



Temple Christian Pioneers

Athletic Handbook

(Revised May 2018)

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Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to present policies to be followed by student athletes, parents, coaches, and fans. New situations and circumstances will certainly develop and may not be referred to specifically in this handbook. The school and its administration reserves the right to interpret and amend the policies at any time.

Philosophy

The athletic department of Temple Christian School is a vital part of the education of its students as it strives to provide opportunities for its students to pursue athletic achievement while challenging the students to grow physically, intellectually, and spiritually through the challenge of athletics. Temple Christian School athletics strives to develop Christian student athletes that thrive in competitive settings. TCS athletics challenges students to further their relationships with their peers, their coaches, and more importantly, Jesus Christ.

The athletic department strives to emphasize sportsmanship, spiritual growth, team unity and spirit, academic responsibility, leadership, and competitive excellence throughout the department. Participating in athletics at Temple is a privilege (not a right) and is open to all students who meet the criteria of academics set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Temple Christian School athletic department, administration, and school board. Temple Christian athletes are also held to a high standard of character, academics, and athletic skills. All teams will strive to do their best to embody the true spirit and philosophy of the Temple Christian School athletic department.

The athletic department is philosophically opposed to sport specialization. We strongly encourage our student athletes to participate in as many of the offered sports at TCS as they possibly can. Each sport will enhance their overall athletic ability, improve the overall performance of multiple sports, and help them individually to improve their preferred sport.

Governing Bodies

Temple Christian School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) which abides by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). Regulations and policies of the OHSAA can be found by going to www.ohsaa.org.

Temple Christian School is also a member of the Northwest Central Conference and the Western Ohio Soccer League and must abide by the by-laws set forth in its constitution as approved by its members. More information about the NWCC and WOSL (*HS Boys Soccer*) can be found by going to www.nwccsports.com or www.westernohiosoccerleague.com

Expectations

Students, student athletes, coaches, and parents are expected to demonstrate the utmost in Christian character and principles in all circumstances. It is expected that each person's association with the Temple Christian Athletic Department will support and encourage our players in a fervent, yet Christ-like, manner.

Student athletes are expected to give their maximum effort while maintaining the attitude of Jesus Christ at all times, behaving in a Christ-like manner while competing in sport. Student athletes are also expected to maintain the same Christ-like attitude in their classrooms, locker rooms, at opposing schools, at home, and in our community.

All representatives and associations of Temple Christian are being constantly evaluated and will be held to a high standard in their attitudes in the private and public realms. Temple Christian School strives to be a shining light for Christ while competing in the public arenas. Specifically, when "on the road", it is the expectation that this standard is upheld and attitudes and actions are honoring and pleasing to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Expectations for Student Athletes

- 1) Athletes are expected to follow the rules and policies as described in the Temple Christian School Handbook of Policies. This includes, but is not limited to, the guidelines on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Those guidelines include involvement in sexual misconduct, possession of weapons, hazing, bullying, and all other conduct policies both in and out of the school setting.
- 2) Students who receive a suspension of any kind from school administration will also be suspended from all athletic events correlating with the amount of days of the suspension
- 3) Student athletes must meet all academic expectations as set forth in this document (see "Eligibility").
- 4) Athletes are expected to be committed to the team. They are expected to attend every practice and contest, unless excused by their coach. Coaches have the ability and permission to formulate their own policies of results for student athletes who chose not to adhere to their commitment to the team. Timely communication is expected from students to coaches, should such attendance be an issue. Student athletes who cannot commit to the team schedule will risk having consequences imposed on them by their coaches, which can include, but are not limited to, loss of teams, leagues, groups that the student may be involved. In some cases, OHSAA rules prohibit participation in outside athletic teams during the season. If you have any concerns or questions about participation in a non-school team, please consult your coach BEFORE involvement.

Expectations for Parents

- 1) Parents are expected to encourage every athlete, while maintaining a Christ-centered attitude as they represent Temple Christian School and God's Kingdom. Parents are expected to display a positive enthusiasm in their verbal and non-verbal communication.
- 2) During the course of a given athletic year, occasional misunderstandings and/or problems may arise between a student, parent, coach, etc. This sometimes can be attributed to lack of effective communication between the parties involved. We strive to implement biblical policies in our pursuit of effective and Christ-like reconciliation and communication. Players and parents should first make their concerns known to a coach in an effective and appropriate setting (prior to contacting administration). Please note that coaches are advised NOT to address playing time of athletes as a concern of a parent/guardian. Appropriate issues to discuss include physical and mental conditions of a child, ways to improve athletic skills, or concerns about the child's behavior.
- 3) Parents must understand the commitment that is needed in order for their child to participate in athletics. This includes the scheduling family vacations, participations in outside groups or leagues, and any other situations that occur in a given athletic season. When a student-athlete misses practice, scrimmages, or a game, it affects the team chemistry, personal physical condition, the performance level of the individual and the performance of the team. It is important to understand that some sports seasons take place during breaks in the regular school calendar and the student athlete may have team responsibilities during their school break.
- 4) Parents are expected to respect the coaches and the giving of their time. Coaches make a huge commitment to the school and our program and they should be treated with respect. A commitment to promptness in pick up and drop off of student athletes is appreciated.
- 5) Parents are expected to assist the Temple Christian Booster Club by working concessions and cleaning up at Booster events. The Booster Club donates thousands of dollars each year to various programs at TCS to help improve facilities and teams, but also to alleviate some of the financial burdens that sports place on student athletes' families.
- 6) A willingness to serve is greatly appreciated and is vital to a flourishing athletic department.
- 7) During competition, it is important the parents and fans model Christ-like sportsmanship by remaining a spectator during play, and by not interfering with the coach as he/she attends to the coaching needs of the team. Parents and fans are not to make derogatory or negative comments towards other parents, fans, officials, coaches or administrators. Parents are expected to provide the love, acceptance, and emotional support for your child regardless of the outcome of the competition.

Athletic Team Opportunities

Fall Sports	Varsity	JV	JH	Elem
Boys Golf	X			
Boys Soccer	X		X	K5-6 th
Girls Volleyball	X	X	X	5 th /6 th
Winter Sports	Varsity	JV	JH	Elem
Boys Basketball	X	X	X	3 rd -6 th
Girls Basketball	X		X	3 rd -6 th
Boys/Girls Bowling	X			
Cheerleading	X	X	X	Camp (Jan/Feb)
Spring Sports	Varsity	JV	JH	Elem
Boys Baseball	X			
Boys/Girls Track & Field	X		X	X

Please Note:

- Freshman teams are possible when the number of participants dictates the need.
- Some sports listed are dependent on number of students signed up.

Competition

Temple Christian School's coaches are committed to teaching Christ honoring competitiveness by instilling and teaching character in the heat of competition. Coaches will strive to develop teamwork, unity, honesty, and integrity while teaching students to become Christ-honoring leaders. Temple Christian's interscholastic teams will strive to compete at their highest level, playing every game/match/event/meet to win with integrity and honesty. Teams will also strive to respond to both winning and losing with grace and sportsmanship, so as to represent the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

At the Junior High level, learning the process of winning through fundamentals and skill development will be key to the social development and orientation of team building as well as individual skill building towards their participation in our highest level of athletics.

At the JV level, participation and continued skill development will continue to be the goals, while training and competing for a role to support the success of the Varsity program.

At the Varsity level, skill reinforcement and excellence along with the team spirit and competing to win at the highest level of high school competition will be the competitive focus.

While coaches at all levels enjoy allowing all players to play, it will be the intent of the coaching staff at the various levels to balance development of skill and competitive play. There is no guarantee of playing time at any level of TCS athletics, except where dictated by the organization (particularly at the elementary levels).

Team/Player Selection

- 1) For some teams, it may be necessary to have a deemed "try-out" period, depending on the number of spots feasibly available for athletes. If this is the case this try-out period will be clearly dictated by the head coach.
- 2) Academically eligible students will be selected based on attitude, effort, and talent. The number of players on a team will be large enough to form a sensible squad that can compete strongly in their given sport.

Eligibility to Play / Practice

Temple Christian School will follow the guidelines of the Ohio High School Athletic Association regarding JH and HS eligibility for athletics. In addition, student-athletes will follow guidelines set forth in this handbook by the Temple Christian administration and athletic department. The eligibility rule requires students in JH and HS to finish each quarter with a minimum GPA as defined by the OHSAA. In addition, students who are failing more than 1 course during a given quarter can be put on academic probation if administration sees fit for intervention. During academic probation a student will not be allowed to participate in scrimmages, matches, meets, or games (They may participate in practice but that is up to the discretion of the coach). Specific questions and decisions regarding eligibility can be found in the OHSAA handbook and/or TCS administration.

On the day of a school-sponsored athletic event, students must be at school by 11:30am on the school day in which the activity is taking place. (Note: Fridays do not dictate Saturday participation). Exceptions to this rule include official college visits, approved family emergencies or school sponsored trips. When in doubt, please inform/ask your head coach and administration if there is a question about a planned absence.

In addition, yearly sports physical packets are mandatory for participation in any practice, scrimmage, or game during the school year. This form is released in the spring of each school year and goes into effect the following school year on August 1. Student athletes will not be able to participate in any official team related event without this packet being completed in its entirety.

Game Schedules

Game schedules are published every season. You can find game schedules and athletic schedule updates in several places including the following: TCS website, Facebook, Twitter, and hard copy in the HS office. TCS makes every effort to update these avenues quickly and efficiently if any change occurs to the athletic schedule. These locations are also good for up to the minute updates regarding cancelations and postponements due to weather during a team's season.

Game Travel/Transportation

If a bus is being used for team transportation, then all team members are expected to ride the team bus to and from the scheduled school sponsored event. Special arrangements due to unforeseen circumstances in travel do arise and these need to be communicated effectively and in a timely manner to the head coach. Parents who car-pool for a team at the JH and HS levels must have their insurance card and driver's license on file in the HS office. Often times, due to bus availability, teams will be asked to carpool to their athletic events.

Sports Health

- 1) The OHSAA and TCS mandate that all athletes be given a yearly physical examination prior to their participation in athletics and that they complete the necessary physical forms. If a student misses practice time or games for a “diagnosed” injury, a note of clearance from a doctor and/or a certified athletic trainer is required.
- 2) All JH and HS coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteer coaches are certified in CPR, First Aid, Concussions and Cardiac Arrest.
- 3) Head injuries: with the increased concern over concussion management parents/guardians are required to sign the health department concussion protocol sheet. Also, parents must agree to follow proper concussion protocol in the process of returning to play as prescribed by the athletic trainer of TCS.
- 4) Temple Christian School uses a certified athletic trainer as provided by Mercy Health and encourages students and families to utilize their expertise regarding sports related injuries.

Uniforms

School issued uniforms are provided for most sports at TCS. These are the property of Temple Christian School and are to be returned in the proper manner to TCS at the conclusion of the season. Some sports require a uniform fee or require uniform purchase. In each case, this information will be clearly communicated to the family before the season begins.

- 1) Athletes are expected to care for the uniform and follow all washing/drying protocol as described in the uniform washing instructions.
- 2) Some uniforms will be collected and washed by a coach and/or volunteer depending on the head coach and nature of the sport. Others will be the responsibility of the student/family to maintain its care. Remember that school issued and owned uniforms are property of TCS and failure to maintain those uniforms will come at the cost to the student/family.
- 3) Students/parents agree to pay for any school owned uniform if it is lost.
- 4) Some athletes may be required to purchase other items such as socks, warm-ups, shoes, etc. These are the responsibility of the athlete and these items will be kept by the athletes.
- 5) Dress down days for student athletes to wear sports related apparel during the academic school day are stipulated by the school administration and communicated by the head coach. These will only take place with the permission of the head coach and administration on a specific day designated by the coach. (Maximum 1 day per week)

Sports and Letters

Due to the ever rising cost of sports letters, pins, and numerals these awards are given on participation in the athletic department as a whole and not on a sport-by-sport basis. Varsity Letters and JV letters are awarded if the student was deemed to have participate in an appropriate amount of playing time as determined by the head coach.