

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST ACADEMY SPORTS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

In this charter, we at Fellowship Baptist Academy have detailed the philosophy, the program, and the policies under which our athletic ministry will function. It is our prayer that our student athletes will be challenged by the content of this charter as it is modeled by the Athletic Director and Coaches; that its principles will help mold the spiritual lives of our student athletes and their families.

I. PHILOSOPHY

The realm of athletics is one of personal discipline, cooperation, victories, loses, obedience, growth, and development. These are much the same characteristics of the Christian life and walk. The Christian struggles against the opponents of his own human nature as well as the evil one (Ephesians 6:12). He must discipline himself to walk the Christian walk in order to gain the prize of the “high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14). The Christian must also learn that while individual accountability is a vital concept, he is also to exercise care and concern for his fellow-man in obedience to the law of Christ (Galatians 6:1-5). All these things must be motivated by a loving obedience to God as He “coaches” us to victory in this life and rewards in the next. These concepts are key to successful Christian living.

Because we believe these things to be true, it is the aim of Fellowship Baptist Academy to use the “classroom” of athletics to model and to teach the student athlete:

1. A response to the love of Christ that will bring about in his/her life a life-changing, self-motivating, and unending love and passion for God (II Corinthians 5:14-21).
2. A selfless love for his brothers and sisters in Christ and a brokenhearted love for the people in his fallen world (I John 4:11,12).
3. An unbending discipline to separate himself from the sin in his world and to walk the Christian life in purity, integrity, and open obedience to God (II Corinthians 6:17; Philippians 3:8-15).
4. The discipline of hard-work, working together as a unit, and successfully handling the defeats and victories of games and of life.
5. That the realm of athletics is a means to an end and not an end in itself.
6. That participation in athletics is a privilege, and neither a right nor a requirement.

7. The importance of a well-rounded Christian life: physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally.

We feel that what is taught in theory is soon put into a lifestyle. It is our prayerful goal that as the student athlete is educated in the classroom of athletics, the theory of successful Christian living will become a reality in his life now and will be a cause for rejoicing in the life to come.

II. PROGRAM

While this program is in no way “set in stone”, it is the guidelines by which we would exercise our philosophy in the lives of the young people of our school. We wish not to focus on any one gender of student or any specific sport but rather to formulate a program that will best suit the fulfilling of our philosophy in athletics.

We anticipate and exercise participation in the Michigan Association of Christian Schools (MACS) to allow ourselves alliance with schools of like faith and philosophy. The program we offer will be in seasonal accordance and regulated by MACS rules.

Listed below are the seasons of athletic involvement, the sports offered, and the target age and gender of the sport:

FALL SPORTS

GIRLS – We propose to offer basketball to our girls at two levels: 1) a Junior High team that will be offered to girls in the 6th-8th grade, and 2) a 9th-12th grade girls team that would participate at the varsity level. Should numbers be insufficient to make two teams, one team will be formed. It will consist of one team of 6th-12th grade girls that will participate at the varsity level.

BOYS – We propose to offer soccer to our boys at two levels: 1) a Junior High team of 6th-8th grade, and 2) a team of 9th-12th grade boys that will compete at the varsity level. Should there be insufficient numbers to field two teams, we will offer one soccer team to 6th-12th grade boys to compete at varsity level.

WINTER SPORTS

GIRLS – We propose to offer volleyball to our girls at the two levels outlined in the girls’ fall sports program with the same provisions for sufficient or insufficient numbers.

BOYS – We propose to offer basketball to our boys at the two levels outlined in the boys’ fall sports program with the same provisions for sufficient or insufficient numbers.

SPRING SPORTS

We propose to offer a track program to both our boys and girls in grades 6-12 to compete on the varsity level.

III. GUIDELINES

It is our goal and purpose that our student athletes emulate Christ in their lives at all times. It is our responsibility given by their parents to encourage and guide them to do this while they are involved with our sports program. We feel that the final authority for the policies in our athletic program lies in God's Word. However, rather than listing out the whole of God's Word in this policy sections, we will attempt to give the basic parameters of our program in which we desire our students to function. The program will attempt to follow these basic guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to participate in sports, the student must complete satisfactory work in the classroom first. A student must receive a 72% cumulative average of all his/her classes. Any student receiving a grade in any class below a 62% will automatically be considered ineligible for the week (Saturday through Friday). Eligibility sheets are available in the office each Wednesday of a sports season (not just weeks when there are games), and the student will be responsible to collect the correct grade for each class from the teacher on Friday. The sheets are then handed in to the coach on Friday. If the student receives a grade below a 62%, or if the collective grade average is below 72%, the student is ineligible.

Below are some examples:

Levi Kegan

History	63
Science	98
Math	95
English	87
P.E.	99
<u>Computers</u>	<u>83</u>
Average	88 (Eligible)

Ned Jones

History	67
Science	73
Math	63
English	87
P.E.	81
<u>Computers</u>	<u>72</u>
Average	71 (Eligible)

Dim Witt

History	99
Science	99
Math	99
English	99
P.E.	61 (Failing)
<u>Computers</u>	<u>99</u>
Average	93 (Ineligible)

So you can see it is rather difficult for a student who is working his hardest and putting forth effort to be ineligible. Eligibility is figured for one week ahead so as to give the coach time to prepare for a player's absence. For example: Jed turns in a sufficient eligibility sheet on Friday, January 1st. Jed is eligible to play through the next Friday, January 8th.

In the case where a teacher makes a mistake by not supplying a student with a grade or does not give the correct grade, the Athletic Director will make the final decision on the matter.

If an athlete is ineligible three times during one sport season, he/she will automatically be dropped from the roster and unable to play for the rest of that season.

PRACTICE SCHEDULING

Coaches will meet at the beginning of each sports season to work together on a practice schedule. Scheduling will be as fair and equal to each sport as possible. A practice schedule will then be posted for the students to see. Due to the limited space of our gymnasium, practices may be juggled and rearranged due to special or unanticipated events and scheduling.

PLAYER, PARENT, COACH AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MEETINGS

A mandatory player, parent, coach, and Athletic Director meeting will be held prior to each sporting season. Anyone who cannot attend must meet with the coach.

GAME POLICY

Team members will ride the transportation provided by the school to the games. Team members may take alternative forms of transportation if they have written permission from their parents and have notified their coach that they will not be riding back with the school's transportation. If a player's parents contact the coach personally at the game no written permission is needed. Violation of this rule will result in the non-participation in that game or the following game. Non-team members who choose to ride with the school must abide by this rule as well as the conduct rules of the school. The following rules will also be brought into play:

1. No walk-mans or radios will be allowed on vehicles taken to games. Violation of this rule will result in loss of playing time to the athlete or loss of privilege to ride by the spectator.
2. Guys and girls will not be allowed to sit in the same seat.
3. It is important to remember that we are representatives of our Lord, our school, our families, and ourselves. Each participant at any athletic event will be expected to show respect for all involved and do nothing that will bring dishonor to the name of Christ. Failure to do so will result in verbal warnings or loss of privileges.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

When a student commits to be a part of a team there is a certain amount of responsibility which must be shouldered as a result of that commitment. Below is a list of the basic requirements which are expected of an F.B.A. athlete:

1. Attend the practices set up by your coach (your effort is directly related to your performance.)
2. Participate in Sports Booster's activities when possible.
3. Help keep track of equipment and help in the care of that equipment.
(Remember, this is God's equipment on loan to us.)
4. Be a good testimony at all games and related events.
5. Be an encouragement to all team members of all our teams
6. Show respect to the coaching staff, teammates, opposing teams, and officials. Technical fouls for UN-sportsmen like conduct, taunting or excessive celebrations, pushing, shoving, fighting, and such things, will not be tolerated in our program. Any athlete who receives a technical foul for such things or is guilty of such actions will be suspended from game time or a whole game, or may be removed from the team.

Players should contact their coach as the coach may include some additional responsibilities for the team. Athletes are advised to ask not what their team can do for them, but what the athlete can do for the team.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the desire of F.B.A. that each parent be a positive support and encouragement to their child in the following ways:

1. Pray for your children as they participate.
2. Encourage them:
 - a. verbally – let them know their best efforts are good enough.
 - b. physically-attend games when possible.
3. Be involved in Falcon Sports Boosters when it is possible.
4. Be a respectful and good testimony for Christ at all athletic events as parents are also asked to be representatives of Jesus Christ. This means a proper respect for coaches, fans, players, and officials. Parents who fail to meet this responsibility will be approached by the A.D. and may lose game attendance privileges.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

Each coach is chosen by the Athletic Directory. If there is a problem with a coach, it is suggested that you go to the coach to discuss the problem. If this does not resolve the problem, then take the problem to the Athletic Directory. Following these simple steps will save a lot of hurt feelings in a misunderstanding. The pay scale for coaches is a percentage of the base teaching salary schedule. Elementary positions will be done on a voluntary basis. The Falcon Sports boosters seeks to be the source of the payment of the coaches. Below is listed the basic responsibilities that are expected of a coach at F.B.A.

1. Exemplify Christ-like behavior. "Students" observe that.
2. Strive to teach good work ethics, team-play, knowledge of sport, obedience, and above all, Christ-like behavior.
3. Be responsible to care for the buildings during usage.
4. Be responsible for team equipment.
5. You are the disciplinarian of your team. Please make sure that the discipline you choose agrees with our school's policy and the sports policy. If you have any questions in this area see the Athletic Director.
6. You should try to take care of reporting scores and game information to the C. C. Gazette. This encourages our teams and has a testimony in the community.
7. If a game is canceled you will be responsible for contacting the members of your team to inform them.

ATHELETIC DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Athletic Director (AD) is directory responsible to the school Administrator and ultimately the FBA Administrative Group. The AD position should generate the reviewing and revising of the sports policy. The following is a list of responsibilities which the AD is expected to work on. Again, this list could be added to if the FBA Administrative Group see a need.

1. Observe and evaluate coaches during the season.
2. Work with the President of the Sports Boosters and the FBA Administrative Group to prepare an athletic budget.
3. Schedule all games for the upcoming year.
4. Hire referees fro the schedule games.
5. Find a gym to rent when necessary.
6. Prepare transportation to games for teams.

7. Maintain a file for athletic physicals.
8. Enforce eligibility.
9. Work with coaches on a practice schedule for each season.
10. Take yearly inventory of all athletic equipment.
11. Order trophies and awards for all sports.
12. Choose candidates for coaching positions.
13. Prepare sports banquet.

AWARDS AND TROPHIES

Certificates

Certificate will be given to all players who have completed one of the following sports: Girls basketball, soccer, volleyball, 6th-8th basketball, varsity basketball, cheer-leading, and track. These will be given out at the Sports Banquet or Awards night at the end of the year.

Varsity Letters and Pins

Varsity letters will only be given to students in 9th-12th grades. Each student will receive only one. To receive a letter the athlete must accomplish one of the requirements listed below.

1. Soccer: compete in 80% of the games.
2. Girls Basketball: compete in 80% of the games.
3. Girls Volleyball: compete in 80% of the games.
4. Varsity Basketball: compete in 80% of the games.
5. Track: receive 10 points in his/her events – relay events must divide the points evenly.
6. Cheer-leading: attend all games (other than illness)

*****To receive letters the athlete must be eligible for the entire season.*****

Pins will be given to student sin 9th-12th grade who have previously received a letter and accomplish one of the requirements listed above. Again, the student must be eligible for the entire season.

Trophies

Trophies can be presented in each high school sport, if the coach observes an athlete who qualifies. These three trophies are examples of characteristics which would warrant a trophy to be given at the Sports banquet or Awards night each year. The coach of each sport will determine the recipient of each award.

1. Most Improved: Given to the Falcon who has shown the greatest progress toward refinement.
2. Leadership: Given to the Falcon who is a team player, an encouragement to the team, a good witness during the games, gives direction to his team members, and shows spiritual maturity.
3. Tenacity: Given to the Falcon who has consistently released his/her all in practice as well as games. Has never given in under any circumstance.