



**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 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*

Matt Saunders  
Athletic Director



### Athletic Philosophy

At Briarcrest, athletics is considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provide experiences that helps student-athletes physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We support a program that promotes a healthy level of competition while exhibiting honor and great sportsmanship. Students are encouraged to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship always prevail to enhance the learning opportunities of athletics.

We feel athletic competition can help one learn how to glorify God effectively in all areas of life. The Bible directs in how 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, athletes and parents have a responsibility to do their best in representing Jesus by preparing mentally and spiritually for what God calls them to do.

By following these guidelines and expectations, our Briarcrest Christian School student-athletes, parents and coaches will be given the best chance to experience the growth outlined in our Athletic Department mission statement.

### BCS ATHLETICS 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.

## **CORE VALUES**

We will accomplish this Mission by focusing on the Briarcrest Christian School Athletics Core Values (SAINTS)

- S = SERVANT LEADER**  
*Mark 9:35*  
Always thinking of how you can help others.
- A = ATTITUDE**  
*Philippians 2:5-8*  
A positive outlook and enthusiasm, doing what it takes and inspiring others to do the same. Others Hope, We Expect.
- I = INTEGRITY**  
*Philippians 4:8*  
Owning when we make a mistake and make the necessary adjustments to fix it.
- N = NOW**  
*Matthew 6:34*  
Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
- T = THANKFULNESS**  
*Colossians 3:17*  
Do you have an attitude of gratitude? If not, why?
- S = SACRIFICE**  
*Luke 9:23*  
To give up something that is valuable to you to help another person.



### **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 create a desire to succeed and excel.
6. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
7. To be socially competent and operate within set rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.
8. 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.

### **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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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/she becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>.
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 practice – with a school in which he/she is enrolled shall be ineligible 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.
9. All expenses for an athletic camp where specified instruction is offered must be paid for by the athlete or his parents.
10. When an athlete is charged tuition to attend a school, the parent or guardian must pay it.



11. TSSAA rule regarding significantly past due accounts. “Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.”
12. If a student with an athletic record transfers to a new school where an “athletic coaching link” existed in the past 12 months, that student is ineligible for 12 months past their first date of enrollment at the new school at all levels in the specific sports where a linkage was present. Links may include (a) attendance at an individual camp (and then transferring); (b) playing on non-school (independent) teams (and then transferring to that coach’s school); (c) transferring into a school where a former coach has been hired; and (d) transferring to a school where a former or current personal trainer or strength and conditioning coach is employed. This rule does not apply if the student moves to his/her new schools after completion of the highest ending grade at his/her previous school.

### **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 the High School Athletic Office before any type of participation, including practice.

- Sports Medical Form with student, parent, and physician signatures dated after April 15th.
- Male/Female Consent Form with student and parent signatures.
- Concussion form with student and parent signatures.
- 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**). 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 competitions 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.

**12. HAIR/APPEARANCE**

All athletes will abide by Briarcrest Christian School dress code. NO visible Tattoos. No earrings or body piercings on males. No body piercing other than the lower lobe of the ear on females.

**13. LETTERING**

Each coach will set the standards needed to letter in that particular sport. Athletes should check with their coaches for these requirements at the beginning of the season.

**14. PAST DUE STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

The TSSAA has a rule regarding significantly past due student tuition accounts. The rule states: “Schools shall remove any student from the athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.” As a result of this rule, it is imperative that parents stay current with the payment plan they selected in order for their student(s) to continue to participate in practices and games. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Patricia Whitley, Director of Accounting & Finance, at (901-765-4642) to discuss alternatives that may exist, such as changing payment plans.

**15. 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 in the field house. After practices and games, please put equipment in its proper place and make sure gym/field house is clean.

**I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the expectations and policies posted in the Briarcrest Student Athlete Handbook.**

Students Printed Name/Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Printed Name/Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO YOUR COACH OR THE ATHLETIC OFFICE BEFORE YOUR FIRST DATE OF PARTICIPATION IN YOUR SPORT.**



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