Forcey Christian School Athletic Handbook

Last updated: 3/6/2026

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).

ABOUT FORCEY ATHLETICS

Forcey Christian School offers athletic opportunities for boys and girls throughout the school year. Forcey strives to provide a comprehensive program for the student-athlete. We currently offer the following sports:

- Fall: Boys' Soccer and Girls' Volleyball
- Winter: Boys' and Girls' Basketball
- Spring: Girls' Soccer and Co-ed Flag Football

Forcey is also a member of the Maryland Independent Athletic Conference (MIAC).

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY (ACADEMICS & BEHAVIOR)

Academic Eligibility

Forcey Christian School believes that athletes are students first, and that participation in our athletic program requires that student-athletes are in good standing, both academically and behaviorally. The following requirements apply to all student-athletes in 6th grade and up who wish to try out for or participate in our sports teams:

To be academically eligible, student-athletes must:

- **Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.**
- **Have no grades below 70%**

Athletes should anticipate the time demands of their sport and plan accordingly. Athletic participation should not excuse incomplete assignments, missed tests, or tardiness. Athletes are expected to be present and prepared for class, regardless of game or practice schedules. The athletics department believes that all student-athletes must prioritize academic success and demonstrate behaviors that reflect this commitment.

Academic eligibility is determined during mid-quarter progress reports and at the end of each quarterly grading period. Student-athlete failure to meet this standard will result in an academic suspension.

- **Initial Suspension:** The student-athlete will be suspended for a minimum of 14 days. During this time, they may not attend practices, games, or tournaments to focus on improving and maintaining their academic performance.

- **Re-evaluation and Continued Suspension:** After the initial 14-day suspension, the student-athlete's grades will be re-evaluated.
    - If the student-athlete meets the academic requirements (a minimum GPA of 2.5 and no failing grades), they may return to full participation in practices and games.
    - If the student-athlete does not meet the academic requirements after the initial 14-day suspension, the suspension will continue for an additional 7 days before their next evaluation.

For student-athletes planning to play fall sports, the fourth-quarter marking period will serve as their eligibility standard for the following fall. If a student does not finish the previous fourth quarter in good academic standing (**2.5 GPA and no failing grades**), they will meet with the Athletic Director and coach to determine if and how a "probationary period" can be implemented, should the coach wish to have that student-athlete on the team.

Behavioral Eligibility

Athletes must demonstrate acceptable behavior in all school situations to be permitted to try out for and participate in competitive sports. Demerits, detentions, and/or multiple visits to the administration office for conduct reasons can and will affect that athlete's eligibility to play/continue playing. Student-athletes are visible representatives of Forcey, both on and off-campus.

ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

All student-athletes must have an annual medical evaluation to participate in any school sport. This evaluation must be performed by a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner. Evidence of this examination is submitted using the FCS Athletic Permission Form, which must be signed by the physician/practitioner and submitted before participation or tryouts. Athletic Permission Forms are valid for 12 months from the date of examination, covering participation in all sports within that period. Contact the Athletic Director or check the school website for more information and Athletic Forms. (https://fcsathletics.school/)

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 illness
- Bereavement

A note/email from a parent must be sent for an absence to be considered excused. If a student-athlete has two or more unexcused absences, the coach will use their 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, they will not be allowed to participate in that day's sporting events. Student-athletes are expected to keep their commitment to the team by attending all practices and games.

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. Student-athletes pledge to observe all the guidelines of sportsmanship, including respect and courtesy for players, coaches, referees, and other fans.

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.

UNIFORMS

Athletes are responsible for the complete uniform that is issued to them. The athlete must pay for any lost or damaged items. Uniforms are not to be altered, and tags inside the uniform are not to be removed or damaged. Please do not put your child's name anywhere on the uniform.

PARENTS

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.

3. Only after all avenues of communication with the athletic staff have been utilized may the school administrator be contacted.

Parents are expected to support the school's administration of team functions, including discipline, scheduling, playing time, and eligibility. To ensure the best possible experience for all athletes, parents should avoid removing their child from games or practices as a form of discipline. Forcey Christian School is part of a competitive athletic league, where every team member is valuable and depends on their teammates to be present. If a parent feels it is necessary to pull their child from a game or practice, they should first contact the coach or Athletic Director.