

Berean Christian School



Bulldog Athletics Handbook 2011-12

Contents

Contents.....	1
Core Values	2
Athletic Policies	3
Academic Eligibility	3
Athletic Facility and Equipment Use.....	3
Attendance	3
Awards	3
Behavior.....	3
Bus Policy	3
Conferences with Coach	4
Concession Stand	4
Cuts and Competition.....	4
Department Events	4
Dismissal Times.....	4
Dual and Overlapping Sports Participation	4
Fees	5
Fundraising	5
Home School Athletes	5
Lightning and Threatening Weather	6
Managers	6
Medical Eligibility	6
Overnight Trips	6
Palms Athletic Christian Conference - PACC.....	6
Practice	7
Playing Time	7
Quitting.....	7
Schedules.....	8
Uniforms.....	8

Core Values

Core Value #1: Christ-likeness

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations (NIV - "Make Disciples"), baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19

While we call them coaches, they are so much more. At Berean Christian School, we seek to make disciples of each athlete put under our care and supervision. Likewise, we seek to carry the vision of Grace Fellowship in becoming an organization of "Disciples making disciples." As our students progress in their education in the classroom and in athletics, we seek to see them become more and more like their creator.

Core Value #2: Commitment

Instead, let your message be 'Yes' for 'Yes' and 'No' for 'No.' Anything more than that comes from the evil one."

Matthew 5:37

According to the dictionary, to commit is to pledge or promise. The character trait of commitment is quickly disappearing in this society. Berean athletics seeks to instill commitment in each of its athletes and will demand nothing less than absolute commitment from participants. Commitment is not flexible or fickle. It is not based on emotions or feelings. Commitment occurs in spite of circumstances. We expect our student-athletes to be committed to their teammates, their coach, their families and their God without wavering.

Core Value #3: Integrity

"He holds victory in store for the upright; he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones."

Proverbs 2:7-8

Doing what is right regardless of consequences, speaking the truth, and doing what you say you will and not doing what you say you will not do are all evidence and examples of integrity, and they are not suspended when involved in athletic competition. Developing children of integrity is the ultimate test and task of Christian educators. Coaches, fans, and athletes are expected to reflect integrity at all bulldog athletic events.

Core Value #4: Professionalism

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Luke 6:31

Bulldog athletes, coaches and supporters are expected to represent the program with an attitude of professionalism. Professionalism, like integrity, reaches into every aspect of one's life. Bulldogs should dress and carry themselves in a professional manner, speak to officials and members of the opposition with respect and genuine concern for their well-being. When opponents visit our campus, we will treat them as guests and welcome them. When visiting their venues, we will treat their property with respect and always aim to leave a place in better condition than when we arrived. One does not have to treat opponents rudely in order to compete. We will strive to win and be respectful while doing it.

Athletic Policies

Academic Eligibility

As a member of the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA), all students must maintain academic eligibility in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. As such, all students must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 (C average). Eligibility is gained or lost at the conclusion of each semester. Academic eligibility is one of two eligibility criterion (see also Medical Eligibility).

Grade Concerns

Any parent considering the removal of their child from an athletic team due to concerns about academic performance should first discuss the matter with the coach and athletic director. Any eligible student removed from a team without first consulting the athletic director will be addressed through the policy on Quitting a Team.

Athletic Facility and Equipment Use

Any use of BCS athletic facilities and/or equipment may be done so only with proper adult supervision by a coach or staff member. Open facility hours and days change from time to time. Contact the athletic department for an up-to-date schedule.

Attendance

Students must attend five of the seven periods in a day in order to participate in practices or games that afternoon. Students are also expected to attend school on time the following day. Exceptionally late evenings will be addressed on an individual basis by the athletic director in cooperation with the school administration.

Awards

The athletic awards banquet takes place each year in May. Players who completed an athletic season in good standing will be recognized with their teams and receive a certificate of participation. Each coach will select three players to receive the following awards:

1. Most Outstanding Player
2. Most Improved Player
3. Coach's Award

Department-wide honors are also awarded at the banquet. Additionally, varsity sports members are eligible to receive pins and letters representing their participation.

Behavior

Participation in Bulldog Athletics is considered a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are expected to carry themselves with the highest level of decorum at all times. The administration of Berean Christian School reserves the right to refuse participation based on behavior in athletics, the classroom, or elsewhere.

Bus Policy

Social interaction is an integral part of child development and cohesiveness as a team. As such, students are expected to travel on the bus to all away games. When special circumstances arise, students may arrange for other transportation. AT NO TIME may another student ride with a student-driver to a contest. This is an FHSAA policy. Students may drive themselves to off-campus practices and home games, however, this must be clearly communicated with the coach. Students may leave away games with their parents or with pre-arranged rides, but it must be clearly communicated with the coach prior to leaving.

Conferences with Coach

From time to time, parents may have a desire to discuss team matters with the coach. Other than basic logistical discussions (times, locations, etc.), all discussions with a coach should take place on a non-game day and away from the athletic arena. Prior to this meeting, all parties involved are encouraged to review the "Playing Time" section of this handbook as it mentions an appropriate tone and approach to such a meeting.

Concession Stand

The athletic department aims to have a concession stand open at every game on campus. This is manned by parents of student-athletes. Volunteerism in this area is highly encouraged. It is recommended that parents volunteer to work this area at least one game per season.

Cuts and Competition

Many of the sports offered by the Bulldog Athletic Department are highly popular in the student body. As such, more students may seek a spot on the roster than the team can hold. When this occurs, the coaching staff will make cuts. Cuts are based on several criteria. Attitude, effort, ability, behavior and family support are several of the more important determining factors. The ultimate criterion comes down to fit, or which athletes the coach feels will create a positive athletic atmosphere and work best together.

Cuts will be announced by publishing the roster on the team page of the public website (www.bcsbulldogs.org). This allows each player's reaction, whether it is joy or sadness, to be experienced in privacy so as to protect the feelings of each person trying out. Some coaches prefer to deliver this information personally to each player. In those instances, the roster will be published after all such meetings have taken place.

Department Events

Meet the Teams Parade

Each year in the month of September, the Bulldog Athletic department hosts a parade on the BCS campus. Student-athletes currently participating or intending to participate on an athletic team for that year may represent their team during the truck parade.

Athletic Awards Banquet

Taking place in May, the athletic awards banquet serves as a time to recognize the accomplishments of the teams, coaches, and athletes in Bulldog athletics. Each member of a junior high or high school sports team will be recognized and are encouraged to attend along with their family. Tickets are \$15 and include dinner and dessert.

Dismissal Times

On occasion, students will need to be dismissed from class early in order to make it to competitions. It is our goal to miss as little class as possible while still creating a safe athletic environment with adequate warm-up time for our athletes. The student-athlete is responsible for securing all homework assignments and communicating with teachers about their excused absences for games.

Dual and Overlapping Sports Participation

Dual Sports

Participating in two sports at the same time is rare, but permissible. A student may play one team sport and one individual sport in the same season with the approval of the athletic director and both coaches. Typically, the team sport will be the dominant sport and athletes are expected to attend every practice and competition of that dominant sport. The secondary team's competitions can be attended on practice days of the dominant sport. Practice for the individual sport will

occur on the athlete's own time. Both coaches must be communicated with clearly and constantly.

Overlapping Sports

Student-athletes may not discontinue one sport to begin another due to the nature of overlapping athletic seasons in the FHSAA. Preference is given to the sport and team already in season. Athletes may practice with the new season when schedules do not conflict.

Out-Of-Season and Summer Workouts

It is the parent and player's decision as to how much involvement a student-athlete will have in terms of off-season workouts, conditioning, camps and summer leagues. Coaches and players are strongly encouraged to continue to develop their program and abilities in the off-season. BCS also recognizes that participation can be made mandatory during the official season as set forth by the FHSAA.

Fees

Athletic fees are required of all interscholastic athletic participants in order to offset the cost of the program. The fee is charged only once per year as soon as a student is placed on a roster. Each additional sport may be played at no cost. Currently, athletic fees have been set at \$200 for football players and \$150 for all other athletes.

An athletic team may choose to purchase team shoes, bags or other gear. While we encourage team unity and uniformity, we do not require every athlete to purchase this equipment.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an integral part of the success of any athletic department. While multiple school-wide fundraisers from an individual team are not encouraged, the BCS administration does recognize the importance of supplementing the athletic budget with team and department fundraisers. The athletic department currently sponsors two large-scale fundraisers.

Boosterthon Fun Run

A revamped version of the jog-a-thon, the Boosterthon Fun Run serves as an pledge-based fundraiser. During the inaugural year, the fun run raised close to \$20,000 for the athletic department. Proceeds were used to purchase new wall-pads in the gym and several sets of uniforms for various athletic teams.

Banner Program

Being rolled out in the 2011-12 school year, the Bulldog athletic program is launching a new Banner Program. Banners may be purchased by companies at a cost of \$500 and will be displayed in the Kennel gymnasium or on the property fence. Each student-athlete who secures the purchase of a banner sponsor will have their athletic fee waived for the year.

Home School Athletes

Berean Christian School fully supports and accepts the participation of home school athletes. Once accepted into the program, these athletes will be treated with the same access and opportunities as BCS enrolled students. Parents of potential home school athletes must initiate the process prior to the first official day of practice as set forth by the FHSAA. All necessary forms and steps for registration are available at <http://www.bcsbulldogs.org/athletics/Homeschoolathlete.cfm>. The fees for home school athletes are as follows.

Junior High Athletes - \$150 for first sport and \$50 for each additional sport in a school year.

High School Athletes - \$200 for first sport (\$250 for football) and \$100 for each additional sport.

Lightning and Threatening Weather

Berean Christian utilizes county parks, city and private facilities for outdoor athletic practices and competitions. All of these facilities are equipped with a lightning detector. Park and facility rules hold that all athletic fields must be evacuated until the all-clear alert has been given. All BCS athletic teams will seek appropriate shelter, whether it is an approved covered area or the team bus. Coaches are permitted to exercise more caution than these sensors and warnings provide, but no less.

The BCS administration will handle weather events on an individual basis. The administration may cancel competitions and/or practices in any situation where the safety of our students and those of our opponents may be jeopardized.

Managers

It is the goal of Bulldog Athletics to provide one or more team managers for each varsity team. Volunteer students will receive community service hours and are permitted to travel with the team on all related competitions and events. These persons are viewed as an extension of the coaching staff and are expected to carry themselves as such. They are expected to add a professionalism to the team and always promote the learning and competitive atmosphere. Like our student-athletes, commitment is a key characteristic sought in a team manager.

Medical Eligibility

Medical eligibility and consent regulations have been established by both the FHSAA and Berean Christian School. All criteria established in the policy must be met before a student may participate in any athletic activity at BCS.

FHSAA Requirements

FHSAA bylaws stipulate that each player must have a current sports physical and a signed consent form on file in the school's athletic office prior to any form of athletic participation. Specific FHSAA forms have been created and must be signed by a physician, student-athlete, and parent or guardian. These forms expire in exactly one calendar year.

Berean Christian Requirements

BCS policies stipulate that a Grace Fellowship/Berean Christian athletic facility waiver be signed by both the student and parent and the student must have health insurance (required to attend school). In the case that a student does not have medical coverage, a one year policy may be purchased from the school for a nominal fee.

Overnight Trips

Sports teams may travel long distances for tournaments and state series competitions requiring an overnight stay in a hotel. The cost incurred may be the responsibility of the student and his/her family or the school, depending on the situation. The athletic director will communicate well in advance and the team may raise funds to offset the cost of the trip.

Palms Athletic Christian Conference - PACC

Elementary and Junior High athletic teams participate in interscholastic athletics as a member of the PACC. This creates an added layer of competition in the form of a championship tournament at the conclusion of the season. Currently, there are five schools that compose the PACC.

Berean Christian School Lake Park Baptist School Summit Christian School
Trinity Christian Academy Wellington Christian School

Practice

When a player commits to a team, he or she agrees to attend every team practice and game. Elementary practices and games may take place every school day. High school practices will be every school day and may also take place on Saturdays before noon. Practices are mandatory. Coaches will provide athletes and their parents with practice and game schedules in advance. Parents are encouraged to avoid all possible conflicts by scheduling vacations and appointments around the team's schedule. Playing time may be reduced for both excused and unexcused absences. Players are expected to communicate well in advance if any team events will be missed.

Playing Time

Most disagreements between coaches, players, and families occur over the subject of playing time. Each party mentioned above is expected to approach this subject and all other disagreements with the philosophy presented below. This is the philosophy from the youngest level to the oldest.

The Coach Should:

1. Coach with a goal of winning!
2. Never lose a competition due to being overly concerned about substituting.
3. Value playing every player and work toward that goal.
4. Push players to play with the type of intensity that requires substitution.
5. Keep players fresh at all times.
6. Go with impact players when the game is on the line.

The Player Should:

1. Practice so intensely that the coach feels pressure to reward him/her with playing time.
2. Understand everything the team does, both offensively and defensively.
3. Develop knowledge of as many positions as possible.
4. Want to play, whether for long or short periods of time and be ready by staying mentally in the game will on the bench.
5. If a non-starter, genuinely cheer for those who start.
6. If a starter, be genuinely glad and cheer for subs when they get to play.

The Parent Should:

1. Be a "Big Picture" critic, especially in the early part of the season.
2. Never be a "Sower of Dissention" (Proverbs 6).
3. Encourage the athlete to talk with the coach FIRST on matters related to playing time.
4. Make any initial conversation with a coach a fact-finding event, based on positive assumptions about the coach's intentions.

Quitting

Quitting a team directly violates the core value of commitment and is one of the most egregious actions taken by a student-athlete. As such, the consequence for quitting is severe. Any person who quits an athletic team must sit out one full semester. As an example, if a student quits during the spring semester of a school year, they must sit out the following fall semester as well.

Sports participation is viewed as a commitment between the school, the student, and the parent or guardian. As such, if a student quits or a parent removes the child from the team for any reason (academic, behavior, etc.), the situation will be viewed as quitting. Should a parent have concerns about any aspect of his or her child's participation on an athletic team, they should first speak to the coach or Athletic Director. Removing a child from the team without prior approval from the Athletic Director will be viewed as quitting.

Schedules

All athletic schedules and department information can be accessed online at www.bcsbulldogs.org.

Uniforms

All issued uniforms are property of Berean Christian School. Lost uniforms or those damaged outside of the normal wear and tear of play will be the financial responsibility of the student-athlete and his or her parents. The cost to replace the uniform will be billed to the student's financial account (renweb). All uniforms should be turned into the coach within one week of the conclusion of the season.

Berean Christian School and Grace Fellowship Athletic Facility Waiver

THE FOLLOWING IS A WAIVER, PLEASE READ IT BEFORE SIGNING. BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT I AM LEGALLY BOUND BY IT CONTENTS.

In consideration for my allowance to use Berean/Grace Fellowship Fitness Center, or participate in league play on a membership basis, I hereby stipulate and agree:

1. That I realize the risks of cardiovascular exercise and weight lifting, and am fully aware of the possibility of mechanical and/or other equipment malfunctions, due to negligence of Grace Fellowship staff, that may cause injury while using them. I therefore, fully understand and am mindful of the serious consequences which may result due to my involvement in any sporting event and/or use of weight room equipment and based on that understanding, as set forth in this paragraph, I voluntarily assume any and all risk of loss, damage or injury of any kind whatsoever from my participation in any league play and/or use of any and all of the equipment at Berean/Grace Fellowship facilities. I further, and with full knowledge of consequences (i.e. that I am waiving my right to sue) expressly waive any and all liability on the part of Berean Christian School and Grace Fellowship Church.
2. That I am physically sound and have medical approval to proceed with normal routine of exercise. That all exercises in league play and/or weight room use shall be undertaken by me at my sole risk. That I am in good health and have no physical conditions that would be aggravated by my involvement in cardiovascular exercise/participation in a sporting event, and/or weight lifting, nor do I have any physical limitation that would preclude said involvement.
3. That I am forewarned that Berean Christian School/Grace Fellowship will NOT in any event provide medical and/or hospitalization insurance for my benefit, and in the event of any injury to my person occurring either as a result of my being on any portion of Grace Fellowship premises I will save harmless and keep indemnified Berean Christian School and or Grace Fellowship Church from and against any and all actions, in connection with the participation in any sporting event, and/or use of weight room equipment.
4. That I understand that non-compliance with any of what is written in the document, may result in removal of my membership with no refund entitled.
5. That I am hereby informed of my option to sign a new release on each date that I use Grace Fellowship/Berean Christian School weight room facilities, and/or, participate in a sporting event (league). However, I elect to forego that option and I therefore acknowledge that this release and waiver of rights shall be effective from this date and on all occasions that I choose to participate in any sporting event/league play and/or use of weight room.
6. For weight room use, if under 18, must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

HAVING READ THE ABOVE TERMS AND INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND HEREBY AND UNDERSTANDING THIS DOCUMENT TO BE A COMPLETE WAIVER AND DISCLAIMER IN FAVOR OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP OF ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, I HEREBY AFFIX MY SIGNATURE HERETO.

Name of Participant (Please Print)

Signature of Participant

Signature of Parent/Guardian if participant is under the age of 18.

DATE

Student-Athlete and Parent Commitment Form

I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the policies contained within this athletic handbook. I understand that each of these policies will be strictly adhered to. Furthermore, I agree to uphold the core values of this athletic department and promote a Christian atmosphere through my commitment, integrity, and professionalism.

Listed below are points of emphasis for the BCS Athletic Department. Each item should be initialed by both the parent and athlete to indicate they are aware of the policies mentioned.

_____ I understand that each student-athlete must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in order to participate on any athletic team (Pg. 6).

_____ I understand that a current FHSAA physical form and consent waiver must be on file in the athletic office prior to any form of athletic participation (Pg. 13).

_____ I understand that each student-athlete must have health insurance in order to participate in athletics. Additionally, I understand that a policy may be purchased from the school if necessary (Pg. 13).

_____ I understand that should a student-athlete quit a team, he or she will sit out one full semester after the semester in which the student quit (Pg. 16).

_____ I understand that a parents' removal of a child from a team without discussing the matter with the coach and athletic director will be viewed as quitting (Pg. 16).

_____ I understand the financial obligations that are incurred in terms of participation fees and lost or damaged uniforms (Pg. 11 & 16).

Parent Signature

Athlete Signature