

**BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2020-2021**

To: All Middle School Student Athletes and Parents of Student Athletes

On behalf of Briarcrest Christian Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our Athletic Program. This handbook is provided to give both general and specific information that will assist you in being able to participate in the sport(s) of your choice. ***PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.***

The policies, rules, and regulations presented hereafter have been condensed to address general situations. Students should contact individual coaches or the Athletic Director for clarification or further information.

Sincerely,
Robby Donaldson
Athletic Director



BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

At Briarcrest, athletics is considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provides experiences that will help boys and girls physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. Students are stimulated to desire to win, to improve, and to excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the learning opportunities within each contest.

Briarcrest believes that participation in athletics, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an important part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibility to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student himself. In both play and conduct, the student is representing all of these groups. Such experiences enhance the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns possessed by students, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Finally, we feel athletic competition can help one learn how to glorify God effectively in all areas of life. Every athlete does well when he knows what to do. This idea applies to representing Jesus in athletics as well as carrying out athletic assignments. The Bible tells us everything we need to do to represent Jesus in all aspects of life. Although the Bible doesn't apply God's work specifically to athletics, it is filled with principles that do apply to athletics. Coaches and athletes have a responsibility to do their best in representing Jesus by preparing mentally and spiritually for what God calls them to do.

OBJECTIVES OF PARTICIPATION

1. To provide a positive image of school athletics at Briarcrest Christian Middle School.
2. To strive always for playing excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship and the mental health of the student athlete.
3. To provide a superior program.
4. To provide an opportunity for a student to experience success in an activity he or she selects.
5. To provide activities which offer the greatest educational benefits for the student.
6. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
7. To develop high ideals of fairness in all human relationships.
8. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
9. To be socially competent and operate within set rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.
10. To promote the development of Christian personalities on the premises given by God in the Scriptures by conducting all phases of the program in a Christian atmosphere based on a Christian view of God and the world, and preparing Christian youth for effective service.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Members of athletic teams at Briarcrest Christian Middle School are expected to conduct themselves in a “Christ-like Manner” before, during, and after any game or practice. They are expected to follow God’s command given in Colossians 3:23 which says, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”*

The following represent specific expectations:

- Respect my teammates, coaches, game officials/umpires, opponents and equipment.
 - **1 Peter 2:17** – *“Show proper respect to everyone.”*
 - Never underestimate your opponent.
 - Listen to and obey those God has placed above you.
 - Take care of equipment and return all Briarcrest issued equipment at the completion of each season.
- Maintain a positive attitude at all times in practices and games.
 - **Ephesians 4:23** – *“Be made new in the attitude of your minds.”*
 - Remember that a great effort is usually the result of a great attitude.
 - Talent is overvalued; character wins out.
- Give my best effort at all times.
 - **Colossians 3:23** – *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”*
 - Play the game hard at all times regardless of the score.
 - Don’t worry when we are down, and don’t relax when we are up.
- Support and encourage my teammates.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:11** – *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”*
- Never use any inappropriate language.
 - **Ephesians 4:29** – *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.”*
- Play without fear of failure or fear of injury.
 - **2 Timothy 1:7** – *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power”*
- Never give up in any game.
 - **2 Timothy 4:7** – *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is for all of our athletes to have the most positive athletic experience possible. This goal cannot be accomplished without the positive efforts of parents. It is in this spirit that we ask parents to abide by the following procedures to help maximize your child's experience with Briarcrest Christian Middle School Athletics. As *1 Peter 3:8* says, *"We should be of one mind. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude."*

- Always encourage all players in a positive manner
- Always support umpires, referees, officials, coaches, and players on BCS or opposing teams, never using inappropriate language or attitudes.
- If a parent has a concern regarding any decision of the coach, he should adhere to the following chain of command: speak to the coach or sponsor first. If further conversation is needed, then move on to the Athletic Director, Principal, Headmaster, etc.
- Parents should not contact and express any negative comments or complaints to a coach until the day after the game or event in question. Never approach a coach about an issue right before or after a practice/game.
- Any playing time discussions should be expressed to the coach and should not include any evaluation or comments about other players.
- Parents should understand and acknowledge that being a member of a Briarcrest Christian Middle School team is a privilege and a full-time commitment. Participation at all practices and games is expected and any exceptions must be discussed with and approved by the head coach well in advance of the absence. In addition to player participation, parents may be required to volunteer in different areas. Players may not play for any other team, at any time unless permission is granted in advance by the head coach for a specific game and/or tournament.
- Parents will refrain from coaching their child during practices and games. Please allow the coaches to coach at practices and games.
- Parents should encourage athletes to follow the rules of the program and to show respect to their coaches at all times.
- No parents, coaches, family members, etc. may reproduce any Briarcrest Christian School logo, image, or likeness without expressed, written consent from Briarcrest Christian School (examples: shirts, decals, banners, hats, etc.).
- Parents are required to work one shift in concessions during each season that your child participates in a sport.

1. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Physicals

All student athletes must have a physical dated **after April 15 of the current school year** to participate in a school-sponsored sport. These physicals must be on file in the Middle School Office prior to participation in any of our athletic endeavors. This includes summer workouts and cheer camps.

A physical can be obtained from your private physician **or** through the Briarcrest Sports Physical Program. Physicals are offered on campus each May. If you choose to use a private physician, please ***submit written approval for athletic participation on the letterhead of the doctor or medical group.***

Required Forms

In addition to the physical form listed above, the following forms must be submitted each year prior to participation on any BCMS Athletic Team. Each form is available on the BCMS Website on the Athletics Page under the "Forms" Tab.

1. Student Athletic Participation Form
2. Cardiac Arrest Form
3. Concussion Form

Participation Policy

Any student who has past due tuition (delinquent 60 days or more) shall not be eligible to participate in non-credit, co-curricular activities sponsored by the school.

In order for students to participate in any school activity, students must meet the following criteria:

Summer Activities – Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year. The tuition balance for the prior school year must be paid in full and not be over 60 days late under their payment plan for the upcoming school year.

Fall, Winter, Spring Activities – Students must be enrolled. Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year. The tuition balance for the prior school year must be paid in full and not be over 60 days late under their payment plan for the upcoming school year.

Tryouts and Spring Practices for Upcoming School Year – Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year.

This policy includes all sports, cheerleading camps, and fine arts. It does not include Briar camp or Xtracamps.

2. ATTENDANCE THE DAY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CONTEST

A student is expected to attend all classes on the day of a contest and the next school day following the contest. Habitual absences before and/or after a contest may result in suspension from the team. To be eligible to participate in the contest of the day, the athlete must be present for a minimum of four periods, unless the student has been excused from school attendance for such reasons as doctor's appointment, field trip, funeral, etc.

PARTICIPATION IN AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE OR ATHLETIC CONTESTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IF THE ATHLETE IS OUT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE OF ILLNESS MORE THAN ½ OF THE DAY (**four periods**) OF THE PRACTICE OR CONTEST. The only exception to this rule is a doctor's release which must be presented to the coach prior to practice or the contest.

3. ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICES AND MEETINGS

Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests, and special occasions unless excused by the head coach.

4. CARE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The athlete is responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. Lost, stolen, or damaged equipment will be paid for by the athlete or his parents before any grades are issued.

5. MEDICAL RELEASE TO PARTICIPATE AFTER CONSULTING A DOCTOR

If an athlete is seriously injured and consults a doctor, he/she must have a doctor's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests.

6. PERSONAL CONDUCT

Participation on an athletic team or cheerleading squad at Briarcrest is a privilege and the participant must earn the right to represent Briarcrest by conducting himself in such a way that the image of Briarcrest Christian School will not be tarnished in any manner. Any participant whose conduct is judged to reflect a discredit upon himself/herself, the team or Briarcrest Christian School, whether or not such activity takes place during or outside of school hours and sessions of the sport season, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, the athletic director, the school principal and/or the President of Briarcrest School System.

Any student athlete coming off the bench and getting involved in any altercation on the field or court will be subject to disciplinary action. Any athlete ejected from a game in any sport may be subject to suspension from a portion of or all of the following game.

See the Student Code of Conduct for further detail regarding rules of conduct.

7. QUITTING A TEAM

The normal rule for athletes quitting a team is that the athlete renders himself ineligible for any sport during that season which has already begun. An athlete who goes out for a sport, but is “cut” would be eligible to try out for and participate in another sport during that season. ANY PLAYER QUITTING A TEAM CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN AN OFF-SEASON PROGRAM FOR ANOTHER SPORT. The Head Coach should notify the Athletic Director immediately when a player quits or is dropped from the team.

8. TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE

Each coach will have discipline rules for minor infractions, such as inattention to directions, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc.

9. LOCKER ROOMS

Valuables should be locked up in lockers during practices and games. Laptops, wallets and other valuables should NEVER be left out in the gym or on the field. After practices and games, please put equipment in its proper place and make sure gym/field/locker room is clean.