



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17)

UNION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2015-2016

100. ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The athletic program at the Elementary, Junior and Senior High level is an extension of the educational program.

At the elementary level, volunteers who are qualified and capable assist the school to provide a well-rounded experience for each child who chooses to participate.

At the Junior and Senior High level, qualified persons are employed to serve in dual capacity as teachers and coaches. Under direction of the principal and superintendent, these coaches are qualified to train and supervise students in competitive sports and are also professionally prepared as teachers. Students participating in the sports program at Union Christian Academy are thus under the direction of competent persons exercising professional judgment where the best interests of students are to be served.

101. PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the athletic program at Union Christian Academy is to help all our students reach their highest God-given potential while conforming more and more to the image of Christ. The athletic program serves as a venue for teaching teamwork instead of individuality; physical application of training and education instead of knowledge only; respect for authority, officials, and regulations instead of rebellion, and working as to the Lord regardless of the outcome instead of winning at all cost.

The athletic program at Union Christian Academy will support the spiritual and academic mission of the school. We will compete with integrity, character, and a positive Christian witness, having in mind that many in our audience will not identify themselves as followers of Christ and our witness and influence could make an eternal difference.

102. ELEMENTARY PHILOSOPHY

The Elementary athletic program exists to accomplish the following goals:

1. Learn teamwork, rules and competition involved in the sport
2. Develop the skills necessary for the sport
3. Compete in a Christian atmosphere with Christian influence in coaching
4. Have fun

The goal of our coaching staff will be to ensure that all players compete in the game and have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to develop competency. Playing time will be balanced among all students. Natural ability and determination have a direct result on a student's performance, but at the elementary level the goal remains teamwork and skill-building in a fun environment.

103. JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PHILOSOPHY

At the Junior and Senior High level, the philosophy at Union changes from individual ability and coaching to development of a team where players attain the skill level necessary to play competitive athletics. While the desire is for all teammates to play, coaches have all prerogative and discretion to determine playing time for each student depending on individual ability, preparation, attendance, effort, and the dynamics of the immediate situation in a game. While parents have the opportunity to ask for clarification from the coaches if concerns arise, playing time is at the sole discretion of the coaches.

104. SPORTS OFFERED/SUPPORTED

Depending on student count, eligibility and interest, Union Christian Academy supports the following athletic programs for the Elementary, Junior and Senior High school:

ELEMENTARY

3rd Grade Boys Football, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Cheerleading
4th Grade Boys Football, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Cheerleading
5th Grade Boys Football, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Cheerleading
6th Grade Boys Football, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Cheerleading

Junior High	Girls	Boys
	Cheerleading Volleyball Basketball Track Cross Country	Football Basketball Track Cross Country
Senior High	Cheerleading Volleyball Basketball Track Softball Cross Country Golf Tennis Swimming	Football Basketball Track Cross Country Baseball Golf Tennis Swimming

200. ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

Junior High Athletics (7th and 8th Grade):

Satisfactory/Outstanding/Needs improvement/Unsatisfactory
(O/S/N/U)

Senior High Athletics (9th through 12th Grade):

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (O/S/N/U). The first full semester, or combination listed below, will qualify for the ½ credit required for graduation and will be issued a grade:

- One season of a fall sport and one season of spring sport
- Two seasons of a fall sport or two seasons of a spring sport
- Two semesters of cheerleading
- Two semesters of Team Manager

210. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (Junior & Senior High Athletics/Cheer-leading)

Students with a D in any class at the end of a quarter grading period will be considered ineligible for the next two weeks. After that two week period, the grade in that class must be a C or higher, or the student remains ineligible until the mid-quarter reports. If the grade is not brought up at mid-quarter, the student remains ineligible for the remainder of the quarter.

Students receiving an F in any class at the end of a quarter grading period will be considered ineligible until the mid-quarter report. After the mid-quarter report, the grade in that class must be a C or higher. If the grade is not brought up at mid-quarter, the student remains ineligible for the remainder of the quarter.

The ineligibility period will begin the day reports cards are distributed.

220. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (Academic Service Students)

A student must have earned passing grades in four academic courses of the individual evaluation plan (I.E.P.) for the previous semester. In junior high, three of the four courses must be in the core curriculum areas (Math, Science, English, Social Studies)

300. SCHEDULING COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Union Christian Academy will not schedule competitive activities during the following periods:

Thanksgiving break

Christmas break

Spring break

Teams may choose to practice during these periods, however practices will not be mandatory and will not count against a student.

400. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POLICY FOR UNION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Students who involve themselves with illegal controlled substances (including alcohol) and participate in school activities are in violation of the student Code of Conduct and will be dismissed immediately from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year. In addition, disciplinary action may be taken by the school administration.

500. EXPECTATIONS OF UNION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Attitudes:

Set the tone for the team and the fans. For this reason, coaches will strive to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. They will demonstrate self-control under the authority of the officials, and use sound judgment in protecting the safety of the team.

Coaches shall:

Strive to acquire and implement the most current knowledge of the rules, strategies, and teaching methods of the sport.

Keep the concepts of winning and losing in proper perspective.

Encourage athletes to take part in all sports. It should not be implied that an athlete should give up one sport in favor of another.

Not attempt to recruit or influence a student to transfer from another school to Union for the purpose of athletic competition or participation.

Not help a school outside Union to defeat a Union Christian Academy team.

Not impose significant disciplinary action on an athlete without observing a 24-hour "cooling off" period.

Encourage spiritual fellowship among team members.

Responsibilities:

The coach shall:

Have the welfare of the athlete as the primary concern when making decisions that relate to the care of injuries, rehabilitation, and return to activity.

Keep accurate up-to-date records of all athletes regarding physicals, parent permission forms, eligibility records, injuries, return-to-play procedures and filing of insurance claims.

Structure a safe environment for the athlete during practices, travel, and other team functions.

Be responsible for the care of their athletic equipment. They will develop a system of checking equipment in and out that will contribute to the proper care and prevention of theft.

Be responsible for making accurate inventories and storing of athletic equipment no later than two weeks after the official close of each sport season.

Not play an athlete who is ineligible for any reason.

Keep the athletic director informed about problems that occur within their respective program.

510. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES AND PARENTS

Romans 12:1 says “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds...” Athletic competition is an ideal place to practice the essence of this verse.

Union Christian Academy coaches, student athletes, parents, and fans are ambassadors of Jesus Christ and our school. Therefore, we will strive to conduct ourselves in His image at all times. Our goal will be to serve, in whatever capacity, our opponents, keeping in mind that we may be the demonstration of Christ that will make a difference in someones life.

Union fans, parents, and athletes will respect the authority of the officials.

Union fans will not participate in shouting down the officials, booing, creating distracting noises, or making fun of opponents. Whenever possible, a representative of school administration will be present at games, and will take responsibility for crowd control. Athletes will not be encouraged to give up a sport to participate in the off-season program of another sport.

Athletes are expected to do whatever they do with total release of their mental and physical ability, along with their energies, toward performing like Jesus, having in mind that Jesus is their only audience.

Parents are expected to have the understanding that coaches make decisions in the moment based on what is best for the team. Therefore, any parent wishing to speak about a coaching decision will make an appointment to meet with the Head Coach during their planning period. The Athletic Director, Principal and/or School Superintendent will NOT address any issue until after the parent has spoken with the Head Coach.

Parents are expected to observe a 12 to 24 hour cooling off period before addressing any grievance with the Head Coach.

600. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Parents must complete a permission to participate form and a medical release form on their child detailing any past injuries or medication the athlete is currently taking.

All athletes and cheerleaders must have a current physical turned in to the Athletic Director for the upcoming school year before they will be allowed to practice or compete in sports.

Union Christian Academy provides student insurance on all students participating in sports. This insurance is supplemental and will help defray cost that a parent's primary insurance does not pay.

700. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students must travel with the team and use school transportation, when provided, to all athletic events. Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis.

If an athlete will ride home with their parents, they must be signed out with the coach prior to leaving the event by the Parent transporting that athlete.

Students returning from an event on school provided transportation will be asked to notify their parents on the way home and provide them with an estimated return time.

Parents are asked to be diligent in meeting their students when the bus arrives at school.

800. PRACTICE PROCEDURES

PRACTICES

1. Coaches will demonstrate Christ-like behavior in all practices just as in game related situations.
2. Coaches should see that athletes are at practice on time and are dressed and ready for instruction.
3. Coaches should keep a log of players that miss practice for any reason, exhibit unacceptable behavior, or display an attitude that is detrimental to the team or Union Christian Academy.
4. Coaches or administration will take disciplinary action for the aforementioned situations.
5. Coaches will instruct athletes and their parents that they should not be picked up early, or leave early from any practices unless a family or extreme emergency arises.
6. Coaches should have some basic knowledge of first aid and also be prepared to handle related injuries of athletic competition.
7. Coaches should not hold practices any later than 5:00pm unless circumstances dictate otherwise. (excessive heat, lightning, etc...)
8. Practices will be considered as another class and all class and school policies and rules will apply.