



**MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. PHILOSOPHY AND TEAM GOALS
- II. SPORTS OFFERED AT MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- III. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION
- IV. CONDUCT AND GENERAL POLICIES
- V. VARSITY LETTER QUALIFICATIONS
- VI. AWARDS
- VII. CHARACTER QUALITIES WE DESIRE IN OUR ATHLETES

Go to www.highschoolsports.net
to access current schedules for MCS athletics.
Stephen Armstrong, Athletic Administrator
419-756-5651 ext. 221

MCS is a biblical based inter-denominational school dedicated to a strong academic program with Christian character and Biblical truths integrated into every area—to include athletics—in order that students develop a lifelong Christian worldview. We desire a Christ-centered athletic program that upholds standards, reflecting a distinctive Christian athletic department.

THEME SCRIPTURE:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.
(Colossians 3:16a & 17)

Encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:6-8)

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)

PURPOSE:

The primary mission of Mansfield Christian Athletic Department is to provide quality interscholastic experiences in a distinctively Christian program.

The school is committed to an athletic program, which will bring glory to God by:

- ❖ Teaching athletes to display Godly character traits as part of their Christian testimony to the opposing team's members and fans.
- ❖ Teaching athletes to strive for ultimate performance while upholding Christian values and Biblical principles. (Colossians 3:23).
- ❖ Teaching athletes that their value to the team is found in contributing their best in the role assigned for the benefit of the team.
- ❖ Implementing programs dedicated to the development of "athletic potential" in participating athletes and helping those athletes prepare for higher levels of competition.
- ❖ Providing the best Christian coaches available.
- ❖ Providing adequate training facilities.
- ❖ Selecting and using equipment that is safe and properly maintained.
- ❖ Involving the student body, parents and teachers in developing school spirit and unity.
- ❖ Providing a safe environment for athletes and fans.

Real Source for True Victory. *Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Each coach is committed to:

- ❖ Guiding athletes to glorify God.
- ❖ Teaching each athlete to work diligently toward specific personal and team goals.
- ❖ Teaching the "team concept" as opposed to self-glorification.
- ❖ Teaching interpersonal relationship skills.
- ❖ Teaching respect for rules and authority.
- ❖ Designing practice sessions to provide developmentally appropriate training and conditioning of athletes.

I. PHILOSOPHY OF THE MCS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The purpose and goal of our athletic program is to bring glory to God with our attitudes and efforts, and to develop Godly characteristics in athletes through challenging sports programs.

Team goals for all players and coaches:

1. Become an integral part of a team according to God's pattern for teamwork described in I Corinthians 12:12-26.
2. Walk closer with our Lord Jesus Christ through opportunities of hearing others share their experiences with Him and through opportunities to share our own relationship with Him.
3. Become the very best player/coach that God will allow with the strength and talent He has given.
4. Receive the unconditional love of God through the coaches and players and having received, share this love with others.
5. Influence the halls and classrooms of Mansfield Christian in a positive way to the glory of God and in the strength that comes through fellowship with other believers.
6. Understand the perseverance and confident humility that comes through facing difficult circumstances and, in the strength given by God, learn to win and lose to the glory of God.
7. Be a strong testimony to all spectators.
8. Learn to come under the authority (coaches, officials) that God has placed over each team member.
9. Strive for excellence in all things—physical, spiritual, academic. *Be perfect therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)*

II. SPORTS OFFERED AT MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN

We will continue to provide a variety of programs to fit the interests of our students. The following programs will be offered this year:

- FALL:**
- Boys' Soccer - JV and Varsity
 - Girls Soccer -Varsity
 - Girls' Volleyball - JH, JV and Varsity
 - Golf - Coed Varsity
 - Cross Country-Coed Varsity
 - Flames Club Soccer –boys and girls 4 years old through 8th grade

WINTER: Coed Swimming -Varsity
Girls' Cheerleading
Boys' Basketball - JH, JV and Varsity
Girls' Basketball – JH and Varsity
Boys Friendly House Basketball 3rd through 6th grades
Girls Friendly House Basketball 3rd through 6th grades

SPRING: Boys Baseball - JV and Varsity
Girls Softball – Varsity
Coed Track – JH and Varsity
Flames Club Baseball – JH
Flames Club Softball - JH

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Victor's Crown. *If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown, unless he competes according to the rules. (2 Timothy 2:5)*

A. Eligibility

1. **AGE:** All 19-year-olds, regardless of date of birth, may continue to participate in interscholastic athletics provided the eight-semester rule is observed. This also means that once a student turns 20, no matter where the 20th birthday falls on the calendar, his or her eligibility ends. Exception 1 would be retained to provide latitude to approve participation opportunities for students who are truly disabled.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** School and class attendance is very important for each athlete. For an athlete to practice he/she must be present in class for half the day. If a student misses more than half of the school day, the student may not participate in any practices, games or performances that day. Excuses should be given to the Athletic Administrator for unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances could be a funeral, an orthodontist appointment or some other unforeseen appointments that are difficult to schedule. Under no circumstances would tiredness, studying for a test, doing homework or similar excuses be allowed.
3. **ACADEMICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL:** Student athletes must pass 5 one credit hour classes and be in good academic standing. Points are accumulated on received grades of "D's" or "F's". A "D" is worth 1 point, while an "F" is worth 2 points. Grades are checked at the end of each marking period. A student may not accumulate 3 or more penalty points. If a student receives 3 or more points, he/she will be placed on probation until the next time grades are reported (unless certain circumstances arise). At the discretion of the Athletic Administrator, principal, and/or coach a student can be placed on probation at any time.
 - a. The student who is on probation may practice with his or her team at the discretion of the Athletic Administrator, principal, and/or coach.

- b. The student on probation may not dress in his/her uniform or participate in games during the probationary period. The student may travel with the team at the discretion of the coach.
 - c. If tryouts for a particular sport occur during a student's probation and cuts will be made, the student will be permitted to participate in the tryout process.
 - d. Eligibility will be determined on the day grade reports are distributed to students.
 - e. Students receiving an incomplete will have 2 weeks to complete assignments so that a grade can be posted. Incompletes turn into an "F" after this time.
 - f. Spring grades in the 8th grade DO apply to eligibility in the 9th grade.
 - g. All OHSAA rules and regulations apply and must be met in addition to MCS guidelines. **According OHSAA guidelines, summer school courses may NOT be used to determine eligibility.** However, a student may retake a course over the summer in order to meet the eligibility requirements established by MCS under certain conditions. (see Student Handbook for details)
- B. **PHYSICAL EXAM.** A completed physical exam is required for all athletes each year. OHSAA Forms must be used and can be obtained in the school office or at the Athletic Tab on our website. The exam form must be turned in **before** the season begins or the athlete will not be able to tryout for the team.

IV. CONDUCT AND GENERAL POLICIES

- A. It is important that our attitude and behavior be under control at all times. The team suffers when an individual loses control or gets frustrated. Respect toward officials, players and a coach is expected. The High School Principal, Athletic Administrator and coaches will deal with inappropriate language or conduct carried out in the classroom or on the athletic field.

Control. *A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.*
(Proverbs 29:11)

- B. Every player is responsible to treat equipment (balls, bats, etc.) like it is his or her own. The athlete will pay for damaged equipment. Locker rooms and dug outs (home and away) must be cleaned before leaving.
- C. The uniform issued to each athlete is his/her responsibility. Lost or damaged uniforms must be paid for in full. All uniforms need to be cleaned properly and returned clean.
- D. All injuries must be reported to the coach so that proper care may be given.

- E. Use of alcohol and tobacco
First Violation - The student will be denied participation in 20% of scheduled public performances (not scrimmages) or 3 events, whichever is greater. The student will forfeit any positions of leadership and awards relating to a position of leadership.

Second Violation – The student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season in which he/she is currently participating. The student will lose leadership responsibilities for the balance of his/her middle school or high school career. In most cases second offenses in this category will likely result in dismissal from Mansfield Christian School.
- F. Practice Dress Code
Athletes are expected to dress modestly for practices.
- G. Unexcused Absences
Under the following circumstances, athletes will not be excused from practice and/or games: *(Absences due to the following situations are not excused because of the other athletes who are involved and the toll it takes on the team when one of its members is not there for a practice or game. It is important to be committed to the team.)*
1. Baby sitting brother or sister
 2. Work or planned absence from school
 3. Parents "benching" athletes (To help your child, please work with the coach and/or Athletic Administrator.)
 4. Conduct ineligibility
 5. Shopping/Appointments
- (Each situation will be discussed between the coach and Athletic Administrator.)*
- H. Excused/Unexcused Absences at the Discretion of the Athletic Administrator/Coach Parents/Students: *When it is possible please schedule doctor, dentist appointments and college visits around practices and games. These things are important, but there is also a commitment to the team and the teammates. If a scheduling conflict does arise, please contact the coach and/or Athletic Administrator as soon as possible.*
- I. What Happens When Tardies/Absences are Unexcused
1. Unexcused absences
 - a. Absences from a game
 - 1st - It should be understood that the playing time of the athlete will be affected. Coach calls parent.
 - 2nd - The athlete has a meeting with the Athletic Administrator and coach. Consequences are communicated at the meeting.

- b. Absences from practice
 - 1st- The athlete cannot start the next game and his or her playing time will be reduced. Coach calls parent.
 - 2nd- The athlete has a meeting with the Athletic Administrator and coach. Consequences are communicated at the meeting.
- 2. Unexcused tardies
 - a. Tardies to a game
 - 1st- The athlete will understand that his or her playing time will be affected and additional conditioning assigned.
 - 2nd- The athlete will understand that his or her playing time will be reduced even more than the first time. Coach calls parent. Consequences are communicated to player and parent.
 - 3rd- The athlete has a meeting with the Athletic Administrator, coach and parent. Consequences are communicated at meeting.
Player could be dismissed from the team.
 - b. Tardies to practice
 - 1st- Conditioning work is assigned at coach's discretion.
 - 2nd- Conditioning work is assigned at coach's discretion. Coach calls parent.
 - 3rd- Meeting with Athletic Administrator, coach and parent.
Player could be dismissed from the team.

J. Quitting a Team

Athletes that quit a team during the season will be considered ineligible for his/her next sport of choice, except at the discretion of the Athletic Administrator.

K. Specific Rules for Parents

1. SPORTSMANSHIP. Please remember your actions and words are a reflection upon our Lord, our school and our families. (Ephesians 4:29)
2. AUTHORIZED AREAS. Parents are not allowed in the locker rooms or near the bench. Fans are to sit on the bleachers. Parents are not to come on the playing surfaces or bench area. Wait until you are called if needed. We realize that this may be difficult if you think that your athlete may be injured, but it is the very best thing that you can do.
3. SUPPORT. The public support of the coaches at MCS is most important. Do not talk derogatorily about coaches. Negative comments will erode authority and respect and eventually hurt our program.
4. PROMPTNESS. Be prompt in picking up athletes after practices and games. Remember coaches have families too! *But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.* (I Corinthians 14:40)
5. CONFER WITH COACHES. Talk with the coach and Athletic Administrator before taking athletics away from your son/daughter for discipline reasons. The team is counting on him/her and the decision affects more than one person.

6. DISAGREEMENTS. If your son/daughter has a disagreement with the coach, please send him/her back to the coach to work it out. If it cannot be worked out, then you as the parent should set up a meeting with the coach to work it out. If the problem still cannot be worked out, please bring the concern to the Athletic Administrator. We are to use the Matthew 18 model for settling all disagreements. *Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained a brother. If he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.* (Matthew 18:15)

7. MEETING. At least one parent should attend the pre-season athletic meeting prior to their child participating in a sport.

8. CHEER. Cheer and cheer loudly. Let the entire team hear your support! Be positive. Be enthusiastic. **Be LOUD!**

V. VARSITY LETTER QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Athletic awards are given in recognition of outstanding athletic achievement and service to the school.
- B. The first year an athlete letters in a particular varsity sport he/she receives a chenille letter and a pin of that sport. Each additional year he/she letters in that sport, the athlete receives a bar. If an athlete letters in another sport, he/she receives a pin for that sport.
- C. The head coach has the prerogative to issue or withhold a letter for extenuating circumstances such as early season injuries, team or league violations, etc. Coaches must provide sufficient documentation of these circumstances to the principal and Athletic Administrator. In all cases, students must complete the season as a member of the team in order to letter.
- D. Criteria for Lettering for Each Sport
 - 1. Student must have completed the entire season.
 - 2. Student must have played in at least one-half of the season's competition.
 - 3. Student must attend practices and games unless excused by the coach.
 - 4. Student must not have been a disciplinary problem.
 - 5. All equipment must have been turned in.
- E. It is a privilege to receive a letter, and it must be earned. Just participating on a team is not enough to earn a letter. Seniors in good standing will letter.
- F. In case of special circumstances, each situation will be reviewed by the Athletic Administrator.

VI. AWARDS

- A. As stated in our philosophy, we want our athletes to demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our awards in athletics will be based on how well the athletes show these characteristics. Our purpose in giving awards is to recognize character development.
- B. At each of the sports awards ceremonies, we desire that our students are recognized and also that Jesus Christ be glorified and honored. The following awards will be presented to **high school students**:
1. The Torch Award
- given to the player that best exemplifies Christ with their actions, conduct, and attitude, in games, practice and in their daily life. It includes performance but is not the primary consideration. Their relationship and the living for the Lord is the primary consideration.
 2. The Most Inspirational Award
-given to the player whose attitude, hard work, enthusiasm and encouragement, caused you to want to do a better job. This is the player that had a positive attitude and did everything they could to be an encouragement and help to their teammates.
 3. The Champion of Excellence Award
- given to the outstanding athlete who has shown the best ability, accomplishment, leadership and overall Christian character.
- C. **Middle school awards:**
1. Coachable Award
– given to the player for demonstrating an ability to pursue instruction and direction from coaches and teammates and act upon it with a positive spirit.
 2. Hustle Award
–given to the player for demonstrating an ability to play and practice with an intensity and desire to be his/her best.
 3. Torch Award
- given to the outstanding athlete who has shown the best ability, accomplishment, leadership and overall Christian character.

VII. CHARACTER QUALITIES WE DESIRE IN OUR ATHLETES:

All of our coaches go into the season knowing they will be expected to encourage the development of the following positive character qualities in the athletes.

What follows is a list of character qualities that are desired in MCS athletes. The quality has a short description and a Bible verse that is applicable for that quality. There may be many other verses that apply as well. Athletes and coaches are encouraged to use these qualities as topics for devotions and dialogue.

- A. **Boldness** - Being ready to boldly express what Jesus Christ has done for you. The Christian athlete cannot be one who is timid or gives up. (Act 4:29)
- B. **Commitment** – Staying the course. (I Corinthians 15:58)
- C. **Confidence** - Knowing that he/she as an individual athlete is a winner in God's sight as he/she totally gives all he/she has to Jesus. (Ephesians 1:7-14)
- D. **Dependability** - Attending all practices games/contests unless excused by the coach. Doing what is expected in all situations. (Titus 2:6-8)
- E. **Determination** – Making a mental, spiritual and emotional decision to accomplish God's goals in His time, regardless of the opposition. (II Timothy 4:7)
- F. **Diligence** – Willingness to use all strength and ability to complete each part of a task whether in practice, in a game or anywhere else. (Colossians 3:23)
- G. **Endurance** - Being able to withstand stress, hard work and the problems that all Christian athletes experience. (Galatians 6:9)
- H. **Enthusiasm** - Taking an interest in every aspect of the sport and being willing to quickly carry out every part of the job with a positive attitude. (I Thessalonians 5:16)
- I. **Faith** – Showing an understanding that the Lord is in control of all circumstances and that He is carrying out His will in each individual life. (Hebrews 11:1)
- J. **Honesty** - Doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. (Proverbs 11:3)
- K. **Humility** – Having an attitude that gives God all of the credit for every team and individual ability, talent, and/or success. (Philippians 2:3)
- L. **Intensity** - Giving everything to the task at hand at all times, focusing total attention upon the job assigned, and putting forth every effort to complete it perfectly. (1 Samuel 17:45-47)
- M. **Joyfulness** – The result of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ from which His love naturally overflows to others. (Philippians 4:4)

- N. Love – Exhibiting self-sacrifice and showing a real concern for team members, coaches, and opponents. Remembering that Christ focused His love upon others, not Himself. (John 13:35)
- O. Obedience - Jesus was always obedient to His Father's will. Each athlete should strive to be obedient to both the Lord and to those whom He has put in authority over us. (II Corinthians 10:5)
- P. Punctuality – Arriving early to all practices and games. (Ecclesiastes 8:6)
- Q. Responsibility – Taking the initiative to work and make intelligent decisions. All athletes need to do everything that is expected of them. Coaches need to know that athletes are capable of doing things without direct supervision. (1 Timothy 4:6-8 & 1 Corinthians 7:24).
- R. Service – Having a servant's heart. Leading by serving. (Matthew 20:28)