

**BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2025-2026**

To: All Middle School Student Athletes and Parents of Student Athletes

On behalf of Briarcrest Christian Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our Athletic Program. This handbook is provided to give both general and specific information that will assist you in being able to participate in the sport(s) of your choice.

**PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

The policies, rules, and regulations presented hereafter have been condensed to address general situations. Students should contact individual coaches or the Athletic Director for clarification or further information.

Sincerely,
Robby Donaldson
Athletic Director



BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

To glorify God by developing through various sports programs, young men and women to be SAINTS for the Kingdom of God; therefore, teaching them to put on the full armor of God in preparation for the challenges they will face, not only in competition, but in their daily walk as Christians.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

At Briarcrest, athletics is considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provides experiences that will help boys and girls physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. Students are stimulated to desire to win, to improve, and to excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the learning opportunities within each contest.

Briarcrest believes that participation in athletics, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an important part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibility to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student himself. In both play and conduct, the student is representing all of these groups. Such experiences enhance the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns possessed by students, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Finally, we feel athletic competition can help one learn how to glorify God effectively in all areas of life. Every athlete does well when he knows what to do. This idea applies to representing Jesus in athletics as well as carrying out athletic assignments. The Bible tells us everything we need to do to represent Jesus in all aspects of life. Although the Bible doesn't apply God's work specifically to athletics, it is filled with principles that do apply to athletics. Coaches and athletes have a responsibility to do their best in representing Jesus by preparing mentally and spiritually for what God calls them to do.

OBJECTIVES OF PARTICIPATION

1. To provide a positive image of school athletics at Briarcrest Christian Middle School.
2. To strive always for playing excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship and the mental health of the student athlete.
3. To provide a superior program.
4. To provide an opportunity for a student to experience success in an activity he or she selects.
5. To provide activities which offer the greatest educational benefits for the student.
6. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
7. To develop high ideals of fairness in all human relationships.
8. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
9. To be socially competent and operate within set rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.
10. To promote the development of Christian personalities on the premises given by God in the Scriptures by conducting all phases of the program in a Christian atmosphere based on a Christian view of God and the world, and preparing Christian youth for effective service.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Members of athletic teams at Briarcrest Christian Middle School are expected to conduct themselves in a “Christ-like Manner” before, during, and after any game or practice. They are expected to follow God’s command given in Colossians 3:23 which says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”

The Briarcrest Christian School student-athlete is expected to:

- (1) Compete Fiercely & Lead Humbly
- (2) Become a Servant Leader serving team above self
- (3) Win with pride and lose with grace
- (4) Honor opponents with both sportsmanship and competition while honoring God in the highest efforts
- (5) Respect for Coaches
- (6) Stewardship of God-given ability
- (7) Total dedication to the sport
- (8) Student-Athletes Theme Verse and Motto

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is for all of our athletes to have the most positive athletic experience possible. This goal cannot be accomplished without the positive efforts of parents. It is in this spirit that we ask parents to abide by the following procedures to help maximize your child’s experience with Briarcrest Christian Middle School Athletics. As 1 Peter 3:8 says, “We should be of one mind. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude.”

We need the support and cooperation of each parent to achieve our goals. We ask that parents contribute to their student’s success and growth by:

- 1. Praying regularly for your student, his/her coach and team. The Bible reminds us that “we have not because we ask not.”**
 - a. Pray specifically for the Lord to be at work in your student’s life as well as those of his/her teammates.
 - b. Pray especially for the coach. As fallible humans, every coach will make mistakes, but we have the assurance that God can work all things together for your student’s good.
 - c. Pray that all the circumstances of the season will be used by God to teach what He wants your son/ daughter to learn.
- 2. Be a positive fan.**
 - a. Your student needs to know that you love and support him/her, no matter what. Whether starting or sitting on the bench, after a score or a miss, your love and encouragement needs to be unconditional just as Christ’s is for us.
 - b. Determine as a fan to help Briarcrest have a positive witness for Christ. We ask our fans to encourage each other and be sure to always be a positive witness at games.

3. Support the athletic department by meeting all expectations. Each team will have its own expectations, however, the following are true for all our teams:

- a. At least one parent must attend the team pre-season meeting. If both parents miss the meeting, the student will not be allowed to play in a game or match until at least one of the parents meets one-on-one with the coach.
- b. If an athlete has a question about expectations or what his/her role is on the team, the student should first go to the coach for these answers. It is important for the student to talk about his/her performance with the coach. This is a life skill we want each of our student athletes to have. If the student is still unclear after speaking with the coach, a conference with the student, parent and coach can be arranged. In most cases these conversations should take place at times, other than game day, but in no case will these discussions take place before or after a contest. A parent can talk to the coach about anything related to the student athlete, teams, season, etc. but not playing time, coaching strategies and calling of plays.
- c. There may be times when parents may differ or will have taken offense with a particular coach following constructive conversations. We ask that parents go directly to the coach, not other parents or fans, and see if the matter can be resolved. If the issue isn't satisfactorily resolved at the coach or head coach level, then the concern may go to the athletic director. If the issue is unable to be resolved, parents will be encouraged to discuss the matter with the head of school. If we commit to resolving in this way the concerns that we believe are wrong, we all will benefit.
- d. Violations of these rules of conduct could lead to forfeiture of the game, the school being placed on probation or the parent/fan being denied access to future contests and/or fined by the TSSAA. The school reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in response to violations of these rules.

1. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Physicals

All student athletes must have a physical dated after April 15 of the current school year to participate in a school-sponsored sport. These physicals must be on file in the Middle School Office prior to participation in any of our athletic endeavors. This includes summer workouts and cheer camps.

A physical can be obtained from your private physician or through the Briarcrest Sports Physical Program. Physicals are offered on campus each May. If you choose to use a private physician, please submit written approval for athletic participation on the letterhead of the doctor or medical group.

PrivIT

All students participating in a sport will need to submit a new sports physical and complete the clearance process in PrivIT. The process through PrivIT can be found on the Middle School Athletics webpage.

Participation Policy

Any student who has past due tuition (delinquent 60 days or more) shall not be eligible to participate in non-credit, co-curricular activities sponsored by the school.

In order for students to participate in any school activity, students must meet the following criteria:

Summer Activities – Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year. The tuition balance for the prior school year must be paid in full and not be over 60 days late under their payment plan for the upcoming school year.

Fall, Winter, Spring Activities – Students must be enrolled. Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year. The tuition balance for the prior school year must be paid in full and not be over 60 days late under their payment plan for the upcoming school year.

Tryouts and Spring Practices for Upcoming School Year – Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year.

This policy includes all sports, cheerleading camps, and fine arts. It does not include Briar camp or Xtracamps.

2. ATTENDANCE THE DAY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CONTEST

A student is expected to attend all classes on the day of a contest and the next school day following the contest. Habitual absences before and/or after a contest may result in suspension from the team. To be eligible to participate in the contest of the day, the athlete must be present for a minimum of four periods, unless the student has been excused from school attendance for such reasons as doctor's appointment, field trip, funeral, etc.

PARTICIPATION IN AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE OR ATHLETIC CONTESTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IF THE ATHLETE IS OUT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE OF ILLNESS MORE THAN ½ OF THE DAY (four periods) OF THE PRACTICE OR CONTEST. The only exception to this rule is a doctor's release which must be presented to the coach prior to practice or the contest.

3. ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICES AND MEETINGS

Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests, and special occasions unless excused by the head coach.

4. CARE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The athlete is responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. Lost, stolen, or damaged equipment will be paid for by the athlete or his parents before any grades are issued.

5. MEDICAL RELEASE TO PARTICIPATE AFTER CONSULTING A DOCTOR

If an athlete is seriously injured and consults a doctor, he/she must have a doctor's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests.

6. PERSONAL CONDUCT

Participation on an athletic team or cheerleading squad at Briarcrest is a privilege and the participant must earn the right to represent Briarcrest by conducting himself in such a way that the image of Briarcrest Christian School will not be tarnished in any manner. Any participant whose conduct is judged to reflect a discredit upon himself/herself, the team or Briarcrest Christian School, whether or not such activity takes place during or outside of school hours and sessions of the sport season, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, the athletic director, the school principal and/or the President of Briarcrest School System.

Any student athlete coming off the bench and getting involved in any altercation on the field or court will be subject to disciplinary action. Any athlete ejected from a game in any sport may be subject to suspension from a portion of or all of the following game.

See the Student Code of Conduct for further detail regarding rules of conduct.

7. QUITTING A TEAM

The normal rule for athletes quitting a team is that the athlete renders himself ineligible for any sport during that season which has already begun. An athlete who goes out for a sport but is “cut” would be eligible to try out for and participate in another sport during that season. **ANY PLAYER QUITTING A TEAM CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN AN OFF-SEASON PROGRAM FOR ANOTHER SPORT.** The Head Coach should notify the Athletic Director immediately when a player quits or is dropped from the team.

8. TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE

Each coach will have discipline rules for minor infractions, such as inattention to directions, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc.

9. LOCKER ROOMS

Valuables should be locked up in lockers during practices and games. Laptops, wallets and other valuables should NEVER be left out in the gym or on the field. After practices and games, please put equipment in its proper place and make sure the gym/field/locker room is clean.