

Valley Christian Schools

Coaches Handbook



Nathan Cross, Athletic Director

Revised: 9/19

Mission Statement: Valley Christian School exists to partner with Christian families that desire educational excellence taught through a biblical worldview so their children will be prepared for a lifetime of authentic faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

All coaches and volunteers will adhere to the MHSA bylaws and guidelines.

Philosophy of Christian Coaching

Valley Christian's philosophy of coaching is grounded in three main principles of Christian Athletics.

First, **the Christian coach views athletics as a ministry.** The Christian coach is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and prays for their athletes to develop a deeper desire for the things of Christ. The Christian coach also understands the great opportunity for active ministry as opponents, fans and community are watching to see if there is a difference in the Christian athlete. Christian coaches are to be used for God's work in the lives of the athletes of whom they have been entrusted. They are ambassadors for Christ in our athletic community.

Second, **the Christian coach views athletics as an arena for teaching the principles of God's Word.**

Athletes are confronted with many types of situations that run parallel to life situations. These situations become perfect opportunities for teaching biblical principles. It is the job of the Christian coach to biblically direct athletes to build Christ-like character qualities and to encourage the athletes to express these qualities openly through the medium of athletics. The Christian coach is to primarily build eternal values in our athletes and, therefore, need to stress attitudes and actions in relation to God's Word.

Finally, **the Christian coach understands the importance of from a Christian perspective.** Coaches spend many hours thinking of ways to help their team win games, but the Christian coach anticipates winning a lot more than just games. The Christian coach understands that true victory only comes when the athletes please the Lord with their effort, attitudes and actions. *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.* (1 Corinthians 9:25) Examples of victory to the Christian coach include athletes demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit during normal and stressful situations, seeing team members develop a deep desire for the things of Christ, or having an athlete share their faith with boldness to teammates and opponents. The Christian coach wants their athletes to desire to please the Lord rather than people. *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.* (Colossians 3:23) The Christian coach wants their athletes to catch the vision that our Lord attends every athletic event and is their primary audience.

Coaches are stewards of the many athletes of which the families have entrusted us. The Christian coach has been divinely placed as an extension of the family. It is, therefore, important for the Christian coach to be sensitive to our athletes as it relates to family and church activities. Although there are consequences for certain absences or choices, the coach always handles situations with consistency and the best interest of the athlete in mind.

Opportunities for Developing Spiritual Victories

- Conduct team devotions before each game that are aimed toward instructing athletes in their Christian service to God
- Conduct team prayer meetings before each game
- Encourage athletes to prepare and lead the team in devotions and prayer
- Provide opportunities for athletes to share their personal testimonies as to what God is doing in their lives through athletics. Opportunities can include Chapel, staff devotions, before games, with other Christian schools, or at churches
- Instruct athletes in the behavior God expects of them during team meetings and practices
- Model personal behavior that is consistent with your teaching
- Conduct a short team prayer after each game – win or lose.
- Openly admit mistakes or errors, and when a wrong has been done, seek forgiveness
- Discipline athletes whose actions are detrimental to the spiritual objectives of the school
- Open a home athletic event with prayer by a team member, if a PA is available
- Show care for equipment and facilities. Teach athletes to respect the things God has given us by taking care of equipment, uniforms and facilities – especially when visiting another school.
- Submit to the leadership of the athletic program and school by following all of the established rules and guidelines

Participation Requirements for the Athlete

- The following forms must be on file in the Athletic Director's office before the first practice:
 - a. MHSА physical form and a current physical on file with the school
 - b. MHSА concussion form
 - c. Emergency medical form
 - d. Participation form
- Each coach meets with the families and athletes of their particular sport to discuss the philosophy and standards set by the coach prior to the start of the season.
- Each coach may discuss with athletes rules and procedures concern in their own particular sport.
- Coaches must give a copy of the rules and procedures to the AD for approval before they are discussed with parents. This includes squad selection procedures.
- The student athlete fee will be billed by the business office. This will be communicated to the parents by the business office.

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Disciplinary Procedures

Please inform the AD of all attitude and behavioral issues. Unacceptable attitudes and behaviors of the athletes should be dealt with immediately. When substance misuse or abuse occurs it is dealt with in accordance with the substance abuse policy in the student handbook.

If a coach becomes aware that any athlete is in violation of the student handbook, they must notify the AD and principal immediately. After consultation with the AD and principal, the player's coach or AD will contact the parents informing them of the circumstances and the resulting discipline. Each case is handled individually, yet consistently.

Hazing

"Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. No administrator, employee or faculty member of Valley Christian shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person. Valley Christian has zero tolerance for any type of hazing activity. Any action considered to be hazing will result in immediate disciplinary action.

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Job Description – Head Coach

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Head Varsity Coach is responsible for directing and developing the total program of his/her assigned sport. This involves the JV and Junior High.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- The Head Varsity Coach shall be a member of the VC School staff or from the Christian community, and shall exhibit maturity and leadership qualities.
- The Head Varsity Coach must be self-motivated and well organized.
- He/She shall have training and experience, both in playing and coaching, in the assigned sport.
- He/She must be a growing Christian who is active and vital in his/her Christian life, with an understanding and commitment to Christian education.

CONTRACTED BY: The Valley Christian School Board at the recommendation of the Athletic Director and the Head of School

TIME REQUIRED: Part time, Annual Stipend, Contracted during the months of the season

RESPONSIBLE TO: Athletic Director

SUPERVISES:

- Assistant Coaches
- Managers
- Stat Keepers
- Players

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Spiritual Leader

- A. Exhibit Christian maturity and Christ-like example at all time
- B. Incorporate devotional/prayer time into practices and pre-game meetings
- C. Counsel players as God gives opportunity

2. Administration

- A. Over-all supervision of his/her program, including teams from grades 7th - 12th
- B. Determine the assignments and duties of assistant coaches working in his/her sport
- C. Schedule all practice periods through the A.D., confine all practices to time allotted
- D. General upkeep, care and protection of equipment
- E. Inventory all equipment for his/her sport at the beginning and end of each season
- F. Write annual report, evaluation and recommendation at the end of each season
- G. Inform the A.D. of equipment needs and submit the proper purchase requests to him/her
- H. Build good sportsmanship and public relations within the school family
- I. Know and follow MHSA, league and school policies.

3. Coach

- A. Report scores to media and newspapers
- B. Make travel arrangements for team in cooperation with Athletic Director. Clear the departure time for trips that involve loss of school time with Athletic Director. Give adequate and appropriate notice to the faculty
- C. Select players/team for his/her sport (include eligibility check)
- D. Provide direction for those coaches of developmental programs grades 7th-11th
- E. Confirm that each player has had physical exam and adequate insurance coverage (as specified by MHSAA and school policy)
- F. To insure the general health and welfare of students in his/her sport, must be qualified in First Aid and CPR
- G. Be responsible for the actions, conduct and dress of his/her team whenever they are under his/her jurisdiction
- H. Supervise all participants when returning from a practice or activity (until all have left the campus for home)
- I. Make recommendations for letter awards; clarify the Valley Christian School athletic philosophy and policies with athletic code and awards policy with the team
- J. Take appropriate measures to make sure that the team's play areas, shower and locker rooms are clean and safe for participation and left in good order after use
- K. Keep accurate records for the school and the league

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