



Temple Christian Athletic Handbook

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Purpose of the Athletic Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to clearly outline the policies, expectations, and procedures for student-athletes, parents, coaches, and staff at Temple Christian School. It serves as a guide to promote a positive, Christ-centered athletic experience while ensuring safety, accountability, and excellence.

Key Points:

- Provides guidelines for participation, behavior, and eligibility.
- Encourages spiritual, physical, academic, and character growth through athletics.
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities of students, parents, and coaches.
- Promotes sportsmanship, teamwork, and a Christ-like attitude on and off the field.
- Serves as a reference for school and athletic administration decisions.

This handbook is a living document; the school reserves the right to interpret and amend policies as needed to maintain a safe, positive, and effective athletic program.

Philosophy

The athletic department of Temple Christian School plays a vital role in students' education by providing opportunities to pursue athletic achievement while fostering growth physically, intellectually, and spiritually. TCS athletics aims to develop Christian student-athletes who thrive in competitive settings and deepen their relationships with peers, coaches, and, most importantly, Jesus Christ.

Our department emphasizes sportsmanship, spiritual growth, team unity, academic responsibility, leadership, and competitive excellence. Participation in athletics at Temple is a privilege, not a right, and is open to students who meet the academic and behavioral standards set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the TCS athletic department, administration, and school board. Temple Christian athletes are held to high standards in character, academics, and athletic performance, and all teams strive to embody the philosophy of TCS athletics.

The department is philosophically opposed to sport specialization. We strongly encourage student-athletes to participate in multiple sports, as this enhances overall athletic ability, improves performance across sports, and supports growth in their preferred sport.

Governing Bodies

Temple Christian School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), which follows the regulations of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). OHSAA rules and policies can be accessed at www.ohsaa.org.

TCS is also a member of the Northwest Central Conference (NWCC) and the Western Ohio Soccer League (WOSL) and adheres to the by-laws established in their respective constitutions. More information about the NWCC and WOSL (HS Boys Soccer) is available at www.nwccsports.com and www.westernohiosoccerleague.com.

General Expectations

Students, student-athletes, coaches, and parents are expected to demonstrate the highest standard of Christian character and principles in all circumstances. Every association with the Temple Christian Athletic Department should support and encourage our players in a fervent, Christ-like manner.

Student-athletes are expected to give their maximum effort while maintaining the attitude of Jesus Christ at all times. This includes behaving in a Christ-like manner during competition, in the classroom, in locker rooms, at opposing schools, at home, and within the community.

All members and representatives of Temple Christian are continually evaluated and held to high standards of conduct in both private and public settings. Temple Christian School strives to be a shining light for Christ in every public arena. In particular, when “on the road,” all attitudes and actions are expected to honor and glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Expectations for Student-Athletes

Student-athletes are expected to follow all rules and policies outlined in the Temple Christian School Handbook, including those regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sexual misconduct, weapons, hazing, bullying, and other behavioral guidelines both in and out of school.

Any student who receives a school disciplinary suspension will also be suspended from athletic participation for the number of days and/or games deemed appropriate by school administration. Students who receive multiple suspensions may face more severe consequences, up to and including being prohibited from participating in TCS athletics permanently.

Athletes must meet all academic expectations as outlined in this handbook (see “Eligibility”).

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate commitment to their team by attending all practices and contests unless excused by their coach. Coaches may establish additional team policies and determine consequences for failure to adhere to attendance and commitment expectations. Timely communication with coaches is required if a student cannot meet team obligations.

Students who cannot fully commit to the team schedule may face consequences, including loss of team membership or league participation. In some cases, OHSA rules restrict participation in outside athletic teams during the season. Any questions regarding non-school team involvement should be addressed with the coach before participation.

Participation in Non-Interscholastic Team Sports During the Interscholastic Season

Student-athletes who are members of a Temple Christian School interscholastic team in a team sport (baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, or volleyball) **may not participate** in any athletic contests, tryouts, or practices with a non-interscholastic team in the same sport during the school’s interscholastic season.

This policy ensures student-athletes remain committed to their school teams, reduce risk of injury, and maintain fairness and competitive integrity during the official season.

Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited in all forms. It includes any activity that humiliates, degrades, or endangers a student-athlete, including physical or mental abuse, forced tasks, pranks, or coerced consumption of alcohol or drugs.

Students, coaches, and staff are responsible for preventing hazing and must report any incidents immediately to the Athletic Director or school administration. Violations may result in suspension or removal from the team, school discipline, and legal consequences under Ohio law.

Temple Christian School expects all athletic teams to build unity through encouragement, respect, and Christ-like mentorship—not through harmful initiation practices. Training on hazing awareness and prevention will be provided to all student-athletes and coaches each season.

Expectations for Parents

Parents are expected to encourage every athlete while maintaining a Christ-centered attitude as they represent Temple Christian School and God's Kingdom. Positive enthusiasm in both verbal and non-verbal communication is expected at all times.

Occasional misunderstandings or issues may arise between students, parents, and coaches, often due to a lack of communication. In such cases, biblical principles of reconciliation and effective communication should guide resolution. Concerns should first be addressed with the coach in an appropriate setting before contacting administration. Note that coaches are advised **not** to discuss playing time with parents. Appropriate topics include the student's physical and mental condition, ways to improve skills, or behavior concerns.

Parents must understand and support the commitment required for their child to participate in athletics. This includes scheduling family vacations, involvement in outside leagues, and other obligations during the athletic season. Missing practices, scrimmages, or games can impact team chemistry, the student's physical conditioning, and overall team performance. Some sports seasons occur during school breaks, and student-athletes may have team responsibilities during those times.

Parents are expected to respect coaches and the time they dedicate to the program. Prompt pick-up and drop-off of student-athletes is appreciated. Additionally, parents are encouraged to assist the Temple Christian Booster Club by volunteering at events, concessions, and clean-up. The Booster Club contributes thousands of dollars each year to support athletic programs and alleviate financial burdens for families.

During competitions, parents and fans are expected to model Christ-like sportsmanship by remaining spectators, avoiding interference with coaches, and refraining from derogatory or negative comments toward officials, coaches, administrators, or other spectators. The Northwest Central Conference (NWCC) has a parent/fan Code of Conduct that will be enforced. If a parent or fan is removed from a contest due to improper behavior, NWCC guidelines and consequences will be followed. Above all, parents are expected to provide love, acceptance, and emotional support for their child regardless of the outcome of the competition.

Parent/Athlete Communication Guide:

What You Can Expect from the Coach:

- Clear explanation of athletic and spiritual philosophy
- Team and individual expectations
- Practice and game schedules
- Team requirements (i.e. fees, equipment, attendance, eligibility, conditioning)
- Injury procedures
- Return of lost or outstanding equipment

What Coaches Expect from Parents and Athletes:

- Open communication between athlete and coach
- Parents supporting their child in communicating concerns
- Advance notice of schedule conflicts

Appropriate Topics to Discuss with Coaches:

- Your child's treatment and well-being
- Ways to help your child improve
- Behavior concerns

Note: Proper timing is encouraged when addressing concerns with a coach. Coaches are not obligated to discuss points of disagreement immediately after a contest. A mutually agreed-upon time should be arranged—typically 24 hours or the following day—to allow both parties proper time for reflection and preparation.

Athletic Team Opportunities

Fall Sports	High School	Junior High	Elementary
Boys Golf	X		
Boys Soccer	X	X	K – 6th
Girls Soccer			K - 4th
Girls Volleyball	X	X	5th & 6th
Winter Sports	High School	Junior High	Elementary
Boys Basketball	X	X	3rd – 6th
Girls Basketball	X	X	3rd – 6th
Boys/Girls Bowling	X		
Cheerleading	X	X	1 Week Camp
Winter Sports	High School	Junior High	Elementary
Boys Baseball	X	X	3rd – 6th
Girls Softball		X	3rd – 6th
Boys/Girls Track & Field	X	X	3rd – 6th

Please Note:

- The number of teams is dependent on the number of players registered in each grade level including opportunities for JV and Freshman teams.

Team/Player Selection

For some teams, it may be necessary to have a designated try-out period, depending on the number of spots available for athletes. If a try-out is required, the period and process will be clearly communicated by the head coach. Eligible students will be selected based on attitude, effort, and talent. Team rosters will be large enough to form a competitive squad capable of performing effectively in the given sport.

Game Schedules

Game schedules are published each season and can be accessed through multiple sources: the TCS website, Facebook, Twitter, and as a hard copy in the High School office. Temple Christian School makes every effort to update these sources promptly in the event of schedule changes. These outlets also provide timely updates regarding cancellations or postponements due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances during the season.

Sunday and Wednesday Play Policy

Temple Christian School partners with families and supports the local church. Recognizing that most of our school families attend church on Sundays and midweek, we encourage students to be actively involved in their church communities (Hebrews 10:24-25).

- Teams sponsored by TCS will make **avoid scheduling athletic contests on Sundays or Wednesdays**.
- All Wednesday practices will effort to conclude by **5:30 p.m.** unless special arrangements are approved by the athletic office and communicated to parents.

Exceptions:

- Teams competing in end-of-season tournament games.

This policy reinforces our commitment to faith, family, and athletics while maintaining competitive integrity.

Competition

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

At the **Elementary level**, the focus is on giving students the opportunity to experience competition and learn the fundamentals of various sports. Each youth league has its own rules regarding playing time, and youth athletics is primarily about exposing students to different sports and fostering enjoyment and participation.

At the **Junior High level**, athletics represent a step up from youth sports in both competition and commitment. Practices and games are required, and playing time is determined by the student's behavior, commitment to the team, ability to listen to coaches, cooperation with teammates, and progress in skill development. This level emphasizes fundamentals, teamwork, and preparation for higher levels of athletics.

At the **JV level**, athletics serve as preparation for Varsity competition. Players should focus on taking the next steps in skill development as they pursue Varsity playing time. This level is a step up from Junior High and provides experience in a more competitive environment while reinforcing commitment, teamwork, and advanced skill development.

At the **Varsity level**, athletes are participating at the highest level of high school competition and are expected to demonstrate maximum commitment to their team and the program. Players should strive to improve their skills throughout the season and also consider off-season opportunities to enhance their abilities for the benefit of both themselves and the team. Varsity athletes are expected to lead by example, contribute to team unity, and uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, character, and effort.

While coaches at all levels aim to provide playing opportunities for athletes, their intent is to balance skill development with competitive play. Playing time is not guaranteed at any level of TCS athletics, except where required by the organization, particularly at the elementary levels.

Eligibility to Play / Practice

Temple Christian School follows the guidelines of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) regarding Junior High and High School athletic eligibility. In addition, student-athletes must comply with the guidelines set forth in this handbook by the TCS administration and athletic department.

Students in JH and HS must meet OHSAA academic requirements, including maintaining a minimum GPA each quarter (see below). Specific questions regarding eligibility can be directed to the OHSAA handbook or TCS administration.

Academic Eligibility – GPA Requirement

Students must maintain a quarterly GPA of 1.25 or higher to participate in athletics at Temple Christian School.

- If a student meets OHSAA requirements for passing the appropriate number of classes but has a quarterly GPA below 1.25, they may maintain athletic eligibility if their GPA from the immediately preceding quarter was 1.5 or higher.

This policy ensures students remain academically responsible while participating in interscholastic athletics.

School Day Attendance

On the day of a school-sponsored athletic event, students must be in school by **11:30 a.m.** to participate. (Note: Fridays do not determine eligibility for Saturday events.) Exceptions include official college visits, approved family emergencies, or school-sponsored trips. When in doubt, students and parents should consult the head coach and administration regarding planned absences.

Participation in Multiple Sports in the same “season”

Student-athletes who choose to participate in two sports during the same season must designate one sport as their **primary sport**. When scheduling conflicts arise between games, practices, or events, the primary sport will take precedence, if in the event one of the sports is an individual sport and one is a team sport the team sport will take precedence.

It is important to recognize that participating in multiple sports is a significant commitment. Even when there are no scheduling conflicts, athletes are still expected to attend all scheduled practices, games, and events for both sports. Students and parents should carefully consider the time, energy, and responsibilities involved before committing to multiple sports in a single season.

Athletic Eligibility – Homeschooled Students (Grades 7-12)

Homeschooled students may participate in Temple Christian School athletic programs if they meet the following requirements:

1. **Course Enrollment:** The student must take at least **one course at Temple Christian School** to be eligible.
2. **Enrollment Period:** The student must enroll by the first day of school and remain enrolled through the end of the school year.
3. **Academic Updates:** Homeschooled students are required to provide **quarterly grade updates** to the Athletic Director for their homeschool courses.
4. **Participation Fees:** Regular participation fees for each sport season still apply.

OHSA Home School Provision:

- According to OHSA Bylaw 4-3-1, students participating in school-sponsored athletics must be enrolled in and attending a member school full-time or meet the partial enrollment policy.
- Partial enrollment requires at least one academic course taken at the school's physical location.
- Students entering from a home school must have been home educated for at least one calendar year prior to enrollment. If this requirement is not met, the student must be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before becoming eligible.

For full details, refer to the OHSA Handbook: [OHSA Home School Provision](#)

Elementary/Youth Sports – Homeschooled Students (Grades K-6)

Although K-6 sports at Temple Christian School do not fall under OHSA eligibility rules, homeschooled students are still encouraged to be enrolled in **at least one course at TCS** to guarantee the opportunity to participate.

- Enrollment in a course at TCS ensures the student can try out or be placed on a team.
- If a homeschool student is **not enrolled in a course at TCS**, participation in youth teams is limited:
 - They may only participate on teams that **need additional players** to complete a roster.
 - If the team has sufficient players, non-enrolled homeschooled students **will not be permitted** to participate.

This policy ensures fairness, maintains team integrity, and encourages homeschool families to engage with the school community.

Registration and Fees

Youth Sports (K–6):

All students participating in Temple Christian School youth sports must complete registration through TeamLinkt (online registration). Registration ensures proper team placement, communication, and safety for all participants.

Junior High (7th–8th Grade):

In addition to TeamLinkt, students must register on Final Forms to submit all required state medical forms, waivers, and a current doctor's physical.

High School (9th–12th Grade):

Students register using **Final Forms**, which includes all required medical forms and waivers.

*Certain sports, particularly non-revenue generating programs, may require a **participation fee**. Administration will communicate any fees prior to the start of the season. Families are encouraged to contact the athletic office with any questions regarding registration or fees.*

Concussion Protocol

Temple Christian School follows all OHSA and Ohio Department of Health concussion guidelines.

- **Immediate Removal:** Any athlete suspected of having a concussion will be removed from play immediately and may not return the same day.
- **Medical Evaluation:** The athlete must be evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider trained in concussion management.
- **Return-to-Play:** Written medical clearance is required. Once cleared, athletes must complete a gradual return-to-play progression while remaining symptom-free.
- **Return-to-Learn:** Academic adjustments may be required during recovery.
- **Documentation:** All concussion paperwork and clearances must be submitted to the athletic department before returning to competition.

Lindsay's Law – Sudden Cardiac Arrest Protocol

Temple Christian School complies with all requirements of Lindsay's Law regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in youth athletes.

- **Parent/Athlete Education:** All parents/guardians and student-athletes must view the Ohio Department of Health Lindsay's Law video and review the required informational handout each year.
- **Required Form:** The signed Lindsay's Law "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgment Form" must be completed in Final Forms before any participation in practices, scrimmages, or games.
- **Symptoms Reporting:** Athletes must immediately report any warning signs of SCA (such as fainting, chest pain, or shortness of breath) to a coach or athletic staff.
- **Immediate Removal:** Any athlete exhibiting symptoms will be removed from activity immediately and may not return until cleared by a licensed healthcare provider.

Team Rules and Uniforms

Participation in a Temple Christian School athletic team requires commitment from the start of the season. Players who do not begin the season with the team should not assume they will be permitted to join late; coaches are not obligated to add players after official practices have begun.

Attendance at all scheduled practices, games, matches, meets, and team events is required unless excused by the coach. Consistent commitment is essential for team development and athlete growth.

Uniforms and team gear may be issued by TCS or may need to be purchased by the player and family. Coaches will communicate required uniforms, gear, and any related costs at the start of the season. Families with financial concerns or questions should contact the athletic office or coach prior to the season.

Travel Expectations

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from all athletic events using the transportation designated by the school (bus or approved carpool). This supports safety, team unity, and accountability.

The only exception to this expectation is when a player's family lives geographically close to the event location. In such cases, parents must notify the coach well in advance if their student will not be riding home with the team.

Students are not permitted to drive other students to athletic events. If a designated carpool is assigned, it is expected that parents serve as the drivers. In extenuating circumstances where a student must drive themselves to a game, they may do so only with prior approval and may not transport any other students. The only exception to this rule is transporting their own siblings.

Coaches' Certifications and Expectations

All coaches at Temple Christian School are required to meet the certification standards established by the state of Ohio, including completion of training programs, background checks, and any sport-specific requirements mandated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). These requirements ensure that coaches provide a safe, knowledgeable, and professional environment for student-athletes.

Beyond certifications, TCS coaches are expected to serve as Christian mentors, modeling Christ-like behavior both on and off the field. Coaches guide student-athletes in developing character, integrity, teamwork, and leadership while helping them grow spiritually, physically, and academically.

Coaches are responsible for establishing and maintaining clear communication routines with both parents and players. They are expected to use these routines effectively to convey expectations, schedules, updates, and any other relevant information to ensure transparency and a strong partnership between the coaching staff, athletes, and families.

High School Awards and Letters

Temple Christian School recognizes the dedication and achievement of high school student-athletes through a system of letters, numerals, and pins. These awards are based on participation in all TCS high school athletic programs, not on any specific sport.

- **Junior Varsity (JV) Awards:**

- 1st year on a JV team: JV letter
- 2nd year and any subsequent JV years: Pin for the JV letter

- **Varsity Awards:**

- 1st year on a Varsity team: Varsity letter
- 2nd year: Numerals for the Varsity letter
- 3rd year and any consecutive years thereafter: Pins for the Varsity letter

- **Four-Year Award:**

Any student who participates in a sport for all four years of high school, regardless of whether at the JV or Varsity level, receives a four-year award recognizing consistent dedication and achievement.

This system encourages student-athletes to strive for excellence and recognizes commitment across all high school athletic competition at Temple Christian School.

Weight Room Policy

The Temple Christian School weight room is available to students in grades 6–12 under supervision. Access is limited to current TCS students, and all users must have the following on file with the athletic office:

- A yearly weight room waiver
- A current sports physical

TCS coaches may reserve the weight room if the number of student-athletes at a workout requires it. During reserved times, the weight room may not be used by other students.

Hours of Use:

- Non-driving students may use the weight room 30 minutes before school and 30 minutes after school.
- Students who drive may stay an additional 30 minutes after school (typically until 4:00 p.m.).

Once a student completes the waiver, they will receive administrative approval along with guidelines outlining expectations for proper and safe use of the weight room. All students are expected to follow these rules, maintain a safe environment, and respect the facility and equipment at all times.

Social Media Policy

For Students:

Student-athletes are expected to use social media responsibly and uphold the values of Temple Christian School both on and off the field. Content shared on social media should reflect integrity, respect, and Christ-like character. Inappropriate posts, including those that demean, harass, or defame teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, or the school, may result in disciplinary action by the school or team, including suspension from participation. Students are accountable for all content they post and should consider the long-term impact of their online presence.

For Parents:

Parents and guardians are expected to model appropriate social media behavior and set a positive example for student-athletes. Social media should never be used to criticize, demean, or attack players, coaches, officials, or opposing teams. Positive, supportive communication helps create a respectful and encouraging environments for all participants in TCS athletics.

Temple Christian School Booster Club

The Temple Christian School Booster Club plays a vital role in supporting our student-athletes and athletic programs. The Booster Club provides crucial financial assistance that helps maintain and improve athletic facilities, purchase equipment, and offset costs for teams and families.

One of the Booster Club's largest sources of consistent income comes from volunteering at concessions during athletic events. This effort directly supports the success of our programs and allows us to provide quality experiences for all athletes.

Active involvement from parents, families, and supporters is essential. Volunteering, participating in events, and supporting the Booster Club strengthens the athletic community and ensures that Temple Christian athletics continue to thrive. Every family's participation—no matter how small—is valued and makes a significant impact on the opportunities available to our student-athletes.