



BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

To: All Student Athletes and Parents of Student Athletes

On behalf of Briarcrest Christian High School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in being a part of our athletic program. This handbook is provided to give general and specific information that will assist you in being able to participate in the sports of your choice. ***PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.***

The policies, rules, and regulations presented hereafter have been condensed to specific situations. The official TSSAA Handbook and the NCAA Guide for the college bound student-athlete are available in the office of the Athletic Director. Students should contact their coaches or the athletic director for clarifications or further information.

Sincerely,

Matt Saunders
Athletic Director

BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 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 want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the learning opportunities of contests.

Briarcrest believes that participation in athletics, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an important part of the student's educational experiences. 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 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

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION **RULES OF ELIGIBILITY**

A summary of TSSAA eligibility rules is provided below for your information. Read these rules carefully and be sure you understand them. For more information on the TSSAA Rules and Regulations, go to tssaa.org.

1. A student must have passed 6 credits prior to the beginning of the school year and must be enrolled in 5 classes.
2. A student must be enrolled before the 20th day of the semester, with regular attendance, and carrying at least 5 full courses during the present semester.
3. A student is permitted eight semesters of eligibility beginning with the ninth grade. Eighth graders are eligible to play up if the high school and middle administration are in agreement and they meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.
4. A student shall be ineligible in high school if he becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1st.
5. Athletes must live at home with their parents or guardians.
6. The Executive Director of the TSSAA must approve all transfer students before they may participate in a game. (See TSSAA Handbook)
7. A student who engages in three or more days of football practice – including spring practice – with a school in which he is enrolled shall be ineligible in football for 12 months in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of his parents.

8. A student whose name is listed on the school eligibility report cannot participate in an independent game or meet until the season has closed in that particular sport or his/her name has been removed from the eligibility report at the request of the school principal. (Grades 9-12)
9. A registered athlete cannot accept any money for athletic skills in any TSSAA sponsored sport.
10. An athlete may accept a medal, trophy, high school letter, sweater, jacket, blazer, or blanket for athletic participation, but nothing of commercial value, and their awards must carry the school's letter or other appropriate award emblem.
11. All expenses to an athletic camp where specified instruction is offered must be paid for by the athlete or his parents.
12. When an athlete is charged tuition to attend a school, the parent or guardian must pay it.
13. TSSAA rule regarding significantly past due accounts. "Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue."

ATHLETIC POLICIES

The following general policies shall govern each student athlete participating in any phase of the Briarcrest interscholastic athletic program.

1. ADHERANCE TO TSSAA RULES

The student will abide by the rules and regulations of the TSSAA Rules and Handbook. Copies of the handbook are available in the office of the Athletic Director and each athlete is advised to familiarize himself/herself with those rules and regulations.

2. FORMS AND RELEASES

Before a student may participate in any sport including conditioning and practices, he/she must have completed the following forms. These forms must be in the hands of High School Athletic Office before any type of participation including practice.

- A. Sports Medical Form with student, parent, and physician signatures dated after April 15th.
- B. Male/Female Consent Form with student and parent signatures.
- C. Concussion form with student and parent signatures.
- D. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention form with student and parent signatures.

3. ATTENDANCE THE DAY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CONTEST

A student is expected to attend all classes on his schedule on the day of a contest and the next school day following the contest. Habitual absences before and 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 at least four periods, unless the student has been excused from school attendance for such reasons as doctor's appointment, field trip, college visitation, funerals, etc.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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. 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.

7. 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 themselves 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 immediately dismissed from the game and be subject to disciplinary action up to and including possible dismissal from the team for the remainder of that season.

Any student athlete ejected from an athletic contest will be required to serve a TSSAA suspension. In sports that are allowed 20 or more regular season games, the TSSAA requires a two game suspension. Sports with less than 20 games, TSSAA requires a one game suspension.

8. POSSESSION OR USE OF TOBACCO OR VAPOR PRODUCTS

The possession/use of tobacco in any form or vapor cigarettes is prohibited on campus for all students at BCS. Athletes practicing or participating in competition are considered on campus. In addition, athletes proven to use/possess tobacco in any form or vapor cigarettes elsewhere will be subject to additional team disciplinary actions.

9. POSSESSION OF OR ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BCS students shall not possess, use, sell, or supply alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or drug related products; nor shall BCS students abuse prescription drugs or over-the-counter products. The penalties for such violation are listed in the Student Code of Conduct.

10. QUITTING A TEAM

The normal rule for athletes quitting a team is that they make themselves 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.

11. TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE

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

