

Frequently Asked Questions
Regarding the Florida High School Athletic Association Rules
On Recruiting and Financial Aid
Lakeland Christian School
Revised January 2012

We want to make LCS accessible to as many mission-appropriate families as possible. The academic and activity programs of LCS have a great deal to offer. We want to present a welcoming spirit to all who inquire about enrolling at LCS.

We also strive to be exemplary in our compliance with the rules that govern high school athletics in Florida under the auspices of the Florida High School Athletic Association. These rules can be difficult to understand and well meaning parents and staff can err through ignorance. This brief document summarizes some of the basic parameters and explains how those are implemented at LCS. If you have a question about any FHSAA regulation, please contact Dr. Mike Sligh, Headmaster; Mr. Keith Overholt, Secondary Principal; Mr. Mark Kirby, Athletic Director; or Mr. Todd Radford, Assistant Athletic Director. A full statement of FHSAA policies can be viewed at www.FHSAA.org. Click on Departments and Staff; click on Eligibility and Compliance.

1. What kind of financial aid is permissible?

All financial aid must be based solely on financial need. FHSAA member schools must utilize one of the approved financial aid needs assessment services to identify the level of financial need for a family. The school may not award financial aid in excess of the amount identified by the financial needs assessment service. If financial aid was granted in excess of this amount, the student would not be eligible to participate in athletics. LCS utilizes the online service of FACTS tuition management to process all financial aid applications. Students who participate in athletics cannot be treated differently from any other student in the school in the administration of financial aid.

Due to the limitation of available funds, LCS does not normally award 100% of the recommended level of aid. If, after receiving notice of the level of aid provided, a family believes there are extenuating circumstances that warrant further consideration, the family may submit an appeal in writing, to be considered by the Finance Committee.

Note: The word “scholarship” infers that financial assistance is awarded based on some skill set or performance of the student. LCS does not award scholarships. The term “financial aid” references financial assistance awarded strictly on the basis of financial need. LCS does award financial aid.

2. How can I find out if my family qualifies for financial aid, and if so, how much?

Financial aid procedures are posted on the LCS website. Click on the Admissions tab and then click on the FACTS icon. The application process is self-guiding. FACTS will provide a recommended level of financial aid to the school. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then families will be notified as to the amount of aid that is available.

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3. When can a prospective student or parent talk to an LCS coach about participating on an LCS team?

The success of LCS athletic programs and the excellent environment provided for our student athletes by our coaches make athletic participation at LCS attractive to families. The eligibility rules of the Florida High School Athletic Association related to transfer students have become increasingly detailed and prescriptive. In order to protect our school and our coaches from allegations related to recruiting, it has become necessary for us to limit contact with our coaches to those parents and students **who have completed the admissions process and have been accepted into LCS**. If prospective parents or students have specific questions related to athletic participation, they are to contact the Director of Enrollment, the Athletic Director, the Secondary Principal, or the Headmaster.

4. Can parents or students encourage non-LCS parents to enroll their students at LCS?

Almost every LCS student is enrolled because of some positive conversations with LCS parents who are enthusiastic about the experience that their own children are having at LCS. Word of mouth recommendation is the life-blood of the school. When recommending LCS to prospective parents, it is important that the families are recommended to LCS on the basis of the whole school program (academic as well as co-curricular programs) and that athletics not be the singular motivation involved. The LCS admissions committee places students based on the mission-appropriateness of the family in relation to the mission and values of the school. The *Welcome Wednesdays* open house admissions program is a great opportunity to expose prospective parents to what LCS has to offer. LCS parents have been encouraged to invite prospective families to participate in a Welcome Wednesday or to schedule a personal tour as the initial step in the admissions process.