sport in which the student-athlete participates. Please be sure to let the coach know of any allergies, medicines, problems, or other ailments that might require special attention.

Hazing/Bullying

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. In some cases, hazing constitutes a criminal act. Hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from a team.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES AND ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION

The success of the sports program hinges on the proper selection of qualified, dedicated athletics administration, staff, and coaches. Above all else, they must be people who value and support the philosophy of CAA and who will mold young student-athletes into people who emulate Christ. Coaches must teach players by both word and example, that the philosophy of winning at all costs is neither honorable nor desirable. They are expected to:

1. Model Christian ethics.
2. Encourage good sportsmanship. Teach student-athletes to assist fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show respect in pre- and post-game activities.
3. Model and encourage a healthy lifestyle.
4. Model respect for all people.
5. Place the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of student-athletes above the desire to win.
6. Be willing and able to provide spiritual growth and direction.
7. Use positive coaching methods to improve the self-esteem of student-athletes.
8. Promote loyalty to school and team.
9. Encourage an atmosphere of camaraderie and team play.
10. Communicate and enforce codes of conduct.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Even though the athletic program is an important part of the overall CAA experience, the mission of the school remains academic education. In light of our Christian educational philosophy and the school's mission, CAA endeavors to monitor academic progress and to encourage the academic achievement of each student-athlete. In the athletic program, CAA aims to teach our student-athletes to give their maximum effort in all academic endeavors as well.

It is the student's responsibility to maintain and meet minimum academic standards. Not doing so will result in athletic ineligibility. Ineligibility means that the student will not be allowed to PRACTICE or PARTICIPATE in any games until they meet the requirements.

When a student struggles academically, parents and students are strongly encouraged to seek counsel from the teacher(s) to determine the causes and the possible solutions for poor academic performance.

FACILITIES

Many games will be played at the gymnasium associated with the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other games will be held in other facilities. Student-athletes must learn to be good stewards and use these facilities wisely. They should always leave an area cleaner than they found it. CAA will not tolerate destructiveness or misuse of property at any time (including balls, bats, PE equipment, etc.).

Students must be out of the building immediately after the scheduled completion of practice. Coaches will be the last ones out to ensure that the doors are locked and all students have gone home. Students must make sure that their ride is on time. They cannot remain on school premises or outside the facility after the coach leaves.

For away games, no student should be picked up or dropped off at the Ephesus Church. All pick-ups and drop-offs should be from CAA.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The league will issue uniforms for games before the first game of the season. Although practice uniforms are not standardized, student-athletes should use modesty in practice attire.

Uniforms are very costly, so student-athletes must be good stewards of the uniforms issued to them. Uniforms will need to be cleaned and washed regularly. All school athletic equipment must be treated with care. If a student is given responsibility for the team's equipment, they must see that they carry out their job responsibly. Any loss of or damage to school equipment or uniforms due to negligence or carelessness by a student-athlete will be repaid in full by the student who is deemed responsible.

RESOLUTION OF CONCERNS

Student-athletes and parents who have any concerns regarding the sports program must follow the Grievance Policy outlined in CAA's Handbook for Parents and Students, page 14. It is expected that the biblical directive regarding the handling of disputes will be used as a guideline for all differences of opinion and other issues, and that in every situation the spirit and behavior displayed by coaches, student-athletes, parents, and administration will be that which will honor God and fulfill the mission of CAA.

PARTICIPATION ON OUTSIDE TEAMS

While participating on a school team, student-athletes are permitted to participate in the same sport outside of the school during the sport season. The outside participation may not conflict with the team schedule of the school. This includes practices, games, and playoffs.

CLOSING

The CAA Athletics Department would like to encourage each student-athlete by wishing you the very best in all your athletic endeavors. If we can help you in any way, please let us know. It is our heart's desire to help each student-athlete grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that the sports program at CAA will truly encourage you to develop and mature in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Our hope is that, through the athletics program at CAA, you will strive to do your absolute best by using your God-given talents and abilities in athletic competition so that you will bring glory to Him!



PARENT-STUDENT CONCUSSION STATEMENT

We, the parents/guardians of _____ (student-athlete name) have read and understand the Concussion Fact Sheet. We are now aware of the following.

Student-Athlete Initials	Statements	Parent/Guardian Initials
	A concussion is a brain injury that should be reported to my parents, my coach(es), or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion can affect the ability to perform everyday activities such as the ability to think, balance, and classroom performance.	
	You cannot see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach, and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.	N/A
	If I think a teammate has a concussion, I should tell my coach(es), parents, or licensed health care professional about the concussion.	N/A
	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.	N/A
	I will/my child will need written permission from a licensed health care professional to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I am/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if I/he/she return(s) to play or practice before concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes, repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.	

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Student-Athlete Printed Name	Student-Athlete Signature	Date

Columbus Adventist Academy recruits and admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation. Columbus Adventist Academy will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of certified or noncertified personnel.