Athletic Mission Statement

The purpose of athletics at Carolina Christian School is to fulfill the ultimate mission of CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, equipping students to be salt and light for God’s glory, by developing Christ-like character throughout the entire CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL community through the pursuit of excellence in competitive athletics.

The following key principles of the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Mission statement will be incorporated across all athletic programs:

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL athletic programs will promote an environment where the entire CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL community, on the field of play as well as on the sidelines, demonstrates Christian character and conduct. We seek to integrate a biblical worldview on the athletic field as much as in the classroom.

EXCELLENCE: CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL will pursue excellence in the athletic programs as a means of giving honor to the Creator of our physical bodies. We express “excellence” by maximizing individual and team performance and not necessarily results.

AFFORDABILITY: CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL athletic programs will practice good stewardship of the resources available within the overall priorities of the school.

Athletic Vision

In accordance with our mission statement, CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL will engage its entire community in the following ways in order to achieve its purpose in all existing and future athletic programs and facilities.

Athletes

The goals for the student athlete should be built upon a biblical foundation and include reaching the highest level of individual and team performance while maintaining a primary focus on academics. Athletes are expected to exercise their God-given talents to the best of their abilities, in both practice and play, in order to bring glory to the Creator. Specifically, the desire is for athletes to develop and display Christ-like qualities such as godliness, obedience, humility, servant leadership, perseverance and self-control, while on and off the field, for the purpose of advancing the gospel.
**Coaches**

At all times, coaches are to represent Christ, themselves, and the school in a God-honoring manner and to train their athletes to do the same. Coaches for Carolina Christian School must have a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ and a view of athletics that is consistent with the mission of the program. The athletic program will be staffed with personnel who are gifted in their field and can skillfully prepare the students to compete at their highest level of play. Furthermore, coaches should, within the context of a mentoring relationship, teach their athletes to apply biblical principles in the competitive environment.

**Staff**

The Athletic Director ensures that the athletic program maintains the proper biblical perspective and serves its intended role as an extra-curricular means of support for the overall mission of the school, which is to train students to be salt and light for God’s glory. The Athletic Director oversees the development and implementation of the athletic program in accordance with the vision and long-range plans set forth by the leadership of the school. He must articulate and promote the mission of the program as he serves as an ambassador of the school within the conference and community. The Athletic Director is accountable for hiring and developing the coaching staff, scheduling, and operational tasks that create a strong, competitive program consistent with the school’s standard of excellence. Additionally, he manages the resources available for use by the athletic department, including budgeted funds, donations and Booster Club contributions, using principles of biblical stewardship. In extraordinary situations, with the consultation of the Headmaster, the Athletic Director may supersede the authority written in this document when action is deemed necessary for the best interests of Carolina Christian School.

**CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Community**

Carolina Christian School seeks to apply the benefits and responsibilities of the athletic program to the entire CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL community. The competitive environment is seen as an opportunity for growth, both individually and corporately, in Christian character as teams experience testing and adversity, as well as triumph. As families and fans support the program through attendance at athletic events, they are expected to display, in action and in speech, attitudes that are gracious, hospitable and honoring to the Lord, making the most of every opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Staff, students and families are encouraged to join together in support of athletics in order to promote a sense of school-wide unity and spirit.

**Facilities**

Carolina Christian School desires to build and maintain, within its means, facilities to support its athletic program. The infrastructure of the athletic program must reflect good stewardship practices and be in line with the school’s mission of affordability and excellence. In each sport offered, the school will provide, through use of its own facilities or utilization of community venues, space for play that meets the state and conference specifications, including safety standards, for that event. In

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addition, Carolina Christian must ensure that teams have adequate areas and times for practices, as well as spectator seating and parking when hosting an event.

_Athletic Programs_

Carolina Christian School believes that all students should be given an opportunity to join an athletic team. Team selections will be conducted in a fair and godly manner. Players will be chosen based on attitude, grades, athletic ability, game skills and potential. Carolina Christian School will consider expanding its program to include all levels of teams and sports offered by schools within its conference. The addition of any team to our program will be based upon the following criteria:

Mission appropriateness – As with all extra-curricular activities, team goals and behaviors must uphold the mission of CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

Interest – Students must demonstrate an eagerness to participate as assessed by the Athletic Director.

_Athletic Program Policies_

1. _Philosophy_

We are instructed in I Timothy 4:8 that the development of the body without regard to godliness is of little value. The purpose of the athletic program at Carolina Christian is to help in the development and exercise of Christ-like behavior including self-discipline, obedience, discipleship, stewardship, grace and compassion. The athletic program seeks to develop these spiritual characteristics while developing the physical body in a competitive environment. Participation on any athletic team at Carolina Christian is considered a God-honoring privilege.

2. _Expectations_

   A. Athlete Responsibilities

   Student athletes will be expected to train conscientiously, practice diligently, and play every game to the best of their ability in an effort to meet the team’s competitive goals.

   Athletes will be quick to encourage and build up their teammates.

   All CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL student athletes commit to:

   1. Teamwork as an essential to being a good teammate.
   2. Being leaders in living Christ-like lives on and off the field.
   3. An entire season if selected to play on a CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL team. This includes all practices and games. Missing a game/practice for vacations (e.g. family trips, extended weekends) is not acceptable.
   4. Apologize to anyone they offend, whether the offense is intentional or unintentional.
   5. Abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
   6. Pray for the team and coaches on a regular basis.
B. Team Commitment

CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL recognizes that it could be difficult for some athletes to participate in two team sports (ex. CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL/Club) in the same season. Therefore, should an athlete commit to play on two teams it will be necessary for the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL coach, student, and parents to meet and agree to team commitment terms. It is expected that the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL team will take priority if there is a conflict.

C. Athletes at practice will:

1. Give the coach his/her undivided attention and respond immediately.
2. Work diligently to improve personally and contribute to improving the team.
3. Be serious and exercise proper self-control.
4. Listen to and receive correction and instruction from coaches.

D. Parents agree to:

1. Instruct their children to respect their coach as an authority over them.
2. Be responsible to get their children to and from practice on time.
3. Resolve concerns, questions, and problems by talking with the appropriate coach before any other action is taken. (Matthew 18:15 ff) Please note that discussion of playing time will be at the complete discretion of the head coach. It is strongly suggested that concerned parents wait 24 hours before approaching the coach with their concerns.
4. Encourage their child’s positive contribution to the team.
5. Make every effort to participate and contribute to team responsibilities which may include gate, concessions, etc.
6. Exercise discernment, sensitivity, and self-control in offering advice to players. We ask that parents leave the coaching to the coaches during the games.
7. Support and adhere to the decisions of the coaches in team-related matters.

E. In general, athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators agree to:

1. Be an encouragement to CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL teams, players, coaches, and officials.
2. Not boo, yell, or criticize the officials. The officials’ decisions may only be questioned by coaches who will do so in an appropriate manner.
3. Respect all opponents and treat them as we would have them treat us. Consider every visitor, opponent, or official as a partner in Christ or potential partner in Him.
4. In victory, be gracious to the loser and not boastful.
5. In loss, do not demean the achievement of the opponent nor criticize the coaches or officials.
F. Attendance- athletes agree to:

1. Attend every practice session and game unless excused by the coach. MS athletes can expect to meet 4 times per week, including games and practices. However, during pre-season training, 5 times per week is permissible. HS athletes can expect to meet 5 times per week.

2. Recognize that unexcused absences from games and/or practices may result in disciplinary action, and recurrences may lead to dismissal from the team.

3. Be dressed and ready for practice on time. Tardiness may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the coaches.

4. Academic responsibilities take priority over extra-curricular activities. Therefore, student athletes must fulfill the attendance requirements as defined in the current Carolina Christian School Parent-Student Handbook. Doctor’s notes are permitted, but students are expected to be in school except for the length of the appointment and reasonable travel time.

5. AP Exams are administered in the spring for students enrolled in those classes. The College Board/AP organization offers makeup exams specifically for athletes. You will be expected to use this makeup date if there is a conflict with a game or match. Please see the Guidance Counselor for scheduling.

G. Behavior

1. Athletes are expected to abide by all standards that are outlined in the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Student Handbook. Violations of the standards may result in dismissal from the team.

2. Athletes’ language should be free from improper or questionable speech, including cursing, negative or hurtful comments, and taunts.

3. As representatives of Christ and CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, athletes should not engage in fighting, hazing, bullying, or other improper activities. (either on or off campus)

H. Observance of the Lord’s Day

No practices or games will be held on Sundays. Players are encouraged to rest and be with their families and attend church on the Lord’s Day. No team parties should take place on Sundays.

3. Competition/Playing Time

A. Varsity

Coaches will use their best judgment in utilizing players to compete at the highest level during games. Some players will start; some will be subs; and some may not receive much playing time. It is important to note that playing time does not reflect negatively on the character of any student athlete. All players contribute to the team
even if it is only during practice where they make their major contribution to the team.

B. Middle School

The emphasis is on skill development at this level. Coaches will make every effort to allow game opportunities for all athletes. However, equal playing time for all participants is not guaranteed.

4. Team/Player Selection

All teams shall have a published tryout period to be determined by the head coach. Players will be selected based on attitude, grades, athletic ability, game skills, and potential. A coach will then decide the method of communicating the final team roster. After the final roster is determined, the coach will follow up personally with those that did not make the team. The number of players on a team will be determined by the coach in consultation with the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Athletic Director. A younger player may play up if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the athlete and the program. This decision will be made by the Athletic Directors, Coaches, Parents, and the Athlete.

After a final roster is submitted to the Athletic office, no player may be added without the approval of the Athletic Director.

Full Participation Program

Athletics is an important element in the education of young people, and the athletic programs at Carolina Christian School are an integral part of our educational process. Properly conceived, directed, and coached, interscholastic athletics provides experiences and lessons one cannot duplicate in the classroom. Participation in athletics promotes a positive self-image, development of physical, mental, and social skills, understanding of team cooperation, and a sharing of personal experiences.

Due to our limited school size, we need students to participate in inter-scholastic sports. It is our desire that athletes represent the school by participating in more than one sport per year.

Carolina Christian School believes that the opportunity to join an athletic team should be afforded to all students. Each season, at least one sport for boys and one sport for girls will not have a roster cap. If a student does not make a team in his or her sport of choice, an opportunity is still afforded the student to join an interscholastic team.

5. Quitting a Team

1. No athlete is allowed to quit a team or squad once he/she has been selected without a parent conference with the coach. Once a team is selected, coaches plan their seasons based on complete teams. All coaches expect each athlete selected to play the entire season.
2. A player is permitted to drop off a team if a serious injury dictates or if it is in the best interest of his/her academic success. No athlete who quits will be allowed to rejoin the team that season.

3. Athletes who quit without the consent of the coach and Athletic Director will not be eligible to play a sport in the following athletic season (For spring athletes this will carry over to the fall of the following school year).

4. A captain who is in grades 9-12 and quits a team will not be able to serve as a captain for the rest of their high school athletic career. A captain of a team must be able to commit to the entire season.

5. An athlete who becomes ineligible for academic reasons will not be viewed as quitting the team. Facilities and equipment are to be used only with permission and/or supervision of the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Athletic Department, coaches or staff.

6. Uniforms

   Please adhere to the following policies in regards to student athlete uniforms:
   1. Athletes will be assigned a specific uniform that they are responsible for during the course of the season. This uniform is numbered and athletes are expected to return the exact uniform that they are assigned.
   2. Athletes are not to exchange or borrow another teammate’s uniform without permission from their coach.
   3. Uniforms are to be returned in the same condition they are received excluding normal wear and tear. Do NOT remove tags from uniforms!
   4. Laundry instructions – Turn garment inside out and wash in cold water with like colors. Hang to dry (CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL preference). If using the dryer, please use low heat. DO NOT USE BLEACH OR BLEACHING AGENTS.
   5. Uniforms should only be worn during games or matches. They may not be worn for P.E., practice, everyday wear, etc. Uniforms should not be loaned to other students for use at pep rallies, spirit games, etc.
   6. A replacement cost will be assessed to the athlete who has lost or damaged a uniform. This cost could be very high due to only ordering one item as opposed to bulk pricing.
   7. Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season in a timely fashion according to the coach’s instructions. Failure to do so could result in report cards or progress reports being held.
   The athlete also forfeits all awards and/or letters for that sport.

7. Fundraising

   Individual teams may not hold fundraising events, sales, etc. without prior approval from the Athletic Director. Families or individuals wishing to make a donation to a specific team or program should contact the CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Athletic Director.
8. Academic Eligibility

A CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL student athlete must be a full-time student enrolled at CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL for the semester in which they wish to participate on a CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL team. To remain eligible to participate on a CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL athletic team, high school athletes must have no grades below 65 and no more than one grade below a 74 on their prior quarter official report card. Middle school athletes must have no grades below 65 and no more than two grades below a 74 on their prior quarter report card. Special exception may be made for a student who received academic accommodations through CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. This student will have no grades below 60 and no more than two grades below a 74.

The Principal, Athletic Director, and coach will be made aware of any academic difficulties of student athletes on a school team. The coach will contact the student-athletes and their parents to inform them of eligibility issues that may arise during a sports season.

The student athlete who has been removed from athletic competition may be reinstated if the student’s grades are brought to eligibility standards at the end of a tri-weekly period or end of the quarter. The Athletic Director will communicate with the coach about grades at the quarter as well as the mid-term period. Student-athletes who have been removed from a team and anticipate improving their grade standing should continue to practice with the team so if reinstated, their skills will not have diminished during the ineligible period.

NCISAA /CAROLINA CHRISTIAN Eligibility Policies

A. To be eligible for any level of NCISAA competition, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student in a NCISAA member school.
B. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic varsity competition, students must be enrolled in grades 7 through 12. EXCEPTION: Varsity football players must be enrolled in grades 9 through 12. Individual conferences may further restrict eligibility.
C. No player shall have reached his/her 19th birthday on or before August 1 of the current school year.
D. No player may receive any form of financial aid for athletic participation.
E. No student who has received a diploma or its equivalent from a school in the United States is eligible unless every team in any conference in which that student competes endorses his/her eligibility.
   a. The student must be successfully progressing toward graduation with the expectation of meeting all graduation requirements.
   b. Under special circumstances, a student may also take college courses while pursuing his/her high school diploma.
   c. Home schooled students are not eligible for NCISAA competition.

F. SIX SEMESTER RULE. Students may participate in athletics in no more than six consecutive semesters or nine trimesters after enrolling in the 10th grade of any NCISAA member school, no more than four consecutive semesters after enrolling in 11th grade of any NCISAA member school, and no more than two consecutive semesters after enrolling in the 12th grade at any NCISAA member school, regardless of whether he/she remains

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continuously enrolled. A student transferring from one NCISAA school to another mid-year would be considered to have used up one semester of athletic eligibility for that school year.

9. Technical Fouls/Cautions/Ejections

1. Any athlete receiving a conduct technical foul in basketball, a caution (yellow card) in soccer, or a caution (yellow card) in volleyball will be removed from that game/match and will remain out of that game for any length of time deemed necessary by the head coach. Any athlete receiving a caution or technical in two consecutive games for reasons of inappropriate conduct will be removed from the remainder of that game and suspended from the following game.

2. Any athlete excluded from a contest by an official for reasons of inappropriate conduct will be suspended from the following contest.

3. Any athlete who is suspended for reasons of inappropriate conduct from two games for cautions or ejections will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

10. Required Forms/Physicals

All student-athletes are required to submit a current annual physical examination and medical liability at the beginning of the school year or prior to trying out for a team. A current physical is good for one year from the date of the exam. The physical must remain current during the entire season. (No exceptions). In addition, team physicals will be offered at CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL once a year before school starts. The results of the student-athlete's physical must be submitted on the official CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL form available on the school’s website.

11. Athletic Injuries and Illnesses

If an athlete is seen by a physician, they may not return to practice/games until given written clearance from that physician (injuries sustained outside of school need to be reported to the Athletic Trainer).

12. Away Games & Practice Transportation

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their students to and from extra-curricular activities (including travel to practices and off campus venues)

13. Dress Policy for Athletic Events

A. High School Students

   Clothing which is modest and meets all school dress code rules and regulations will be accepted for both home and away games.

   There will be selected events each season when coaches will ask the athletes to wear chapel attire to promote their game/match/meet.

B. Middle School Students (including those playing on JV/V teams)
For all home and away games, matches and meets, athletes may wear uniform tops with sleeves along with their school uniform pants, shorts, skirts or skorts. A team t-shirt may be worn in lieu of a jersey or uniform top.

No flip-flops or sandals will be allowed.

For all away events or travel to an event, the school dress code will be required unless you are in your team uniform.

All clothing must be modest and meet all school dress code rules and regulations.

14. Schedules

Game schedules will be published prior to the start of every season. While some changes will occur from time to time, we will try to avoid changing games when possible. We will make every effort to keep parents and players informed of all changes as soon as the information becomes available. You may find a more complete game schedule online at www.carolinachristianschool.com (click on the “Student Life: tab, “Athletics” tab and “Athletic Calendar”)

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