



Briarcrest Christian School

Athletics

Parental Expectations



When students are surveyed about the reasons why they play sports, the #1 response is to have fun. In addition to the fun kids experience while playing sports, there are many other benefits: including physical, cognitive, and emotional growth and development. Above all that, though, is how we believe sports can help develop Christian principles. A lot of these benefits only happen as a direct result of positive efforts from the parents. It is in this spirit that we ask you to abide by the following conditions to help maximize your child's experience with Briarcrest Christian School Athletics. As *1 Peter 3:8* says, "We should be of one mind. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude." We are here to see our children excel both athletically and spiritually.

- Parents/adults are expected to act as role models by demonstrating a high degree of sportsmanlike behavior. As *Colossians 3:17* says, "Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus."
- Always encourage all players in a positive manner
 - Verbal abuse of umpires, referees, officials, coaches, or players on BCS or opposing teams is unacceptable.
 - Avoid inappropriate language at practice or games
 - Do not compete vocally and/or argue with fans or coaches from opposing teams
 - Refrain from "bad mouthing" BCS coaches, players, or other parents
 - Never attempt to create dissent among other BCS parents and players. If a parent has a concern regarding any decisions of the coach they should follow "The Matthew 18 Principle" derived from *Matthew 18:15-17*. The only exception to this would be if there was an issue with a coach that should be addressed on an employer to employee basis (accountability). This principle uses Jesus' method of solving people-to-people problems and encourages the following:
 - Keeps the matter confidential – helps avoid gossip and tearing one down with our words.
 - Keeps the circle small – the first step and most often the only step needed is to go straight to the coach.
 - Be straightforward – you can communicate the concern directly and to the point.
 - Forgiveness – once the matter is resolved you can wholeheartedly forgive and move forward.
 - If the matter still isn't solved or you are not satisfied with the outcome, then you go up the chain of command of BCS administration. In this instance, you would go to the appropriate Athletic Director first.
- Parents should not contact and express any negative comments or complaints to a coach until the day after the game or event in question. Never approach a coach about an issue right before or after a practice/game.
- Player's positions will be determined by the coach based on ability, practice performance, and how that player can best benefit the team for success. Any playing time discussions should be expressed to the coach and should not include an evaluation or comment about other players.
- If you feel that your child is being mistreated or abused emotionally, verbally, or physically, please notify BCS staff immediately! However, not getting to play a certain position does not constitute mistreatment and does not warrant communication with BCS administration.
- Parents should understand and acknowledge that being a member of a Briarcrest Christian School team is a privilege and a significant time commitment. Participation at all practices and games is expected and any non-emergency exception must be discussed with and approved by the Head Coach well in advance of the absence. In addition to player participation, parents may be required to volunteer in different areas. Players may not play for any other team during the school season unless permission is granted in advance by the elementary athletic director. Some of the leagues our teams participate in do not allow players to play in multiple leagues.
- Parents will refrain from coaching their child during practices and games. Please allow the coaches to coach at practices and games.

- Parents will encourage and require that their child follow the rules of the program, listen and show respect to their coaches at all times.
- No parents, coaches, family members, etc. may reproduce any Briarcrest Christian School logo, image, or likeness without expressed, written consent from Briarcrest Christian School (examples: shirts, decals, banners, hats, etc.).
- Parents and coaches understand that the head coach and his assistant coaches are responsible for both their actions and personal conduct and the personal conduct of all persons involved with the team before, during, and after all practices and games. Parents also understand that some Briarcrest coaches, particularly in the elementary athletic teams, are volunteers and have outside careers. Please respect the time and energy that each coach devotes to their team and players.
- It is the desire of BCS and, specifically, head coaches that parents, players, other spectators, and coaches themselves bring honor first and foremost to God and then to BCS by displaying a high degree of positive behaviors and sportsmanship during our athletic events.