



Student Athlete Code of Conduct Handbook

TEACH Guardians Athletic Department

TEACH Athletic Mission Statement

The mission of our TEACH Guardians Athletic Program is to teach our student athletes the benefits of competition and understand its redemptive value. While TEACH Athletes will be taught to win, we must have a higher purpose in competing: glorifying Christ by using our gifts, having self discipline, developing Godly character and displaying good sportsmanship and teamwork.

TEACH Athletic Philosophy

TEACH Athletics believes sports are an integral part of the educational process. We believe that when teamed with an academic education as well as spiritual guidance, athletics is an important portion of the growth and development of young people. Academic performance will take precedence over performance on an athletic court. While we invite all students to participate in many of our athletic programs, athletics is not required nor is it a right; participating in athletics is a privilege and should be viewed as such. We will strive to be the most competitive athletic program we can be. This means that physical ability to perform athletic tasks will be a major factor in determining the makeup of our teams as well as the amount of playing time a student athlete may receive at any given time. However, physical ability is not the sole determining factor that coaches will use in shaping teams and allowing playing time. Hard work, loyalty, dedication to the program and being coachable are just a few more factors a student athlete should focus on.

TEACH athletic program is not run as a recreational program. We will be competitive at the highest level possible. We will not sacrifice moral values, Christian principles or safety in order to be more successful, but we will make every effort to build a successful program at every level.

Handbook Purpose

The purpose of the athletic handbook is to familiarize the TEACH community, athletes and parents of the direction of our athletic program. The guidelines within the handbook are important and will be followed. We stress communication on the court and strive for good communication off the court. Please feel free to communicate with us any issue you may have.

The following are guidelines of how each level of athletics helps build an overall successful program.

Middle School Athletics

While each sport has its own personality and each class of individuals have their own make up, these are guidelines as to the progression of a successful athletic program within the middle school program.

1. God did not create each of us with the same abilities. We all have our own gifts. Therefore, we will not all be able to contribute the same. Some players will play more than others. Some players will score more than others; and ultimately some players will get more recognition than others.

2. However, in middle school we have very little idea of how a student athlete will mature so each middle school athlete should have the opportunity to see some type of competition on a daily basis as well as from game to game. This does not mean equal playing time. Also, this is at the coach's discretion. A student athlete should only expect to see playing time if the following criteria are met:

- a. The student athlete has a positive attitude that reflects TEACH Athletics' mission.
- b. The student athlete receives constructive criticism from the coaching staff in such a manner that they can use the criticism and improve.
- c. The student athlete is coachable.
- d. The student athlete works hard every chance they get.
- e. The student athlete attends every practice.

If these criteria are met by a middle school athlete, they should have the opportunity to compete, to learn and to enjoy their time as a student athlete.

3. Understand that the coaching staff is only here to make the student athlete and the program better. Nobody on the coaching staff of TEACH Athletics will play favorites.

4. If there is an issue with a coach, please have your student athlete approach the coaches and set up a time to discuss the issue with both of them. If the issue cannot be resolved, please use the chain of command step by step and we will do all necessary to solve the issue.

5. Middle school athletics is the foundation of a good athletic program. We want to be competitive and successful starting early; we will learn these things beginning in sixth grade.

High School Athletics

High School athletics are more competitive and the schemes will become more complex as the student athletes mature physically, spiritually and mentally.

1. Athletes should have a good foundation and direction of where they would like to go as a student athlete; what sports they would like to play and what positions they would like to play.
2. The speed of the individual sports will increase, so athletic ability will have to be refined. Many times coaches will ask players to put in extra work. Being the first at practice and the last to leave is a great rule to live by. Take the extra few minutes every practice to improve. Not only will it improve your athletic ability, it will help instill an attitude of hard work.
3. We will have a better idea of the different gifts and abilities that individuals possess and we will always put the best players on the court in any given situation in order to be successful. This does not always mean the most talented or athletic player.
4. Ultimately we will use athletics as a time for camaraderie, sportsmanship, gamesmanship and competition. Life is filled with competition. Therefore, if we create a similar environment we feel we are readying our student athletes for the future.

These guidelines are just that, guidelines. There are many other factors that we will use to determine make up of our teams. We will never discuss playing time or position with a parent. We will, however, discuss how your student athlete could get better. We will also never discuss another student athlete with you, as a parent. We strive to promote good sportsmanship, gamesmanship, Christian morals and camaraderie.

Role of Athlete

Attitude is everything. Being a part of a team is a privilege. Players should have the attitude that the team is bigger than themselves. Players should exhibit 100% commitment and effort.

Poor sportsmanship will never be tolerated. Players should never complain about the officials. Disrespecting your coach, other players (on their own or the opponents' team), and officials will not be tolerated. Players should not feel entitled to position or playing time. This is the coach's responsibility to manage.

Athletes are encouraged to uphold the following ideals:

- As an athlete I agree to follow proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- I will be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
- I will play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, violence, or verbal abuse.
- I will respect the officials and their authority before, during, and after games. I will never question or confront coaches on the game court, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will conduct myself in a Christ-like manner in regards to my coaches, teammates, and others. This includes in my speech, actions, and attitude. This includes at games, practices, and anywhere at school.

Role of the Parent

A very important goal of middle school and high school athletics should be to make the athletic experience a positive one for the athletes, the coaches, the parents and those who choose to watch our teams perform.

Parents play a key role in this process, not only by their behavior at sporting events, but also in how they support these beliefs at home. Parents and other spectators at athletic events are expected to show good sportsmanship. We should strive for our “fan base” to exhibit Christ-like behavior. Please keep in mind the influence we have not only on our youth, but also on other spectators, who may or may not know Christ. Pray with us that this team experience will be beneficial for your student and that the Lord will be glorified in the attitudes and actions of their team.

Parents and family members are encouraged to uphold the following ideals:

- As a parent I recognize that it is vital that I support the efforts and decisions of the coaching staff.
- As a parent I also recognize the importance of being a positive role model. Therefore, I agree to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the dictates of good sportsmanship at all contests, both at TEACH home locations as well as opposing school sites. I agree to cheer in a positive fashion for outstanding play and will refrain from criticizing the efforts of the officials, the players (both teams), and the decisions made by the coaches.
- Attendance at practice is a priority for all team members. As a parent/guardian of a team member I will make every attempt to assure that my child will be able to attend all practices and contests.
- I realize parents are responsible for helping with Home game Gate Admission, chaperoning during a practice or assisting with score books or game clock whenever possible.
- I will respect the coaches, TEACH board and athletic coordinators and their authority during athletic events. I will never question, discuss or confront coaches or board/committee members at a game or practice. Rather, I will follow the proper chain of command.
- I will support and endorse all the rules, policies and procedures discussed in the rest of this handbook.

Prerequisites and Participations

- Be a TEACH member.
- Attend a scheduled preseason tryout
- Submit signed Statement of Commitment agreeing to contents of Student Handbook
- Submit student online Registration/payment

Risk Factor in Sports

There is an inherent risk involved when participating in sports. Please be aware of this risk and ways to help prevent injury. It is extremely important to report any injury to your coach immediately and to your doctor as soon as possible.

Chain of Command

In the event that there is a question concerning your child, or any other issue you would like to discuss; we will follow the chain of command in order to solve any issue. The chain of command is as follows:

1. Player to Coaches
2. Player/Parent to Coaches
3. Player/Parent to Athletic Coordinator
4. Player/Parent to TEACH Board

Player Fees

Each player will be assessed a player fee which helps cover costs incurred by TEACH for uniforms, insurance, gym space, as well as other such costs to run an athletic program. Fees may vary by sport and year.

Issuance of Team Uniforms

All TEACH student-athletes will be issued TEACH uniforms specific to each sport season. All uniforms and equipment are the property of TEACH Athletics. Each student is responsible for the care of uniforms/equipment issued to him/her. It is expected that students will not loan uniforms/equipment to someone else. Players who wish to exchange uniforms/equipment with another player must notify the coach. At the completion of the season, athletes are required to clean and return all TEACH uniforms issued to them. It is the responsibility of the athlete to return to the coaches all clothing issued to that athlete. These items are to be returned to the coaches within 1 week of the completion of the season. Athletes not returning uniforms will be requested to pay TEACH replacement cost for the uniform.

As long as there exists within all of us that human drive to win, we will have to be concerned about sportsmanship. The desire to win is not bad by itself. On the contrary, it is good. It is the proper attitude with which to approach any endeavor. To do otherwise would be to opt for failure instead of success. But while the quest to win must not be stifled, it must be honorable. In athletics, the quest must carry with it the realization that somebody is not going to win. In high school sports, winning cannot be the 'only thing.' Handling loss is equally as educational, therefore equally as important, as winning. Remember, high-school sports will live or die not by contests won or lost, but by sportsmanship-good or bad.

We have outlined above the expectations for behavior of student athletes and parents. It is our desire to provide a positive Christian example in practice and during athletic events. We expect TEACH athletic programs to allow students to develop spiritually by demonstrating clear Christ-like behavior.

It is expected and required that, at the beginning of each season, all players and parents review and sign the above athlete handbook. Signed copies will be maintained on file with TEACH Athletics.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, _____, as a member of a TEACH athletic team, do agree to abide by the rules and standards of conduct as stated in the TEACH Guardians Athletic Handbook. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment up to and including dismissal from TEACH athletics.

By signing below, I, the student-athlete, and we, the parents/guardians, agree to the stated responsibilities in the Athletic Handbook. We waive all rights to the TEACH Athletic Department to guide myself, and our child, in the sports participated in, to the best of their ability.

Student-Athlete Signature

Parent/ Guardian Signature

date