



# ATHLETICS

2019-2020

*Student & Parent Handbook*

## **Philosophy of Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities**

At BCS, we believe athletics are an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics are important but should not take the place of academics, church or family commitments. We also believe every student has been gifted with various abilities. While it is impossible for every student to be involved in athletics, we encourage every student to explore his God-given capabilities in the athletic opportunities provided at BCS.

Participation in athletics and all other extra-curricular activities is a great way for students to build a relationship with God and be a witness to teammates and opponents. The benefits of participating in athletics and extra-curricular activities are innumerable and can be a tool to spread God's word. In Romans 12:1, the Bible says I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Parents play a vital role in the success of a student athlete. It is our expectation that all parents be positive, supportive and encouraging to all players, coaches and opponents. Parents and spectators should cheer not only for the goals and shots made, but also for the successes of all players not matter how big or small.

Lastly, parents should be a support system to the coaches and frequently ask how they can help. Parent/coach conflicts should be handled gently, privately and with a prayerful heart. Gossiping with other parents about the faults of a coach and/or other players and students is beneficial to no one and will not be tolerated.

## **Goals of the Program**

**The goals of the BCS Athletic program are to:**

- Represent the person of Jesus Christ in the area of athletic competition
- Allow students to use their God-given physical abilities and talent
- Develop student athletes who are playing to glorify and honor God as well  
as develop discipline and self-controlled attitudes
- Teach our students the benefit of physical fitness, training and competition as a means to take care of God's temple
- Teach the value of athletic competition, leadership and teamwork

## Vision of the Program

The vision for our program is reflected in our athletes, coaches, parents and department as a whole by:

- **Athletes** who genuinely have a love for God and the confidence to represent Him at all time on and off the field.
- **Coaches** who love their athletes, work hard to improve team skills, and model leadership and humility to everyone they come in contact with
- **Parents** who support and pray for coaches and athletes, and volunteer time toward the improvement of our athletic program.
- An **Athletic Department** and **Administration** that is organized, dedicated, involved, and excited about the successes of our athletic teams.

## Grades

The school sponsors boys' and girls' basketball teams, cheerleading squad, volleyball team, baseball team, soccer team, and track team. To be eligible to participate, students must have a C average the quarter preceding the season.

## WVSSAC

BCS is a member of the WVSSAC. BCS is responsible for meeting all requirements for this organization. We cannot vary from any of the requirements outlined by this organization. If you have any questions please address them to the athletic director.

## Discipline

Students participating in extra-curricular activities must abide by all policies in the BCS Student/Parent Handbook. With permission from the athletic director, coaches may suspend players from practice, from a game or from the team if it is deemed necessary.

As a Christian school, it is of the utmost importance that every player's actions are consistent with what we believe. All coaches and players must set a Christ-like example to their opponents.

## Practice Length/Sunday/Non-School Day

Practices shall not exceed more than 2 hours per day. Practices will be in the afternoon or early evening. Practices will not begin after 7pm.

No practices or games will be scheduled on Wednesdays.

If Saturday practices are held, they are optional to players and players cannot be reprimanded for missing them. They should only be held in the morning. Sunday practices are prohibited without exception. We believe Sunday is a time to spend with church and family.

Optional practices may be held during school breaks, but not on these holidays:

- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas
- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Memorial Day

Players cannot be reprimanded for missing practices over official school breaks.

## **Practice & Event Guidelines**

Students who miss more than half a school day are not permitted to play in a game on that day without special permission from the administrator and the athletic director.

All words and actions by coaches, players and fans should be positive, uplifting and encouraging to others. We should all make every effort to follow the words of Galatians 5:22–24 and be positive witnesses for Jesus Christ.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

In games where we are leading by a large margin, coaches will model Christ-like decision-making. Coaches will avoid “running up the score” and consider how the outcome will reflect on Bible Center School as well as how it will affect the players from the opposing team.

Coaches should limit discussion with officials to matters of rule interpretation. At no point should a coach dispute an official regarding a judgment call.

Coaches must report to the athletic director all occasions they, or a player, receive a yellow card, technical foul, ejection or any other sportsmanship related penalty.

## **Ejection**

Any ejection from a game whether it be of a coach or a player will result in an automatic two game suspension. Parents ejected from a game will also be asked to not return for two games.

The coach or player ejected will also have a mandatory meeting within two days of the game with the athletic director and the administrator to discuss the cause of the ejection and further disciplinary action if necessary.

## **Injury**

Players will be excused from practice and games if they are injured. IF a player misses three or more consecutive practices because of injury, he/she must be cleared by a doctor to return.

If a player becomes unconscious for any reason, he/she may not continue to participate that day. The athlete must have a signed doctor's note before returning to practice or a game.

## **Volunteer/Parent Coaches**

Volunteering at BCS is always welcome, including in our athletic programs.

All head coaches must be interviewed by an administrator. All volunteer coaches must be interviewed by the head coach to

ensure proper knowledge of the sport they will be coaching, as well as to determine if they will be a positive, Christ-like role model to the athletes. The athletic director must approve all volunteers. Once approved, potential volunteer coaches must obtain an FBI background check through the school office. Once results are returned, the coach may begin working with the team.

Please remember coaches – volunteer or paid – with children of their own on the team, must show not favoritism. If the coach does show favoritism, he or she will be asked to resign the position.

## **Practice Attendance**

Consistent attendance at practice is expected of all student athletes. The only acceptable reasons for missing practices are because of a (n):

- Injury/Illness
- Doctor's appointment
- Family emergency
- School Conflict

If a player is going to miss a practice, he or she should make every effort to notify the coach at least one day prior to the day of the practice. Repeated absences and/or unexcused absences can result in decreased playing time, suspensions and/or removal from the team.

If a player needs to miss a practice for a reason other than those mentioned above, it must be approved by the coach. If it is not approved, it will be counted as unexcused and the player should be prepared to accept the consequences of the actions.

## **Game Attendance**

Games may only be missed because of a (n):

- Injury/Illness
- Family Emergency
- School Conflict

Athletes should notify their coaches as soon as possible if they are going to miss a game. If a game is missed for an unexcused reason, the coach reserves the right to suspend the athlete for the next game.

## **Practice & Game Day Dress Apparel**

Students may wear non-uniform clothes to practice, but should dress modestly and in an appropriate way to represent BCS. Students should not wear excessively short shorts and coaches should not ask students to play shirts vs. skins.

Appropriate footwear is required. Students may not practice barefoot, in socks or in dress shoes.

Jewelry is not permitted to be worn during games and practices. This includes necklaces, bracelets, anklets and earrings. Long hair should be pulled back with hair ties.

BCS issued game uniforms are to be worn only for games – not for practice or PE. Uniforms should be worn with modesty. Uniform shorts may not be rolled up.

All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach or athletic director within a week of the last game.

Postseason awards will be held if these items are not returned. If a player never returns a uniform, the athlete will be charged to replace it and may not participate in a sport the following season.

## **Physical**

All students must have a completed WVSSAC physical form, after June 1st of the upcoming school year, which includes a physician's signature, before participating in any practice, try-out or game. A physical is valid for one calendar year from the date of completion and does not need to be repeated for additional sports played during the year.

## **Insurance**

BCS recommends each family check with their insurance provider for coverage in the event of an injury during a school sponsored practice or game. Most companies provide additional insurance options for student athletes. A current medical insurance card must be kept on file per student athlete.

## **Managers**

Student managers (not exceeding two) can be kept on a team at the coach's discretion. Student managers may be responsible for handling equipment, keeping statistics, and running the scoreboard.

Student managers may participate in practices if the coach sees it as beneficial to the manager and to the team.

Student managers must follow the same academic policies student athletes are required to follow.

## **Conflict Resolution**

At BCS, we follow the Matthew 18 Principle:

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and

him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:15-16

Parents, if you have a dispute or disagreement with a coach, we ask that you go to him/her with an attitude of appeal. Be respectful and understanding of their response. Most situations are misunderstandings and can easily be resolved. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, please contact the athletic director to schedule a meeting with all parties involved.

## **Athletic Fees**

Students who participate in athletics are required to pay a fee at the beginning of each season. The fee for the sport played in the school year is \$50. Participation fees cover expenses incurred in any athletic department and pay for the services and coaches, officials and bus drivers as well as for gas and equipment. Fees will not be refunded if a student quits a team after the one-week grace period.

Students still may be required to purchase items including uniforms, shoes and personal equipment (such as shin guards).

## **Playing Time**

Starters for games will be chosen by the head coach based on past performance, attitude and leadership. All players should play in every contest, barring disciplinary action. How much a student plays is at the coach's discretion, but we do encourage equitable playing time when possible.

## **Quitting a Team**

Participation in athletics is highly encouraged at BCS. However, it is expected that if a student starts a sports season, he/she finishes it.

Students will be given a one-week grace period at the beginning of the season where if they decide that a certain sport is not for them, they may leave the team. If a student is considering quitting a team, he/she should set up a meeting with his coach or athletic director to discuss the situation. We want to teach students the value of persistence and perseverance in overcoming any obstacles that come.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

## **Parents Code of Conduct**

Parents are expected to give their full support to their child, other players, coaches, opponents and officials.

Parents should not be verbally arrogant or angry with anyone at a game.

Parents should help their children be dependable and accountable by communicating with them about practice and game schedules.

## **Transportation**

Transportation by bus will be provided when available. When transportation is provided, students will be asked to ride the bus to the games, unless other arrangements are made with the coaches. Students may ride home with a parent after notifying the coach.

## **New Students**

Students who arrive in the middle of a sports season will be given the opportunity to join a team if any positions are open. These students must practice with appropriate number of practices according to the WVSSAC.

## Athletic Handbook Compliance Form

I have read and understand the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I agree to abide by these rules, regulations and guidelines and I will faithfully support the coaches, athletic director and administration of Bible Center School.

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Please read, sign and return this form to your coach or the athletic director. This, along with your physical form, and any fees due must be received by the athletic department prior to your first practice. Without these items, you will not be permitted to practice and your place on the team may be awarded to another student.