

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY
EAGLES



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2023-2024

FBA Mission: Educate students for time and eternity by presenting God's truth in all areas of education and character development.

PHILOSOPHY

An athletic program in a Christian school exists to guide the young people involved to a better understanding of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many circumstances arise in preparation for and during athletic competition that offer opportunities for God's principles to be applied in the lives of the athletes. A goal of the Christian school athletic program is to seize these opportunities. Dedicated coaches help young people relate the victories and defeats, the hard work and teamwork to their daily walk with the Lord.

Col. 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

This verse states the philosophy of athletics for First Baptist Academy, in that everything we do within the athletic department will be done unto our Lord Jesus Christ. Our staff, athletes, fans, and parents are to glorify the name of Jesus Christ by their works, attitudes, and actions, both on and off the field or court. We must provide opportunities of Christian encouragement and discipline for our students through our athletic programs. All policies and procedures that are brought out by the athletic department are done so with the intent of teaching and instilling Christ-like qualities in the students for them to put into use in their daily lives.

The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the rules and policies of the athletic program of First Baptist Academy Universal City. Athletes, parents, and coaches are responsible to read, know, and understand the complete contents of this handbook. The handbook cannot cover all situations, but it is used as a guideline for our policies.

OFFERED SPORTS

The school will provide the following sports when athletes, coaches, and facilities are available:

Cross Country
Fall Soccer (co-ed)
Volleyball (girls)
Basketball
Track and Field
Golf
Cheer

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Our middle school teams participate in the Christian Athletic League of San Antonio, or CALSA. This league governs and regulates our team sports for our middle school program.

Our high school is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, or TAPPS. This organization sets the rules and regulations for our high school program.

ATHLETIC MEETING

At the beginning of the school year (August) there will be an athletic meeting. If you are going to play any sport, the athlete and at least one parent must be in attendance. Information at this meeting is an important time of going over the handbook and making sure all understand how we can work together to have a successful year.

TEAM SELECTION

Our desire is for the middle school students who wish to try out for a team to have that opportunity. However, after evaluating skill level and physical development, coaches may make what is commonly known as “cuts”. Many factors go into the selection of a team and each coach weighs every possibility very heavily before making any decision. Any cuts made by a coach must first be shown to the athletic director before any announcement can be made.

High school teams are obviously more competitive, and thus much more selective than that of middle school teams. Each varsity coach at the high school level is allowed to set their team roster at whatever size they wish to keep. Again, many factors go into the selection process and no decision is made without prayerful consideration. All decisions are discussed with the athletic director before any announcements are made.

QUITTING A TEAM

First Baptist Academy's goal is to teach all students Christ-like attributes in everything that we do. Responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and honoring commitments are all attributes that FBA wishes to instill in our athletes. We also believe that students and parents need to realize that participating on an athletic team, whether in middle school or in high school, is going to require effort and sacrifice of time and resources. When students decide that they want to play on a team and begin a season they are making a commitment to that team. If after the season begins the athlete decides that they wish to quit the team, they need to realize that they are hurting the team by not honoring the commitment they made when the season began. Students need to take seriously the decision to play for a team, and if they make that choice then they need to do everything in their power to honor that decision. **If an athlete decides to quit a team he or she must talk to the Athletic Director before leaving the team. If he/she quits after speaking with the Athletic Director, they will no longer be eligible to participate in any other sporting event during the said school year. The Athletic Director may make exceptions to this rule for situations where it is deemed necessary.**

PLAYING TIME

All coaches understand that it is in their own best interest to get each player as much game time experience as possible. However, if a coach keeps a large number of players or has a team with a wide range of skill level, then promising playing time to every athlete in every game may not be in the best interest of the team. Playing time is determined by the coach and is based on many factors. **Participating on a team, and more specifically playing in games, should never be viewed as a right, but rather a privilege.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON GAME DAYS

Athletes must be in school for at least half of the school day (arrive by the beginning of 5th period 11:46) in order to be eligible to participate in athletic competition that same day. Missing more than half a day for doctor's appointments, family days, or any other non-school sponsored event without prior approval is not considered excused and will cause the athlete to miss any athletic event that same day.

CONDUCT

STUDENTS

As an athlete at First Baptist Academy students must realize that they are continually representing their team, their school, and most importantly their Savior, Jesus Christ. If a coach, teacher, or administrator notices an athlete acting in a way that is not a positive example to others, then that person will report the act to the coach and/or the Athletic Director for whatever disciplinary actions are warranted. This, of course, will be in addition to whatever is required of the teacher in accordance with the FBA parent-student handbook. Consequences may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team, depending on the severity of the action. If any kind of suspension or expulsion from the team is viewed as being needed, then the Administrator will be notified before any action is announced.

If a student receives a conduct notice, ISS, or OSS, it will result in a one game suspension. Detention halls may result in reduced playing time the next game.

We expect our student-athletes to be positive examples of proper conduct, attitude, and responsibility in the classroom. **If an athlete is benched for any disciplinary reason, he/she must sit with the team dressed in chapel uniform.**

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Competitiveness is a gift from God. Self-control is also a gift. As athletes, parents, spectators, and coaches we must seek balance our competitiveness with self-control. We will show respect for opponents, their coaches, their fans, and for officials. Remember that one of our goals for athletics is to help athletes learn to handle adversity in a Godly manner. The expectation of a fan is to cheer and support our players as well as good effort and play from the opponent. For this reason, public comments should remain positive and encouraging. Any negative comments about any team, coach, official, or fan will not be tolerated. Part of the responsibility of the athletic director is to refuse admission, as well as ask spectators to leave an athletic contest, if they have shown lack of sportsmanship and respect.

ELIGIBILITY

As an athletic department, we understand that athletics serves as a vital role in the education process only when it is kept in the proper perspective of the school's overall objectives. Athletic success is meaningless if it is not paired with academic success. FBA follows a strict eligibility policy to ensure a strong academic base for all athletes. All athletes (including managers) will have their grades checked EVERY MONDAY at noon. Any athlete whose grade is below 70 in any class will be academically ineligible for one week. During the period of ineligibility, the athlete may not participate in any games or competitions. They are required to attend practice.

GRACE WEEK: Since our eligibility expectations are higher than the TAPPS rules, every athlete will be given one week of grace per school year. This means that if an athlete is ineligible one week, they can request to use their grace week in order to play as long as they are still within the TAPPS eligibility guidelines.

Ineligible athletes and managers are required to sit with the team dressed in their chapel uniforms for all games that do not require missing class.

Grades will be checked again on the Monday of the next week. If the student/athlete has brought their average back up to 70 or above in all classes they will be allowed to play with the team. If the athlete still has any grade in any class below a 70, they will remain ineligible for the next week. If any athlete remains on ineligibility list for three *consecutive* weeks a conversation between the athletic director, coach and athlete will take place to determine if the athlete will remain on the team.

An athlete must have passing averages (70 or above) for all 9-week grades. If a student fails the nine weeks in any subject, he/she will be ineligible for the next two weeks.

PRACTICE/GAME PARTICIPATION

Practice times are very valuable learning sessions that prepare athletes for competition; therefore, participation in all practices and competitions is expected and required from all athletes. Frequent absences (excused and unexcused) or being late to practice can result in dismissal from the team. Athletes must notify their coach **BEFORE** missing a practice, if they do not contact their coach it is considered an unexcused absence. If an athlete consistently misses practice or is consistently late the coach will meet with the athletic director to discuss what, if any, punishment needs to be enforced. **If you miss a practice and it is unexcused, you will not play in the next game. An unexcused absence from a game may result in removal from the team.**

HANDLING DISPUTES

If any parent or athlete has a concern over an issue, they have a Biblical responsibility (Mt. 18:15-17) to go the person(s) that they have the concern about or with. It is our desire that any problems can then be cleared up and those involved can move on. If however, this does not resolve the issue, then and only then, should the issue be brought to the attention of another individual according to the following level of authority at First Baptist Academy.

The level of authority at First Baptist Academy is as follows:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Head Administrator
4. School Committee

Do not discuss frustrations/concerns with coaches on the day of a game; emotions are generally high on both ends and should be dealt with in a better frame of mind. If you are frustrated/concerned please email or call to set up a meeting with the coach.

Practices are times are for coaches to work with athletes and managers that time is limited and valuable. Please do not interrupt a practice or show up before or after to confront a coach. Please be respectful of his/her time and make an appointment that works for both of you.

LETTERING/INDIVIDUAL HONORS (HS ONLY)

To “letter” in a sport means to have participated at a significant level on the varsity team. Simply being on a varsity team does not assure an athlete of lettering in that sport. A Varsity Letter reflects a student-athletes **commitment** to the team, academics, citizenship, and overall participation in the sport. A letter is earned and not given. Each player that earns a letter has joined a group of athletes who has sacrificed many hours in practice, preparation, conditioning, and games. Lettering requirements are determined differently from sport to sport and are set by the coach and athletic director.

UNIFORMS

All athletes will be issued a uniform (this does not apply to cheerleading). This uniform is property of FBA. It should not be worn at any time other than the games/competitions for which it was issued. PLEASE WASH UNIFORMS IN COLD WATER AND AIR DRY (the heat from the dryer can damage the numbers or lettering). Uniforms are to be turned into the coach, not the athletic director or school offices. All uniforms must be returned within one week of the last game on the day designated by the coach. Uniforms turned in late will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. If the uniform is lost, returned in bad repair or just never turned in, you will be charged the full cost of the uniform.

All athletes will **wear their PE uniform to every practice.**

TRAVEL

When playing at the high school level, travel will be required. There will be games that require one to two nights away from home. The athletic director will make all travel arrangements and inform athletes of extra fees involved (hotel charges, meals, etc.)

***Once room assignments and reservations cannot be canceled, you will be charged for the room whether your athlete stays in the room or not.**

Parents may be asked to help with transportation to and from games and practices. Any parent/coach that will be using their personal vehicle to transport students either to games, scrimmages, or tournaments, must have a signed liability release form filed in the FBA office. The form can be picked up from the office. Once completed the form remains in effect for the entire school year. When we have a bus driver and enough athletes going to justify the big bus, we will take it. ***If we do take the bus, all athletes will be required to ride it to and from the event (if the bus stays). Sometimes the bus is drop off only and you will be informed if you are expected to pick your child up from the competition.**

ATHLETIC FEES

Athletic fees are required to help pay a portion of the cost of equipment, uniforms, referees, and other expenses of the athletic department.

Middle School sports	\$125 per sport
Varsity sports	\$150 per sport
Cheer	\$50 plus the cost of the uniform package
Golf	TBD based on range fees, tournaments, etc.

All fees must be paid each season prior to first game or competition unless other arrangements have been made with the bookkeeper.

REQUIRED FORMS

All parents must set up an account at Rank One Sport to fill out the required forms for participation. Please use the link below for a tutorial on how to set up the account.

<https://testdistrict.rankonesport.com/images/logos/TAPPSParentAccountTutorial.pdf>