

Heritage Christian Academy

Athletic Handbook

2011-2012



Statement of Non-Discrimination:

Heritage Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the school.

Heritage is an accredited school member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI) and a member of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). HCA is a proud member of the Mile High League for High School Sports and the Northern Colorado Independent League for Middle School sports.

The HCA Board and Administration reserves the right to change any policy or procedure at any time as is deemed necessary and to be in the

Heritage Christian Academy
2506 Zurich Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524
Phone (970) 494-1022 Fax (970) 494-1025
www.heritagechristian.info

Ambassador Training



An Encouragement to Heritage Christian Fans and Parents

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors."
II Corinthians 5:20*

Wherever we go and whatever we do, we represent Jesus Christ. We are His ambassadors.

The Heritage Christian Athletic Department's top priority is to exemplify the character of Christ.

Therefore, it is essential that every coach, every player, every parent, every student, and every fan maintain a good Christian witness at all of our athletic events. Other teams and their fans, both Christian and non-Christian, are watching us, and we have a great opportunity to display God's honor so that they might be drawn closer to Jesus and His saving grace.

How does the world know that we are authentic followers of Christ? By the love we demonstrate and by our unity. Jesus said, *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13:35) He also prayed for us: *"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them."* (John 17:23)

As parents and fans we can do this together in the following ways:

- Demonstrate respect to opposing players and coaches. Don't razz them.
- Demonstrate respect to the officials. Please don't harass the referees.
- Shout encouragement to our team. Let the coach do the coaching.
- Keep each other accountable. Remind each other we want to be a positive Christian witness.
- Don't talk bad about the coach in front of your child. Support the coach and his decisions.
- "Go the extra mile." Think of ways to be a blessing to the other team and their fans.
- Win or lose with humility and grace.

Always keep in mind we are His ambassadors, representatives of Christ and His Kingdom.

Maintaining this attitude, we win the most important battle. We can then give every effort to compete and win our games as a team. We work hard to be champions!

Sincerely,

Kevin McGinley, Athletic Director
Pk316@comcast.net

I. PHILOSOPHY



The purpose of HCA athletics is to bring God glory by developing Christian character through focusing on these core values:

1. athletics as a ministry
2. academic development of the student
3. respecting authority
4. sportsmanship by the players and the fans
5. teamwork – responsibility and accountability
6. dealing with adversity in competition
7. discipline, desire and dedication
8. school spirit

II. BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES

- Lead a Spirit-controlled life and He will control your tongue. Any improper language (swearing, boasting, disrespectful talk) will not be permitted.
- Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests.
- If you don't understand a call, ask politely; accept the official's decision and learn from it. Don't incite fans by behaving improperly.
- Applaud the introduction of opponent's team members and coaches. Shake hands with their coach when introduced.
- Affirm an opponent that fouls out or must leave because of injury or other reason. Thank him for playing hard and challenging you.
- Search out individual opponents after the game to congratulate them, point out a great performance. This could be an opportunity to witness for Christ.
- Show concern for an injured player of either team. Help up fallen players from both teams.
- Encourage and build up one another
- Be a team, not just a group of individuals. The goal is to make your fellow teammate a better player and person; honor him above yourself.
- Live Christ on and off the court/field.
- Be enthusiastic – take an interest in every part of your sport and be glad to quickly carry out every part of the job
- Be humble and coachable; show that God is the one responsible for your abilities, talents and success.

III. Affiliations

Heritage Christian is a member of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). CHSAA is the organizing body for all of Colorado's high school sports competition. By their guidelines we are a 2A school in volleyball, basketball and baseball; 3A in soccer. These classifications are based upon our 9 – 12 enrollment.

CHSAA does set roster limit and game regulations that we must follow. We actually go beyond CHSAA's standards because we take very seriously the witness our students have as athletes. Because of travel and game schedules, student-athletes are visible "ambassadors"



for Christ; we have a stricter standard for them spiritually, academically, socially and athletically.

Heritage is a member of the Mile High League, which is part of the Colorado High School Activities Association.

Member schools of the Mile High League

North Division

Alexander Dawson
Dayspring Christian
Heritage Christian
Longmont Christian
Resurrection Christian

South Division

Denver Academy
Denver Christian
Front Range Christian
Nederland

Although CHSAA has no jurisdiction over junior high programs, we have chosen as a school to follow many of their principles and guidelines. This year, we joined the Northern Colorado Independent League (NCIL) for our Middle School sports program. We participate in volleyball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls basketball.

Member Schools of the NCIL

Frontier
HMS (Campion)
Liberty Common
Resurrection Christian
Saint Joseph's
Union Colony

Heritage Christian
Knowledge Quest
New Vision
Ridgeview
Saint Mary's
Windsor Charter

High School students who attend HCA desiring participation in sports not offered at Heritage may do so at a local public school. Colorado law states that any private or home school student desiring to participate on a public school athletic team may try out for that team. HCA allows private or home school students to participate in its athletic programs, and must fill out paperwork with the office to do so. It is important to note that state law also mandates that a home school or Ridgeview athlete must play sports at the school he/she has the most opportunities to play the sports they desire. In essence, a home school or Ridgeview student must play all sports at the school where they establish their status as a student athlete. For instance, a home school athlete who plays football at a public school must play all the sports of their choosing at that public school, and cannot play any sports for HCA.

Only teams sponsored by HCA will be allowed to use the name "Heritage Christian" as their team name. This is to assure that any team using the name Heritage Christian will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the standards and philosophy of Heritage Christian Academy.



IV. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

HCA meets or exceeds academic eligibility standards set by CHSAA. All students will be classified as either eligible or ineligible for athletics and activities.

To be eligible a student must:

Be a full time student (5 classes or more)

Cannot have one "F" or two "D's" at eligibility checks on his report card

Remaining eligible:

Heritage will conduct weekly grade checks (done every Monday) beginning the third week of the first, second, third, and fourth quarters. If an athlete is ineligible on a Monday, then he/she is ineligible until the following Monday. They may attend practice, but may not play in games.

If a student has one "F" or two "D's" at the end of the first semester, he/she is ineligible for the first two weeks of the second semester.

*If students become ineligible three times during any one season, the student may no longer be able to participate and will lose the opportunity to letter.

Students that participate in sports at other schools must still meet the HCA eligibility requirements. Students must have good communication with the public school office and its athletic department. Failing to do so can jeopardize the student's personal eligibility and the eligibility of the entire team of that school.

V. STUDENT ATHLETIC FEES



Our student athletic fees help offset the costs (uniforms, equipment, fields, officials, coaches' stipends) of our athletic programs. Student athletes paying tuition at HCA are charged less than non-tuition paying students.

	HCA Students	Non-HCA Students
Junior High	\$85	\$150
High School	\$135	\$305*
Siblings (each additional child same season)	JH: \$65; HS: \$115	No discount

*Scholarships may be available, therefore please consult with the administration if financial hardship would prevent involvement in the HCA athletic program.

VI. TRY-OUTS AND PLAYING TIME

All students must attend the official try-out time conducted by the coaches. No one will be automatically placed on any team; everyone must try out. The HCA athletic department does all it can to give every student-athlete an opportunity to play and not be cut.

Middle School

The athletes will be divided into two teams. An "A" team will play competitively yet strive to have reasonable and distributed playing time for every player. The "B" team will be more developmental; fundamentals will be taught and a competitive spirit will be developed. The intent is to maximize every player's ability throughout the season.

Junior Varsity

The JV teams fall between our junior high developmental squad and competitive playing-to-win varsity squad. Yet workable numbers must be achieved; cuts may be necessary.

Playing time will be based on attitude, development of skills, team play, hustle and game presence. Efforts will be made to see that all players will see some playing time throughout the season.

Varsity

The objective of our varsity level teams will be competitive, playing-to-win. Try outs and playing time will be based on attitude, development of skills, team play, hustle and game presence.

An athlete must earn his or her place on the varsity team as well as a starting position. Just because a student is in his junior or senior year does not mean they will be given a place on the varsity team. To letter in a varsity sport, a student-athlete must compete in one-third of the total quarters, matches, or innings in their sport.

VII. ATTENDANCE AND PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES



Team commitment to practices and games is expected of players and their parents. In the classroom, students are independently responsible for their grades; however, in athletics, team sports do suffer when an athlete is missing. Getting a team to work together requires the presence of all the players' participation. While we realize emergencies come up, that students get sick, or have family or church obligations, please understand how frustrating it is to fellow team members and the coaches when someone is missing from practices and games unnecessarily. Students, who are tardy or absent from practices and games, may lose playing time. Please contact your coach if you are going to miss a practice or a game.

- Students absent from any class period the day of the game will not be allowed to start. If the student misses more than 2 class periods, he will not be allowed to practice or play.
- Students are expected to be in school on time the morning following a game or may lose playing time at the next game.
- Coaches, in conjunction with the Athletic Director and principal, reserve the right to suspend a player from a practice and/or games(s) for any misconduct or behavior unbecoming to a Christian or to the team. Normal discipline procedures, as outlined in the Family Handbook, will then be followed.

VIII. FACILITIES, UNIFORMS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Lord has richly blessed us with equipment, shuttles, uniforms, and the use of facilities and playing fields. Everyone is expected to be a good steward with what we are allowed to use.

- Always leave the field and courts cleaner than what you found them.
- Keep the school vehicles clean and neat. Please pick up after yourself.
- The coach will issue the athlete a team uniform and check-out/check-in form to be signed by their parents. It is the student's responsibility to keep the uniform washed, cleaned and in good shape.
- Uniforms must be turned in on time or be assessed a late fee.
- Lost or damaged uniforms must be paid for by the player.
- Report cards, final transcripts, and graduation cap and gowns will not be released until all items are returned or paid for.
- Players are responsible for shoes, socks, knee pads, shin-guards, etc.
- The coaches will specify what is to be worn for practices.
- Athletes must ride to away games in school vehicles or school-arranged car pools unless otherwise specified by the coach.
- Athletes may ride home with their parents, but not with other students.
- Athletes that ride home with their parents following a game must notify the coach they are riding in another vehicle.
- Players and parents are responsible for transportation to and from practices and home games.

IX. HEALTH ISSUES

CHSAA requires that every athlete must have a yearly physical exam before the first practice of the season begins. Student athletes are not allowed to compete until the physical is completed. Forms are available in the school office. Current physicals must also be on file



for student athletes to participate in offseason activities such as open gyms or strength and conditioning. All injuries must be reported to your coach. Let your coach know of any allergies or other ailments that require special attention.

X. PARENT VOLUNTEERS

In order to provide a quality sports program, parental help is needed. At the start of each sport season coaches and the Athletic Director will sign up parents to help with scorekeeping, transportation, ticket sales, and home game preparation and clean-up. Additional help will be needed for District and Regional playoffs.

XI. BOOSTER CLUB

The Booster Club consists of parents and families who support and promote the HCA Athletic Department by encouraging coaches, raising funds, and volunteering. Annual dues are \$25/family. The Booster Club encourages businesses to sponsor HCA Athletics through banners and program ads.

XII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Athletic Director: Kevin McGinley

Varsity Volleyball Coach: Alyssa Ledingham

Varsity Boys Soccer Coach: Cyrus Salehi

Varsity Girls Basketball Coach: Joe Packard

Varsity Boys Basketball Coach: Kevin McGinley

Varsity Girls Soccer Coach: Cyrus Salehi

Varsity Baseball Coach: Ron Frasco

The Athletic Director and the coaches represent both Heritage Christian Academy and Jesus Christ. It is therefore imperative that their attitudes and behavior be Christ-like. They must strive to have clear and consistent communication among parents, players and other members of the athletic staff. They must be effective role models for the athletes as well as having proficient skills in the sport they are coaching.

Following the Matthew 18 principle we encourage parents and players to speak with the coach first if any concerns or questions arise. If the questions have not been satisfactorily settled, the Athletic Director will step in to help resolve the issue. Immediately proceeding or following a game, emotions run high and we would ask that no meetings be held on a game day. Appointments with the coaches can be made through the school office.

Athletic Director Responsibilities:

- arranges schedules for middle school and senior high sports
- works with administration to hire coaches
- schedules referees, fields, courts, etc.



- works with coaches to find volunteers for game day duties
- attends all CHSAA and league meetings
- serves as the primary public relations person with the media
- makes sure the coaching staff and the athletic program is operating per CHSAA rules and regulations
- coordinates supplies for the athletic department
- oversees summer sports programs and camps
- supervises and oversees coaches
- promotes the spiritual growth of coaches and players
- works with the coaches in regard to finances and any fundraising activities
- conducts a season ending evaluation with the coaches
- works with administration and Stuco to develop activities that promote school spirit
- inventories all athletic uniforms and equipment at the end of each athletic season

Coaches Responsibilities:

- promotes the spiritual growth of each student athlete
- develops each player's character, skills, ability, and potential
- ensures the coaches and players demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and integrity
- assists the Athletic Director in accomplishing the above list as tasks are assigned
- works with the AD to plan a smooth-running program for their designated sport
- regularly communicates with the AD and the administration to inform them of the ongoing status of the program
- helps the AD in hiring assistant coaches
- runs tryouts and practice following the directives of the AD and the philosophy of the Athletic Department and the school
- conducts a parent meeting prior to the start of the season to answer questions and to inform the parents of schedules, transportation issues, etc
- outlines to the parents the financial costs of being involved in the sport and any fund raising needs
- keeps informed and up-to-date on both league and CHSAA regulations
- maintains records and statistics for the team and individual players

