

Fayetteville Homeschool Christian Athletics Code of Conduct

The Bible is the only inspired, authoritative, infallible and inerrant word of God. Its very words are God-breathed. It is both necessary and sufficient to teach not only about our salvation but also about the conduct of our lives. FHCA bases all decisions and policies on Scripture.

We at FHCA believe that character is one of the most important qualities of any athlete. Character traits that can be developed through sports include attentiveness, industriousness, punctuality, responsibility, willingness to learn, a servant's heart, graciousness, sportsmanship, teamwork, friendliness, encouragement, acceptance and deference. Athletes will be expected to strive for these qualities at practices and games if they desire to maintain their eligibility status.

Volunteers

FHCA is an all-volunteer organization. Every family is expected to contribute time to the organization. Each seasons needs are unique, so the amount of time needed will vary from sport to sport and from year to year.

Registration and Fundraising

Registration fees must be paid by the first game unless otherwise directed by the coach or Athletic Director. Registration fees do not cover the cost of operating our teams, therefore fundraising is a necessary part of keeping registration fees as low as possible. Each season will have 1 or 2 mandatory fundraisers. Failure to participate could be cause for removal for the organization.

Attendance

Players are required to notify the coach if they are to miss a practice. To ensure the team's optimum performance, players need to practice as much as possible. If a player misses one or more consecutive practices without notifying the coach, said player will have a one game/match suspension.

If a player has an excused absence, it will be up to the coach's discretion as to when to play he/she in the next game. No matter what the reason for absence, the coach MUST be notified. Assuming the coach will know or understand defeats the purpose of an excused absence. If the coach is not notified, it will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Transportation to practices, games, and tournaments are a parent's responsibility. Carpooling is encouraged.

Playing Time

Playing time is not guaranteed. Playing time is a privilege and not a right. Decisions regarding playing time are made by the coach and are based on what is best for the team.

In all circumstances having to do with playing time as an issue, the coach is considered the head authority. It is not appropriate for players or parents to question the coach on his or her decisions concerning playing time.

Player Conduct

It will be expected that the players, when at practice, provide their full, undivided attention to the coaching staff. Every minute of practice time is crucial. Not paying attention, side conversations, and

blatant disrespect will not be tolerated. Situations of repeated disrespect will be addressed with player and parent and could result in suspension from team.

All players are required to follow the Crusader Dress Code at practices, games, and any Crusader function.

Players will be asked to leave the facilities if this is violated.

As a Christian team, we expect the players to act like Christians. Immoral sexual conduct by team members will not be tolerated.

This will result in immediate dismissal from the team.

The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products by team members are not allowed. (Parents are also asked to refrain from the use of these substances while participating in team functions such as fundraisers, games, practices, dinners or team social gatherings.)

Use of these items by a player will result in immediate removal from the team. Parents and spectators will be asked to leave the premises or not to participate in the activity.

During practices and games emotions will run high, but all players must remain respectful of coaches from both teams, referees, game officials and spectators. Arguing with any of the listed parties is prohibited. If players cannot control their emotions the following actions will occur:

**1st incident 1 game suspension not including game being played if incident occurs during a game
2nd incident removal from the team.**

Coach, Athletic Program Official, Parent, Spectator, and Player Conduct

All participants of FHCA teams and programs shall behave in a way which cannot be construed as confrontational or as a verbal assault against any official, league/team official, fan, player, or parent.

The National Federation of High Schools makes a distinction between disqualification and ejection. A DISQUALIFICATION is when a coach or player is assigned two (2) technicals in a game/2 yellow cards in soccer or volleyball for either rough play or improper speech directed toward an official. A DISQUALIFICATION is simply removal from the present game/match; the player is able to return to the team for their next game/match. An EJECTION is an automatic removal, even on the first offense.

FHCA is adopting the North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Conference (NCHEAC) Ejection Policy for **all FHCA Coaches, Athletic Program Officials, Parents, Spectators, and Players** for any of the following 8 behaviors:

- Fighting which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:
 - An attempt to strike an opponent with a fist, hands, arms, legs or feet
 - An attempt to punch or kick an opponent, regardless of whether or not contact is made
 - An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsportsmanlike act toward an opponent that causes an opponent to retaliate
 - Leaving the bench area to participate in a fight (contact or no contact)
- Speaking disrespectfully to or threatening an official (It is the official's discretion as to whether this is a simple technical or an ejection offense.)
 - Cursing
 - Biting observed by an official

- Taunting, baiting or spitting toward an opponent
- Profanity, directed toward an official or opponent
- Obscene gestures, including gesturing in such a manner as to intimidate
- Flagrant Foul for any of the above offenses

An EJECTION carries with it an automatic 2 GAME/MATCH suspension in addition to the game/match in which the EJECTION occurred. FHCA adopts these disciplines as our standard to be enforced starting with the 2010-2011 seasons.

FHCA shall enforce for a **two** game suspension, in addition to the game/match in which the EJECTION occurred, for any coach, player, parent, or spectator who is ejected for physically or verbally assaulting an official during or after a game. The determination of an assault shall be at the discretion of the official unless the officiating agency over rules.

The Player of the parent ejected for this offense will also be removed from the current game and suspended for 2 games.

All coaches, players, parents, spectators, and FHCA Staff must remember that the official's authority begins when they enter the gym/field and ends when they leave the gym/field. If a coach, player, parent, or team official verbally assaults an official after a game is over, TECHNICAL FOULS or penalty kicks CAN BE ASSESSED WHICH COULD RESULT IN OVERTIME AND EVEN THE REVERSAL OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GAME.

Coaches (as well as any staff on the bench) may not question judgment calls of the officials. Respectfully asking for clarification on a ruling by the head coach or game (speaking) captain is permitted.

FHCA also additionally adds any coach who is disqualified from their: * 2nd game/match of the season shall receive a 1 game suspension from their team's next game/match * 3rd game/match of the season shall receive a **season long suspension**. (If this 3rd disqualification/ejection occurs at the final game of the season post season tournament, this suspension will be enforced for the next season.)

Disqualifications or ejections from non-league games or league games count towards the application of this rule

If one of the ejection offenses from above is committed by a player or coach after a disqualification, then the ejection penalties shall **additionally** apply

Parent and Spectators

Parents, spectators, coaches and FHCA staff are expected to set the example for our athletes. Far more than the winning and losing are the lessons learned in the process of competitive play. We ask that your role from the sidelines and stands match that which we are developing through our program. Public criticism of players on your team (or the other team, for that matter) hurts morale. Criticizing the referee hurts your team and the organization.

Over the course of the season, disagreements occur between players, parents and staff. Unless it is a matter of player safety and requires immediate attention, we ask that you give the matter a 24 hour cooling off period before contacting the coach at which point it is appropriate to contact the coach to set up an appointment to discuss the issue. Do not approach coaching staff during practices or games even after the 24 hour period has passed. If it is during a tournament the 24 hour period begins after the last game of the tournament

It is not appropriate for an athlete or parent to complain to any other FHCA member. Asking un-involved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to those third parties and the organization. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situation where everyone may not be happy all the time. Please represent FHCA well by keeping rude, loud and unwelcome comments to yourself. Please Keep POSITIVE support, encouragement, and cheering to a MAXIMUM on the sidelines. When players are working hard, they need and deserve positive encouragement and support. They need to know you are there and that you support them.

Unruly fans will not be tolerated. Crusader fans will be respectful of Crusader players, opponents, coaches, officials, and other spectators. Unruly fans will be asked to behave and then asked to leave if their behavior does not change.

The bench area/team area or sideline in soccer shall be limited to current coaches, staff, rostered players and FHCA personnel. Parents and spectators are not authorized in these areas and must sit in spectator areas. Talking to your player on the field or court "coaching from the sidelines" will not be tolerated.

Be aware that the athlete will be held responsible for their parent's/spectator's actions. If a parent breaks any rule or behaves inappropriately, their child can/may be "sat" from play. Decisions regarding conduct that result in suspensions or removal from the team may be appealed to the Athletic Director for arbitration. All decisions of the Athletic Director are final and will be honored by all parties.

Players and parents that wish to participate in this program must agree to abide by the rules and standards set forth here.