



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 weekly 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 follow the proper chain of command. NEVER confront coaches at games or practices. Rather contact coaches by email or texting to 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 fifth 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. 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.
5. If there is an issue with a coach, please follow the proper chain of command. NEVER confront coaches at games or practices. Rather contact coaches by email or texting to 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.
6. 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 agree to uphold the following ideals:

- o As an athlete I agree to follow proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- o 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.
- o I will play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, violence, or verbal abuse. o 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.
- o I recognize possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and/or any type of electronic nicotine delivery system or weapons is prohibited at all TEACH functions.
- o I will conduct myself in a Christ-like manner in regards to my coaches, teammates, and others. This includes my speech, actions, and attitude. This includes games and practices as well as community and online.

## 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 agree to uphold the following ideals:

- o As a parent I recognize that it is vital that I support the efforts and decisions of the coaching staff.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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 and request a meeting with coaches to discuss any concerns.
- o I understand instigating or participating in a confrontation in front of any child is never appropriate and will not be allowed.
- o I recognize possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and/or any type of electronic nicotine delivery system or weapons is prohibited at all TEACH functions.
- o I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others. If any physical ailment prevents my child from practices

or games, I will provide a doctor's signed letter of release allowing the athlete to return to his/her sport.

o I will support and endorse all the rules, policies and procedures discussed in the rest of this handbook.

### **Prerequisites and Participations**

- o Be a TEACH member.
- o Submit signed Statement of Commitment agreeing to contents of Student Handbook
- o Submit student online Registration/payment/required forms
- o Sign Concussion Information Sheet

### **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, NEVER confront coaches at a game or at practice. Rather, contact the coaches by texting or email in order to set up a predetermined time to meet. Please 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 Coordinators
4. Player/Parent to TEACH Board

Guidelines for Conflict Resolution:

1. Coaches with concerns about an athlete will let parents know, by text/phone call, email, or in person what concerns have been addressed with the athlete. If an athlete has a concern, they should reach out to their coach with their concerns and may meet with their coach, along with their parents.
2. Coaches will contact the Athletic Committee directly to let them know that a meeting is being scheduled with the athlete and their family to discuss concerns.
3. If a family requests a meeting with a coach, the coach will inform the Athletics Committee before the meeting and will inform the Committee with how concerns were addressed and resolved, or need to be taken to the next step, after the meeting.

4. All Coaching staff will meet with the athlete and parent(s), if at all possible. It is required to have at least two Coaches present during a meeting. Per the Code of Conduct, the Athlete also needs to be a part of the discussion/meeting where it concerns them.
5. Once there is an offense serious enough to warrant an inquiry by the Athletic Committee, the athlete or coach will be suspended. The parties involved will be given 5 days to write a witness account of what happened and how they were involved. Every effort will be made to schedule a meeting with coaches, the athlete, and parent(s). The athlete or coach will be suspended for the duration of the inquiry.
6. The Athletic Committee will reach out to parents and coaches within 24 hours after an incident and will reach out at Day 4 to inquire if a statement will be submitted, if it has not already been submitted, by all parties involved. If it is determined that a violation occurred, the Athletics Committee will contact the family and coaches with its decision. This will occur no later than 3 days after all accounts have been submitted. Code of Conduct offenses will be listed, for reference, with the final decision determined by the Athletics Committee.

### **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**

TEACH basketball/volleyball student-athletes will be issued TEACH uniforms which are the property of TEACH Athletics. Each student is responsible for the care of uniforms issued to him/her. At the completion of the season, athletes are required to clean and return all TEACH uniforms. Families who have not turned in uniforms by April 30 will not be able to renew TEACH membership. A replacement cost will be assessed for lost or damaged uniforms.

### **Disciplinary Policies**

Violation of any of the rules and regulations found within this document can jeopardize the privilege of any student to participate in TEACH athletics programs. Punishment is at the discretion of the coaching staff and TEACH athletics.

### **Leaving a Team**

Individuals leaving a team without the coach's permission or because of Athletic Code of Conduct Rule violation forfeit all awards, banquets and fees paid. Such individuals may not participate on any other athletic team that same sport season and may be prohibited from playing during the next season as well.



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.

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#### 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.

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Student-Athlete Signature Parent/ Guardian Signature

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date

