

**F.A.I.T.H  
Athletic Program  
Handbook**

[www.faithhomeschool.net](http://www.faithhomeschool.net)



Home of the Falcons



## Introduction

First and foremost, as a Christian program, we represent Christ in all that we do, at all times! Everyone involved in F.A.I.T.H. sports should look at this program as an opportunity to bring the love of Christ to other families in our community through the venue of competitive sports. We are all privileged to have access to such a wonderful program.

### **Statement of Faith:**

We believe the Bible to be the Word of God and without error in the original writings, and to be the only rule and authority for faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

We believe in the one true God who is eternally and equally existent in three persons: God the Father; God the Son; and, God the Holy Spirit. (John 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

We believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Genesis 1-2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17)

We believe that man was created in the image of God. Through man's sin, he was separated from God, becoming spiritually lost and needing to be born again. (Genesis 1:26-27; John 3:3; Romans 5:15)

We believe that salvation is by grace alone, by believing in and accepting Christ as personal Savior. Salvation is only through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9)

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is composed of all born-again believers. As believers, we are called to live lives pleasing to the Lord and to abstain from practices which grieve Him.

We believe that homosexuality, lesbianism, or any other sexual relationship outside of marriage is contrary to the Word of God. We do not accept these as an alternate life style (Romans 1:18-32).

We believe that God is the giver of life and all human life is sacred and to be protected. (Genesis 1:27; Job 12:9-10; Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 82:3-4)

Note: A complete Statement of Faith is available upon request

## **Objectives:**

The objective of the F.A.I.T.H. sports program includes the following:

1. To glorify God through the use of His gifts to us.
2. To provide a Christian environment for players to develop their athletic talents.
3. To instill in the players an attitude about sportsmanship and respect to players, coaches, fans and officials that is consistent with Christian values.
4. To develop each student's individual and team skills and strategies, as well as an understanding of different roles in team make-up.
5. To provide a Christ-like witness to players and spectators both at home and away games.

## **Communication:**

We place a very high value on face-to-face communication, trusting in the Biblical charity of all members of the F.A.I.T.H. family. F.A.I.T.H. asks parents to wait 24 hours after a game or event to approach a coach if a complaint arises. It is also requested that complaints are directed to the coach alone and not emailed and copied to others. This is in keeping with the Biblical mandate to first attempt to settle our dispute with our brother one-on-one.

If a problem arises concerning a player or a coach, the first step in resolution is direct communication between the parties involved. If additional steps are necessary to resolve the situation, then the Athletic Director will be consulted. If a resolution cannot be reached with the Athletic Director and the party in question, then the F.A.I.T.H. Board will review and resolve the situation.

## **Athlete Eligibility/Participation:**

### **Age (as of September 1st of the current school year beginning with fall sports)**

#### **Based on Homeschool Athletic Association Tournament Rules**

Elementary - 12, but not younger than 10 by December 1<sup>st</sup> of calendar year

Junior High – 14, but not younger than 12 by December 1<sup>st</sup> of calendar year

Junior Varsity 16 or younger

Varsity 18 or younger

If necessary, a Team placement practice for players 12 years of age & up (as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year) will be held and placement will be determined by age and ability.

It is currently F.A.I.T.H.'s policy to not cut any player from the athletic program. In lieu of this decision it may be necessary for players to be moved up or down on teams depending on their age eligibility and size of teams. These decisions will be made at the coach level. If there are not enough players to field a team at any particular level, some players may become ineligible to participate.

Note: Parent's or player's requests to move a player to a lower team will be considered but cannot be guaranteed if the size of that team is too large. These decisions are made at the coach level and parents will be informed at the end of team placements.

### **Homeschooling**

Participants must be Homeschooled more than 51% of their classes each year.

Participants must maintain pursuit of their education and the majority of their educational effort must be directed toward home school instruction with a minimum of three subject areas not including extracurricular athletic endeavors.

Homeschooled means:

- a) Taught at home by one or more of the student's parents or grandparents; or
- b) Taught at home by an older (18 or older) sibling; or
- c) Taught at home by a legal guardian; or
- d) Taught at home, or someone else's home, by another homeschool parent or tutor, provided that it is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent; or
- e) Taught at a central location for a particular subject (such as chemistry, speech or calculus) by a homeschool parent or tutor; or
- f) Correspondence or online course; or
- g) Apprenticeship (under a parent or legal guardian)

Homeschooled does NOT mean:

- a) College classes taken at a University or College; or
- b) Vocational/Technical classes taken outside the home; or
- c) Classes taken at a Private, Christian or Public School.

### **Other Criteria**

- a) Participant must be a live-in dependent of one of their parents (or legal guardians).
- b) Participant must NOT be employed full-time (40 hours per week).
- c) Participant must NOT be graduated from High School level education.
- d) Participant must NOT have been expelled from public or private school during the school year of the current sports season.
- e) Participant must NOT be member of a team associated with a public or private school in the same sport they are playing in with F.A.I.T.H. Homeschool during the same season.

## **F.A.I.T.H. Guidelines for Players, Parents and Coaches**

**Below are the F.A.I.T.H. guidelines for players, coaches and parents. You committed to these guidelines when you registered your child(ren) to play. These are for your reference throughout the season as needed.**

### **Guidelines for Athletes**

As a Christian association, we expect the following of each athlete:

-Each athlete is expected to be committed to team goals. This implies that personal performance is *not* the only focus, but is directed toward achieving team goals and team unity.

-The coach is the head of the team, and as such needs each athlete's undivided attention during practices and games. Each athlete is expected to be attentive to the coach and to give them the respect they are due as the athlete's superior. The quality of athletic experience and success depends on a good working relationship between team members and coaches. If a problem between coach and athlete arises, both have the responsibility to work out a solution through good honest and charitable communication.

-The athlete is expected to maintain top physical condition by eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good health and fitness habits. It is essential to abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs. These items will not be tolerated, and any violation will result in expulsion from the team.

-The athlete is expected to exhibit Christian conduct at all times. This is especially important during athletic contests. Respect for opponents and officials must be evident at all times. Such attitudes are a reflection on individual athletes and on F.A.I.T.H.

-The athlete is expected to attend every required practice and game. Any absence must be coordinated with the coach prior to the event. (Saturday Practices are Optional.)

-At all times the athlete is expected to do his/her very best, giving 100%.

-The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of all F.A.I.T.H. sports equipment.

-The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care of all facilities we are in.

-No foul or abusive language will be tolerated (at any time).

-Athletes will not question the judgments of coaches or game officials (on or off the field/court).

- Please dress **modestly** and appropriately for the occasion. When not in uniform, Girls are to wear loose fitting clothing that covers their entire torso. Boys are to wear pants that fit around the waist. When the weather permits shorts, walking shorts are most acceptable. **NO short shorts!** Excessive dress, such as Goth clothing, heavy make-up or inappropriate clothing of this nature will not be accepted. No t-shirts with vulgar writing will be accepted either. If you are unsure if it will be approved, or have a question, don't wear it! If you question it, chances are we will too!

-Regarding student relationships: NO public display of affection; which means NO hand holding, no hugging, no kissing, or anything of this nature. Students should treat each other with respect at all times and at all F.A.I.T.H. activities.

Penalties:

- A player found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary suspension to expulsion from the program per the coaches, in consultation with the Athletic Director and F.A.I.T.H. Board.
- Any player who verbally/physically abuses another player, participants or official may be suspended from play for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from F.A.I.T.H. competition per the coaches, in consultation with the Athletic Director and F.A.I.T.H. Board.

**Guidelines for Parents**

-As examples to our children, parents are expected to display Christ-like behavior at all times, at all sporting events.

-Parents will show respect for our opponents and officials at all times.

-The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team, fellow parents and to the coaches. Attitudes of parents directly impact the attitudes of athletes. Prayers for athletes, coaches, and teams are important and appreciated.

Penalties:

- A parent who verbally/physically abuses another player, participant, coach or official or is found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary removal from the F.A.I.T.H. sporting event to long term suspension from admission to F.A.I.T.H. sporting events per the coaches, in consultation with the Athletic Director and F.A.I.T.H. Board.

## **Guidelines for Coaches**

All coaches must be approved by the F.A.I.T.H. Board and must be in agreement with F.A.I.T.H.'s Statement of Faith. Coaches are Christian role models for the young men and women who benefit from their instruction. F.A.I.T.H. recognizes that coaching is both rewarding and challenging. Coaching is also a great opportunity for developing close relationships with athletes and families, for achieving excellence in athletics, and for glorifying God.

-All coaches are expected to be leaders in exhibiting Christian values and responsibility. As a highly visible representative of F.A.I.T.H. and the community, the coach must accept a special role in demonstrating positive and responsible leadership and treat all athletes as *valued* members of the team.

-The coach is expected to treat all athletes, opponents, coaches, and game officials with respect, dignity, and fairness.

-The coach is expected to resolve all team conflicts with honest and charitable communication, equitable treatment of all persons involved, and a willingness to achieve positive results.

### Penalties:

- Any coach ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next game and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any coach who verbally/physically abuses a player, parent or official may be suspended for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from F.A.I.T.H. participation.

## **Playing Time Guidelines**

While we trust our coaches will strive for balance and fairness in determining playtime at all levels, because of the formative aspect of our program, it is expected that they will adhere to the following guidelines at each level:

***Elementary Program:*** Amount of playtime will depend more on athlete's level of ability and as game situations dictate. While each athlete should receive some playing time in every competition, it may not be equal time in each competition. If a player does not receive much playing time one game, he/she may receive more the next.

***Junior High Program:*** Amount of playtime will depend more on athlete's level of ability and as game situations dictate. While each athlete should receive some playing time in every competition, it may not be equal time in each competition. If a player does not receive much playing time one game, he/she may receive more the next.

***High School Program:*** Amount of playing time is solely at the coach's discretion. The coach will decide which players, at any given time, will maximize the "teams'" ability to compete in the games at the highest level. The coach will take into consideration player's skill level, attitude, attendance at practices and games.

**Pertaining to all levels:**

- 1. Coaches have authority to withhold playtime due to missed practices and games and this penalty takes precedence over playtime guidelines for that level. (Saturday practices are not mandatory and will not be considered for penalization.)**
- 2. Tournaments are considered a more competitive event and coaches may prioritize more skilled and older players at these events, regardless of level.**
- 3. Poor sportsmanship/inappropriate behavior or attitude can be used to withhold playtime, regardless of level.**

## **Volunteer Expectations**

Parents are an important part of the F.A.I.T.H. program. F.A.I.T.H. is a volunteer, non-profit organization with a governing board. We need the participation of ALL our families to make F.A.I.T.H. a successful organization. Parents are needed and expected to play a supporting role in this organization.

Each family must agree to fill some volunteer role. Needs will vary by season. Team needs range from: statistician, concessions, admissions, setup & teardown, gym monitors, line judges, and more. This is not a *pay and drop-off your children* league.

## **Registration Fees**

Registration fees are expected to be paid in full upon sign-up. If any family cannot meet this expectation, then a payment plan can be arranged between the family and the F.A.I.T.H. Athletic Director. Even with a payment plan, a \$20 down-payment is expected at sign-up.

## **Fundraising Expectations**

Each family is expected to participate in the F.A.I.T.H. sports fundraising project for that season, if one is deemed necessary.

F.A.I.T.H. continually strives to keep the cost of our sports program as low as possible. The registration fee per sport covers only the basics needed for each sport to function. It helps to cover the cost of gym and/or field rentals, referee fees and insurance fees for athletes. The registration fee does not cover the full amount needed to run each sport and extra money is needed to cover items like equipment and banquet costs; therefore, fundraising may be needed.

## **And Finally, Stay Connected....**

The F.A.I.T.H. Web site ([www.faithhomeschool.net](http://www.faithhomeschool.net)) is a very important way to stay connected with team updates and important information. The calendar page has the most up-to-date information regarding scheduling and should be checked before every practice and game.