

Mitchell Road Christian Academy



STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2016-2017

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK INFORMATION/ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

It is the policy of the Mitchell Road Christian Academy Athletic Department to provide each student a copy of the rules and regulations concerning athletic activities.

It is our desire that the material in this handbook be a valuable source of information concerning the MRCA Athletic Department. Please read this handbook carefully! Once you have read the handbook, please sign this acknowledgement form in the space provided and return to the appropriate coach or to the Athletic Office.

By signing this form, both student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read the information and will abide by the policies, rules, and regulations that are contained in the MRCA Student Athletic Handbook.

STUDENT

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

SPORTS FOR 2016-17 YEAR (Please list each sport you will play.)

DATE

**REMOVE THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH
KEEP THE HANDBOOK FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

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MRCA ADMINISTRATION

Patrick Beaudine	Head of School
Gail Simmons	Principal
Mike O'Leath	Athletic Director

SCHOOL MISSION

The mission of Mitchell Road Christian Academy is to equip children of Christian parents through a Biblical worldview education to become Christ's ambassadors of redemption.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of coaching and athletics at MRCA is to encourage and guide athletes to exemplify Christ in whatever they do and to do everything with all their might.

(I Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 1:21; Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Our desire is that each athlete possess and demonstrate Christ-like character qualities, expressing them openly through the medium of athletics. Our aim is to build eternal values in our athletes; thereby, stressing attitudes and actions that are relative to the principles of God's Word.

Our purpose/goal is to develop athletics physically as well as spiritually, in order that the total person may be developed and controlled by the Spirit of God.

(I Thessalonians 5:23)

We desire our student athletes to conduct themselves - both in and out of school – in such a manner as to not discredit themselves or Mitchell Road Christian Academy.

Everything we do, including athletics, is for the purpose of glorifying Christ.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

- To bring glory to God and be witnesses for Him on the athletic field/court.
- To enhance and develop the talents with which God has blessed each individual athlete.
- To enhance and develop the positive attributes of sportsmanship.
 - ❖ Self-Discipline
 - ❖ Respect for self and the opposition
 - ❖ Respect for coaches and officials
 - ❖ An awareness of representing MRCA and the beliefs of the school
- To strive for the pursuit of excellence both on and off the athletic field.

MRCA OFFERED SPORTS

FALL

- Cross Country Boys and Girls
- Soccer Boys
- Volleyball Girls

WINTER

- Basketball Boys and Girls

SPRING

- Golf Boys and Girls
- Soccer Girls

CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

Mitchell Road Christian Academy is a member of the Carolina Middle School Conference (CMSC) which consists of the following schools:

Bob Jones Academy	Our Lady of the Rosary
Hampton Park	Prince of Peace Catholic
Langston Charter Middle School	Shannon Forest Christian School
Mitchell Road Christian Academy	Spartanburg Day School
Mount Zion Christian School	Spartanburg Prep
Oakbrook Prep	St Mary's Catholic School

CONFERENCE PURPOSE

The members of the Carolina Middle School Conference (CMSC), realizing the benefits that accrue for our students from uniting in our education goals, shall strive to promote and administer athletic events, which will enhance the development of our students and the relationship between the member schools.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Mitchell Road Christian Academy requires a student be enrolled as a full time middle school student (6th through 8th grade) in order to be eligible to participate in any athletic sport at MRCA. Fifth graders are ineligible to participate in middle school athletics.

A student may only participate in one MRCA sport per season unless approved by the Athletic Director.

Coaches will not be allowed to coach more than two teams at MRCA during a single school year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet the following academic guidelines in order to participate in MRCA athletics:

1. The student must have at least a 2.0 average.
 - a. Grades will initially be determined from the most recent mid-term grade or report card.
2. Ineligibility will be determined on the “mid-term” date and/or on the “end of the quarter” date as noted on the School Calendar.
3. Ineligibility will be for the entire next week. At the end of that week, the student’s grades will be reviewed. If grades have not improved to the acceptable level, he/she will be ineligible for the following week and so on until grades are raised to the acceptable level.
4. The student must be in good standing with all his or her teachers in regards to classroom behavior.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

General eligibility rules are as follows:

1. Team rosters are to be turned in to the Athletic Office as soon as team selection is complete.
2. No student will be allowed to participate in an athletic event before the Athletic Director has declared him/her eligible.
3. The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department before the student can participate:
 - a. Activity Fee (\$75 for Cross Country, \$100 for all other sports)
 - b. Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form - **MUST** be dated after **June 1st** of upcoming school year (forms can be found on our website)
 - c. Release of Liability Form
 - d. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form - this form must be filled out completely.
 - e. If any portion of these two forms is left blank, it will be considered incomplete and will be returned to the student. The student will not be able to try-out or participate until the forms are complete.
4. No names will be added to the team roster once the first contest has been played unless approved by the Athletic Director.
5. To be eligible to try-out for a team, the student must be enrolled at MRCA prior to the completion of the first third of the current season.
6. Any athlete who quits a team for any reason other than medical, may forfeit his/her opportunity to play on a team during the next athletic season. Final determination will lie with the Athletic Director.
7. If a student does not participate in scheduled PE classes, he/she will not be eligible to participate in after school athletics.
8. If an athlete misses a practice for any reason, it will be the coach’s decision whether the athlete will be allowed to start the next game or if the athlete will sit out for a portion or for the entire game.
9. If an athlete forgets his/her uniform for a game, he/she will not be allowed to start and will sit until the coach allows him/her to play.
10. An athlete must be present at school the day of a game. If the athlete misses more than ½ a day on a game day, he/she will not be allowed to play in the game.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

1. The school requires a student participating in athletics have a physician's EXAM certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in tryouts and/or the athletic contests of his/her school. The necessary form will be available to the student athlete in the Athletic Office or on the school website, and must be turned in before a tryout can take place. Only one physical is required per school year (August through May).
2. A student will not be permitted to practice or compete for the school until verification of adequate health insurance coverage is on file in the Athletics office.

INSURANCE

The school will provide student secondary insurance to cover school activities.

AGE LIMITS

Age limits will be enforced for our recreational soccer program only.

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

Participation on any organized non-school athletic team should be brought to the attention of the coach prior to tryouts in order for the coach to address expectations, conflicts, etc. before selecting the team.

SPORTSMANSHIP - PLAYERS/SPECTATORS

1. All athletes are expected to put forth their best effort and demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Any form of poor sportsmanship, bad attitude, disrespect or foul language will result in removal from a game and possible removal from the team.
2. Spectator Sportsmanship – The book of Matthew tells us that a tree is recognized by the fruit it bears (Matthew 7:15-20). In light of this truth, it is only proper that we display outwardly what we confess to believe inwardly. Spectators need to provide a positive witness to all who are present at each event. We should cheer for our team and acknowledge a good play by our opponents. We should refrain from outward explosive criticism of the officials and coaches during the game. They are God's authority figures. Young people watch how their leaders respond. Adults should strive to be a constant example for Christ to our young athletes in our words and deeds.
3. If a student spectator's conduct is found to be unsportsmanlike, the student could be barred from attending any middle school athletic contests.
4. The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator – regardless of age – could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school athletic contests.

TRAINING RULES

Each head coach is responsible for establishing training rules for his or her program. These rules should be written and distributed to participants at the beginning of the sports season. One copy should also be submitted to the Athletic Director.

Although specific rules are to be determined by each head coach, general guidelines will apply to all athletic programs as stated in the student and athletic handbooks.

CONDITIONING STANDARDS

Each team must have five days of practice and each individual must have participated in five practices on five different days prior to the first interscholastic contest in all sports.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in attendance the day they are participating in an extracurricular activity. Students arriving after 11:30 a.m. on the day of a game/match will be ineligible to participate in the game/match unless excused by an administrator. Likewise, students who leave school early because of illness will not be allowed to participate in a game/match that day.

STUDENT SUSPENSION

A student receiving any type of school suspension may not participate in a game or practice on the day they serve the suspension.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES

1. Coaches will have a devotional time with their team before practices and games. Every practice and game should include a time of prayer.
2. Coaches will teach/model the values of cooperation, self-control, and the proper spirit of competition.
3. Coaches will support and enforce policies and standards of behavior and sportsmanship formulated by the school.
4. Coaches will know and follow the CMSC and school rules governing the sport.
5. Coaches will check on their athlete's grades at the mid-point and end of each marking period.
6. Coaches will plan and supervise practice sessions in keeping with the age, maturity and ability of the player.
7. Coaches will establish and enforce rules for the proper use and care of athletic equipment.
8. Coaches will not allow athletes to participate in tryouts, practice, or games without completion of the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation form and the Release of Liability form.
9. Coaches will prepare a list of students for eligibility and present it to the Athletic Director by the third day of practice. Promptly report, in writing, any additions to this list.
10. Coaches will have a pre-season meeting with the team parents. Items such as concessions, uniforms, trainers, road trips, managers, team moms, parties and costs will be discussed.
11. Coaches will keep the student body informed about their team and its contests and promote your sport as well as the entire athletic program.
12. Coaches will report the outcome of all your games and requested statistics to the Athletic Director.
13. Coaches will inventory and store uniforms and equipment (as directed by the Athletic Director) at the completion of the season.
14. Coaches should ask other teams to pray with their team after games.

PRACTICE RULES/REGULATIONS

General Rules

1. Each practice should be treated as a classroom session. Athletes should report to practice on time and in their proper uniform. Tardiness should not be tolerated.
2. Athletes should be permitted and encouraged to attend academic help classes when offered. This would be an acceptable reason for being tardy to practice.
3. Each athlete must complete five practices prior to the first meet or match.

Practice Area and Equipment

1. Practice areas should be clean and safe.
2. All equipment should be in good repair.
3. All equipment should be picked up and returned to equipment room following practice. It is the coach's responsibility to account for all equipment and to keep equipment room neat and orderly.

Length of Practice

1. Length of practice will vary with each sport. It is suggested that practice be limited to no more than 2½ hours each day.
2. Practice days and times should be given to parents prior to the first day of practice.
3. Practices and/or team meetings are not permitted on Sunday.
4. Practices on Wednesday will end no later than 4:30 p.m. and should occur only on special occasions.
5. Coaches are responsible for each athlete until he/she leaves campus. **A coach should never leave an athlete outside unsupervised.**
6. Holiday practices are optional, not mandatory.

Injury Protocol

1. In case of an injury during a practice session, the coach should make an evaluation of the seriousness of the injury. Parents should always be notified of all injuries.
2. Call EMS for any head, neck or back injury and for any broken or suspected broken bones.

Water Breaks

If practice lasts more than one hour, there should always be a water break. In case of extreme heat, water breaks should be more frequent.

Team Camp

Coaches will be permitted to run a week long team camp. Camps are exempt from the time limits stated above.

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Parents are expected to support the core mission of the athletic program at MRCA, which is to honor Christ through athletic competition. In light of this, the following outlines the behavior expected of MRCA parents.

1. The testimony for Christ is to be preeminent in every aspect of the athletic program. The conduct of parents in support of their children, the team, and the coaches is an element of that testimony.
2. Teams are a part of the school because the athletic experience is part of the extracurricular educational process and provides the basis for teaching valuable lessons to middle school students.
3. Coaches are responsible for selecting their team members from those students who desire to try out. Teams are chosen based on the certain criteria each coach has for their specific team.
4. The management of the team is the responsibility of the coach. It is the decision of the coach as to the starting line-up, rotation, practice schedule, and playing time. Within the guidelines of the school, these decisions are non-negotiable.
5. Parents are expected to lend their support to the team, including the coach, whether as a spectator or as the parent of a player. If some element of the coach's management of the team seems to be a problem, the parent should meet with the coach and discuss it in a respectful manner. Given the tensions and stresses that coaches, and at times parents, feel prior to and just following contests, it is wise to pick a time to meet not directly associated with a game.
6. Parents in the stands can help set a positive tone to the fan support. Support can be given to our athletes (your children), without critiquing the officiating, the coaching (theirs or ours), or the other team. Let them know they are supported. The real remuneration for coaching is not money but the joy of working with young people in a game that a coach has learned to love.
7. Parents can help their children deal with the rigors of athletic competition in such a way that the valuable lessons are not lost. At times young people are not happy with every situation in sports; if that occurs, it is expected that parents will work cooperatively with the coach in working through the situation. It takes maturity and wisdom to do that well.

By the grace of God, Mitchell Road Christian Academy has had a long history of good athletic teams, great parent and fan support, and a positive testimony in our athletic program. We look forward to that being continued, and for this year to be a positive athletic experience for your child.

BEGINNING AND ENDING THE SEASON

Beginning the Season

As soon as the team has been selected, the coach will have an organizational meeting for the parents. Information regarding team policies and philosophy will be covered at that time.

Ending the Season

As soon as the season has been completed the following end of season reports should be completed:

1. Season record and special team accomplishments
2. Award winners
3. Inventory of equipment
4. Inventory of uniforms
5. Equipment needed for next year

Coaches should also identify any major items they wish to have purchased for next season and give that information to the Athletic Director.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS

1. Coaches will be responsible for coordinating the use of school buses to an athletic event with the Athletic Director. New coaches are also responsible for arranging a time to take the bus driving test.
2. Coaches will provide a travel itinerary, accurate directions, and departure and return times for their team parents.
3. All players are to travel to and from games on school provided transportation. Players may leave with their parents following a game, but must inform their coach before leaving.
4. Parents should be instructed to pick up their child in a timely manner after practices and games.
5. Parents should be instructed to be prompt when picking up athletes after away games.
6. It is the responsibility of the coach to supervise all athletes until they have been picked up by their parent. No team member should be left unsupervised at any time.
7. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team from the time they leave MRCA until they return to MRCA.

BAD OR THREATENING WEATHER POLICY

1. If school is cancelled due to bad weather, all athletic events will be cancelled. This includes games, practices and team meetings.
2. In case of threatening weather, coaches should exercise extreme caution.
3. Coaches should not begin practice when lightning is in the immediate area.
4. Practice should be terminated when lightning is observed in the immediate area.

DIRECTIONS TO ATHLETIC VENUES

Directions to away athletic events can be found on the MRCA website – mitchellroadchristian.org.