



ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

Purpose

The athletic administration at Bay City Christian School believes that athletic participation can promote growth not only in one's physical capabilities but also in one's academic efforts, social interactions, and even spiritual wellness. For these reasons, the athletics program at Bay City Christian School exists for the purpose of giving its students additional opportunities to achieve the Christian school's overall purpose and mission.

Mission

As an extension of the ministry of Bay City Christian School, the athletics program intends to complement and support the school's overall mission, which is to partner with Christian families in the continual growth of students toward academic excellence and spiritual maturity. Therefore, the mission of BCCS Athletics is *to influence each student-athlete to continually strive for excellence in spiritual maturity and godly leadership.*

In correspondence to the athletic program's mission statement, the program has adopted two core scriptural references to become the supporting foundation for its purpose and mission:

James 1:2-4: My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The athletic program has adopted James 1:2-4 to support the statement that spiritual maturity is a continual process of sanctification. The Christian life is comprised of many adversities and challenging trials. Correspondingly, exercise and bodily training can also include various trials and sufferings. James encourages Christians in his letter to have joy in these circumstances as God allows them into the lives of Christians for the purpose of influencing His people to increase in patience and, ultimately, become spiritually mature.

I Timothy 4:12: Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

The athletic program has also adopted I Timothy 4:12 to provide student-athletes direction towards becoming godly leaders. In this passage, Paul exhorts Timothy to avoid poor doctrine and be a godly example to other believers "*in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" Student-athletes and coaches have the unique opportunity to interact with others outside of BCCS; and, therefore, have a responsibility to display Christlikeness.

The athletic administration emphasizes that wins, championships, sport awards, and other recognitions based on athletic ability are not the ultimate goal, but rather subordinate parts within the process of reaching the overall mission. With the support of the student-athletes' families, and the determination of the athletic teams' coaches, the athletic administration at Bay City believes that athletic involvement and competition can provide each student-athlete the necessary environment for continual growth towards developing the essential skills to be spiritually-mature leaders during and beyond their school years.

Athletic Code of Conduct

As a member of BCCS athletics, I agree to do my best to honor the name of Jesus Christ in all I do on the field/court. I also agree to do my best in following these guidelines:

- Demonstrate godly leadership by encouraging others, rather than discouraging them.
- Help other players get up when they fall.
- Thank the officials after each game.
- Shake hands with opposing team members after each contest (regardless of game result).
- Leave the gym and facilities in as good or better condition than when I arrived.
- Assist the referees by retrieving loose balls.
- Verbally and physically accept referee's decisions (regardless of perceived judgement).
- Treat opposing players, coaches, and spectators with kindness and respect.

Parents of BCCS student-athletes also have the opportunity to demonstrate spiritual maturity and godly leadership in regards to BCCS athletics. Additionally, parents/guardians have the opportunity to be role models to their children. Therefore, parents are reminded to:

- Place more emphasis on advancement of spirituality rather than athletic competition and skill. Sometimes, losing can yield greater spiritual growth than winning.
- Demonstrate respect and appreciation to opposing players, coaches, and spectators in a Christ-like manner.
- Support the officiating crew at all times.
- Promote safety at all times.

Athletic Policy

Who can attend practices?

1. Beginning with mandatory practices, only members of the varsity or middle school teams may attend any practice. Mandatory practice begins in August for soccer and volleyball, and in November for basketball. Failure to attend mandatory practices jeopardizes one's playing time and earning honors after each season.
2. In order to improve individual skills, student-athletes are expected to attend any open play for which they are able. The coaches may use his/her discretion as to who may participate in addition to the student-athletes.
3. A student-athlete must have had a sports physical to participate in a mandatory practice, scrimmage, or game.

How long does a student-athlete get to play in games?

1. The emphasis for middle school level athletics is participation and skill improvement. Therefore, each student-athlete on a middle school team will receive playing time. Coaches will seek to provide each player with at least 25% of playing time for each game.
2. The amount of playing time on a varsity team is determined by the head coach. A student-athlete's amount of playing time may be a reflection of his/her effort, attitude, and/or ability. Therefore, a student-athlete must understand his/her coach-determined role on the team. Additionally, a student-athlete must acknowledge that his/her playing time may vary based on that role.

What about grades and eligibility?

1. If a student-athlete is in missing assignment detention frequently during an athletic season, he/she will receive a suspension of in-game playing time. The length of suspended playing time will be determined by the number of occurrences a particular student-athlete must serve a missing assignment detention. Examples of in-game suspension are as follows:
 - a. Three occurrences: 1-half/2-set (volleyball) suspension
 - b. Four occurrences: 1-full game suspension
 - c. Five occurrences: complete expulsion from the athletic teamThe severity of one's suspension is dependent on a his/her typical playing time. Exemptions to this policy may be made by the athletic director/administration.
2. A student-athlete must have at least a C-minus average, no F's, no incomplete work, and fewer than 25 demerits to participate in BCCS athletics.
3. Any student-athlete who is found ineligible at the mid-term or at the end of a quarter may practice but cannot play in any game until the next mid-term or end of quarter report. If a

student-athlete is ineligible again, he/she cannot participate in practices or games until the next report period. The aim is not to punish the student-athlete, but to motivate him/her to focus on his/her priorities.

4. In some cases, the student and his parents may write a letter of intent and draft a plan to bring the grade(s) up. The administration may grant the student-athlete eligibility sooner than the next report period. One such letter may be accepted each school year.

What dress code will players need to follow?

1. Team practices
 - a. TOPS: Bobcat t-shirts or shirts without words or images, no sleeveless shirts, for practice athletic shirts/jerseys are acceptable, if available a practice uniform must be worn.
 - b. BOTTOMS: Athletic shorts to the top of the knee or BCCS athletic pants.
2. Game-day attire
 - a. Student-athletes must wear a Bobcat polo and school uniform bottoms (khaki color) on the day of games, while traveling to/from games, and between games at tournaments. BCCS athletic pants may be worn instead of uniform pants for soccer matches and after games.
 - b. **Athletic shoes and cleats must be primarily black, red, white, gray, or any combination of those colors.**
 - c. Student-athletes may wear Bobcat Friday attire to games on Fridays.
 - d. The administration requires all student-athletes to wear regular school attire for both days of the state tournaments.

How are the teams financed?

1. Since athletic participation is expensive, a separate sports fee per student-athlete per sport is charged. This fee is listed on the *Tuition and Fee Information* sheet.
2. Sports fees and school support cannot completely cover all of the expenses, therefore, fundraisers may be held to offset costs. Players and parents are required to be involved.
3. Parents are also asked to help with concessions or admission for at least two home games and one tournament per sports their child is playing.
4. Student-athletes and parents who do not participate in fundraising endeavors, may be charged an additional fee. This ensures equity for parents who faithfully volunteer their time.