



Forcey Christian School Athletic Handbook

PHILOSOPHY

Our goal as a Christian athletic program is to develop students to have the heart of a champion. Champions center their lives on Jesus. The cross focuses us to have the right view of God, others, and ourselves.

Glorify God by trusting Him (John 3:16), honoring Him, (1 Cor. 10:31) and sharing Him (Romans 1:16)

Serve others by honoring others (Romans 12:10), forgiving others (Col. 3:12), and encouraging others. (Eph. 4:29)

ACADEMICS

The athletes at Forcey Christian School are students first and foremost. Coaches will work with teachers in helping the athlete to be successful in the classroom. Athletes participating in athletics should anticipate the demands on their time and plan accordingly. Athletic participation should never be used to excuse incomplete assignments, missed tests, or tardiness. Athletes should be present and prepared for class regardless of game and practice schedules.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible student athletes in 6th grade and up may try out for the Forcey Christian School sports teams. Student athletes wishing to participate in the competitive sports program at Forcey must maintain a GPA of 2.5 and no failing grades. Academic eligibility is determined during mid-quarter progress reports, and at the end of each quarterly grading period.

For students planning to play fall sports the following year, the fourth quarter marking period will serve as their eligibility standard for the next fall. If a student fails to finish the previous fourth quarter in good academic standing (2.5 GPA and no failing grades), he/she will have to meet with the athletic director and coach if the coach wishes to put that student on the team to determine if and how a "probationary period" or similar procedure can or should be implemented.

If a student falls below a "2.5 GPA" during the season at the evaluation period, he/she will be suspended from the team until GPA comes back up and evaluated by the athletic director.

Academic Suspension

Eligible student-athletes wishing to participate in the competitive sports program at Forcey must maintain at GPA of 2.5 **and** no failing grades. Failing to meet this standard will result in an academic suspension for a period of no less than two weeks. Student-athletes will not be allowed to attend practices or games. This time is intended to allow athletes to focus on improving and maintaining academic performance.

Behavioral Eligibility Policy

Athletes must demonstrate acceptable behavior in all school situations to be permitted to try out for and to participate in competitive sports. Demerits, detentions, and/or multiple visits to administration office for conduct reasons can and will affect that athlete's eligibility to play/continue playing.

FACILITIES

Extreme care and caution should be taken in the use of facilities that have been provided for student athletes at FCS. Coaches should enlist the help of athletes to ensure that every field and court is left in the condition in which it was found. Any athlete defacing or destroying property will be disciplined according to school policy. Activities by teams should be limited to the area specifically designated for the team's use. All other areas are off limits.

MEDICAL EVALUATION

All student-athletes who desire to participate in any school sport are required to have an annual medical evaluation performed by a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner. An **FCS ATHLETIC PERMISSION FORM** is used to submit evidence of this examination. **Athletic Permission Forms must be SIGNED by the physician/practitioner and submitted PRIOR to participation or tryouts.** Athletic Permission Forms are good for 12 months from the date of examination and covers participation for all sports within that time period.

PRACTICE

Student athletes must be at every practice unless they are excused for one of the following reasons:

- Doctor/dental appointments
- High school visits
- Personal sickness
- Bereavement

A note / email from a parent must be sent for an absence to be considered excused.

If an athlete has two (2) or more unexcused absences (any reason except those listed above), the coach will use his/her own judgment and discretion regarding playing time (if any) in the next game.

All athletes must be on time for practice.

If an athlete leaves early because of illness, he/she will not be allowed to participate in that day's sporting events.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student athletes at Forcey Christian School are to be exemplary in their display of sportsmanship during games and practices. Team members should congratulate opponents after a game with a customary handshake and a kind word. Physical and/or verbal abuse, taunting and/or inappropriate language aimed at an opponent, official, coach, teammate or fan will result in immediate discipline by the coach, and possibly, the administration. This type of behavior is not "part of the game" and is inconsistent with the mission of FCS. An athlete ejected from a game is automatically suspended for the next game.

PARENTS

There are times when it may be difficult for parents to accept their child's lack of playing time or the position their child is playing on the team. Recognizing that coaches are the ones who work with the team in practice and in competition, it is important to understand that they will make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all athletes involved. Procedures to follow if a parent has a concern with a coach:

1. Contact the coach to set up an appointment. It is important not to confront the coach before or after a game or practice. These are emotional times for a parent and a coach and are not wise times to make an attempt toward a resolution of a problem.
2. Contact the Athletic Director to set up an appointment to discuss the situation if the matter cannot be resolved with the coach. Please use the same courtesies listed above when contacting the Athletic Director. Only after all avenues of communication with the athletic staff have been utilized may the school administrator be contacted.

Parents should avoid pulling a child from games or practices as a form of discipline. Forcey Christian School participates in a competitive athletic league. Every team member is valuable, and the coaches are depending on every player to be in attendance. It hurts the entire team when an eligible healthy player is not able to participate. If a parent feels the need to pull a child from a game or practice, they should contact the coach or Athletic Director.