

# **Lions Athletic Handbook**

**2009 – 2010**



**Maryville Christian School  
7110 State Route 162  
Maryville, IL 62062**

**Go-MCS.org**



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## **I. Purpose Statement and Christian Sportsmanship**

Maryville Christian School (MCS) is a ministry of First Baptist Church, Maryville, IL (FBCM). The MCS athletic program has been formed with the specific goal of achieving the highest level of Christian sportsmanship possible in conjunction with the mission of MCS and to the glory of God. The number one goal of MCS is to see that each child develops to the fullest of his or her capabilities physically, academically, and in their walk with Christ. It is essential that the conduct of players, parents, coaches, and fans set the Christian example.

**Note:** The following guidelines give specific expectations so that participation in the athletic program is at the highest level of Christian Sportsmanship.

## **II. Athletic Director**

The Athletic Director (AD) will be appointed at the direction of MCS Board of Directors and will be responsible to the Director of Maryville Christian School. Qualification for the position of the Athletic Director will include:

- a. An acceptable criminal background check.
- b. A Christian man or woman that is an active member of First Baptist Church Maryville.
- c. Sufficient educational credentials in one of the following fields: Athletic Administration, Business Administration, or a closely related field
- d. Sufficient background or experience in Athletics that show a working knowledge of the administration of sports.

The Athletic Director (AD) will serve as the liaison between the MCS Athletic Program and MCS and will report quarterly to the MCS Board. The Athletic Director will be directly responsible for development of the MCS Athletic Program, the recruiting and training of coaches, the hiring of certified referees, and submission of an appropriate budget to the MCS Board. Specifically, the AD will interview and appoint coaches and referees that meet the required qualifications. Qualifications for coaches and referees may be found in section III of this document. The AD will be responsible for the coordination with coaches in regard to team schedules, securing competition, and use of FBCM facilities and equipment with the approval of FBCM. The AD will be responsible for promoting MCS athletic sports programs in such a way that it reflects well on MCS and FBCM. The AD will be responsible for monitoring student athlete eligibility to include that each student has completed and provided appropriate documentation in regard to a physical examination and appropriate proof of medical coverage before competing in sports at MCS and the review of student academic records. The AD will also provide the coaching staff with appropriate related documentation such as Parent Permission Forms (including competitive risk waiver), Athletic Training Rules (related to no smoking, alcohol, and drug use policies), as well as an Emergency Medical Card (EMC) to be carried by coaches at all athletic contest. (See details under Section 3 Coaches and Referees.)



Reason for dismissal as AD will be at the discretion of the MCS Board. Behavior at all times must be consistent with the highest of moral and Christian character.

### **III. Coaches and Referees**

Each sport will have at a minimum one head coach and one assistant coach. Coaches and referees will be appointed by the AD in conjunction with the Director of Maryville Christian School. Qualification for the position of a coach will include:

- a. An acceptable criminal background check.
- b. Must be a Christian man or woman that is an active member of First Baptist Church Maryville.
- c. Sufficient background and experience must be demonstrated to show a proven working knowledge of the sport to be coached.

Qualification for the position of referee will include:

- a. An acceptable criminal background check.
- b. Must be a Christian man or woman.
- c. Must meet applicable training and or certification as deemed necessary by the AD that provides sufficient knowledge and expertise in the sport to refereed.

Coaches and referees will be responsible to and will report as directed to the AD. Coaches will be responsible for all aspects of management of the sport that they coach. Coaches will follow the rules as outlined in this handbook. Coaches will be responsible for the management budget and resources, the management of the sports equipment, the planning and conducting of practices, and the coordination management of team competition. Coaches will work directly with the AD to develop appropriate team competition and scheduling. Referees will coordinate with the AD to ensure proper scheduling and participation at applicable sporting events. Coaches will coordinate with the AD to insure the necessary forms are completed prior to student participation in practices and /or games. The necessary forms include:

- a. Parent Permission Form – Supplies the parent with general information about the sport, practice and game times, and related participation requirements. A Parent or Guardian signature is needed before each individual student can begin participation.
- b. Training Rules – Although the use of tobacco and illegal substances should not typically be a concern at this age, this documentation will be provided to all athletes and parents to explain the position of MCS and the Athletic Department as it relates to the use of these substances. This document is intended to “educate” the student athlete and parents as it relates to substance abuse as well as providing information about the consequences should use ever occur.
- c. Emergency Medical Card – This “Signed” form provides the Coaching Staff the parent’s permission to seek emergency medical care in the event a parent or guardian is not present or can not be reached at the time of an accident or injury at any time during the course of the season.

A typical hiring of a coach will be for the duration of one sport season and include a performance review by the AD at the conclusion of that season. Reason for dismissal will be at the discretion



of the AD with approval of the Director of MCS and the MCS Board. Behavior at all times must be consistent with the highest of moral and Christian character.

## **IV. Eligibility**

### **Academics:**

The guidelines have been established to emphasize the extreme importance of academics and well being of the student. MCS is concerned about each student's mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional development. MCS desires that students achieve a defined level of academic achievement in order to be eligible to participate in school athletics as an extra-curricular activity. The following policy and procedure shall be followed:

- a. "Academic standard" means no grade of an "F" and not more than one grade of "C-".
- b. "Grade" means the letter grade given to a student on a report card or in a mid-quarter report.
- c. "Grading period" means the time of distributing a report card or a mid-quarter report.

If a student does not meet the academic standard at any grading period, he or she will be put on academic probation. Academic probation shall last to the next grading period. While on academic probation, no participation in athletics will be allowed including games played, or practicing with the team. The AD will coordinate with applicable teachers to obtain updates in between grading periods. If during any period the student's performance improves and the student's overall grade is C- or better the student may begin to participate again. The student may participate in school athletics in a subsequent season if they have met the academic standard at that time.

The guidelines will be administered by the Athletic Director. Questions concerning the guidelines should be addressed directly to the Athletic Director. Questions concerning grades in specific subjects should be addressed directly to the subject teacher.

These Academic Eligibility Standards are not intended to supercede any standards that individual parents may set with regards to their child. Parents are strongly encouraged to meet with their child and review any personal academic standards that they may wish to use as a requirement for participation. The MCS Academic Standards are intended to set the "minimum level" of acceptability in an effort to motivate students to succeed in the classroom as well as on the playing fields.

### **Attendance:**

Student-athletes are expected to be at all scheduled practices and contests. Absences must be prearranged with the coach. Acceptable reasons for missing practices or games will be at the coach's discretion. The student-athlete's standing/position may be affected by absenteeism. Continued unjustified unexcused absenteeism may result in suspension from the team. If a student-athlete misses school due to illness, he/she will not be eligible to participate in the day's sports activities. If a student athlete becomes well enough to arrive at school by 12:00 noon and attends the remainder of the day, he/she will be able to participate in the evening's extra-



curricular activities. Exceptions to this policy include funerals, doctor appointments, early dismissal, and prearranged absences.

## **V. Objectives for Christian Sporting Activities**

- a. To promote a positive competitive atmosphere.
- b. To represent Christian standards in athletics.
- c. To encourage physical activity now and in the future.
- d. To enhance one's own athletic ability and build self confidence.
- e. To promote fellowship and sportsmanship in competitive play.
- f. To promote healthy bodies through leisure activities.
- g. To develop the ability to work together in a team concept.
- h. To encourage one another through Christian witnessing.

## **VI. The Role of the Student Athlete**

- a. Give glory to God through Christ-like speech and behavior at all times, both on and off the field or court.
- b. Show respect to the coach, work hard, and follow directions for the good of self and the team.
- c. Treat opponents as guests and friends.
- d. Accept the referee's decisions without arguing.
- e. Discuss any questions or concerns with the coach.
- f. To be a role model for other MCS students both in and outside the school.

## **VII. Code of Conduct for All Sporting Activities**

- a. Uniforms will be kept neat, clean, and in good order.
- b. All members will dress up during games to present a good image.
- c. Hair must be kept neat.
- d. No member shall be untidy, wear jewelry, chew gum, or behave in an unchristian manner.
- e. Christian conduct is expected at all games and practices.
- f. Each member will cooperate with fellow members and the coach.
- g. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in loss of the team membership.
- h. All members should remember they are representing Maryville Christian School.

## **VIII. Sports Offered**

Based on the available pool of students for the 2009 – 2010 school year and the fact that MCS will only offer classes through the seventh grade, the number of sports offered will be limited the second year of the athletic program. The athletic program will add sports as an appropriate



number of student athletes become available to participate in the future. The sports to be offered, for 2009-2010, will be Cross Country and Basketball. Boys and Girls Cross Country will be offered to MCS student athletes at the fifth and sixth grade levels during the 2009 –2010 school year with a goal of adding grades seven and eight in future school years. Girls Basketball will be offered to MCS student athletes at the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade levels during the 2009 – 2010 school year with a goal of adding grades seventh and eighth. Boys Basketball will be offered to MCS student athletes at the fourth & fifth grade levels during 2009-2010, with the goal of adding sixth, seventh, and eight in the coming years.

The following policy and procedure will be followed:

a. Cross Country

1. Philosophy

- a. Stress skill development.
- b. Emphasize the benefits of physical conditioning through running.
- c. Encourage work ethic among athletes.
- d. Instill confidence to compete in cross country meets.

2. Membership

- a. All members are required to have a physical prior to the first day of practice.
- b. All students must maintain the proper academic standards.
- c. Membership will be dropped if one quits the team or if proper academic standards are not maintained.

3. Practices

- a. Practices will begin the first week of school. A schedule will be provided by the coach.
- b. Practices will be after school.
- c. Team members are expected to be on time for all practices and meets.
- d. All members should have proper attire for practice and meets.
- e. Any members not able to attend a practice or meet must notify the coach in advance of said practice or meet. Valid excuses include: Illness, emergency (such as illness or death in the family), other excuses must be approved by the coach.
- f. Continual tardiness or excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

4. Meets

- a. A meet schedule will be provided prior to the start of the season.
- b. All members will be present.
- c. Unexcused absences will result in loss of participation.
- d. Members will be restricted from practice or meets if absent from school on the day of the said practice or meet.

5. Awards

- a. Student athletes will be eligible awards as earned in the cross country meets that they participate in.



- b. Participation awards will be given to each student athlete that participates in a minimum of 90% of the team practices and meets.
- c. Awards will be given in the following categories for both boys and girls: team captain, most valuable runner, 110% award, most improved and Christian sportsmanship.

b. Boys & Girls Basketball

1. Philosophy

- a. Stress skill development.
- b. Emphasize the benefits of physical conditioning through running.
- c. Encourage work ethic among athletes.
- d. Instill confidence to compete.

2. Membership

- a. All members are required to have a physical prior to the first day of practice.
- b. All students must maintain the proper academic standards.
- c. Membership will be dropped if one quits the team or if proper academic standards are not maintained.

3. Practices

- a. Practice schedules will be provided by the coach.
- b. Practices will be scheduled by the coach.
- c. Members are expected to be on time for all practices and meets.
- d. All members should have proper attire for practice and games.
- e. Any members not able to attend a practice or game must notify the coach in advance of said practice or meet. Valid excuses include: Illness, emergency (such as illness or death in the family), other excuses must be approved by the coach.
- f. Continual tardiness or excessive absences may result in dismissal from the squad.

4. Games

- a. All members should be present.
- b. Unexcused absences will result in loss of participation.
- c. Members will be restricted from practice or games if absent from school on the day of the said practice or game.

## **IX. The Parental Role in the Development of the Student Athlete**

The parent(s) of a student are usually the determining factor in their child becoming an athlete. One of our primary goals is to experience and live out our faith in Christ. The responsibilities of the parent play a vital role with the development of a student athlete at Maryville Christian School. A list of responsibilities is presented below:



- a. Teach by example a Christian attitude towards all. The school can only support and encourage the basics as taught in the home.
- b. Assist the student to establish proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, studies, and play.
- c. Encourage and participate in the development of the student athlete's abilities.
- d. Support the student's commitment to teamwork.
- e. Commit to help the athletes by attending sports events, driving, selling at the concession stands, assisting in clean-up, and encouraging the coaches.
- f. Pick up students on time after practices and meets/games.
- g. Understand not all students have the same athletic abilities so playing time will differ.
- h. Instill in the athlete good health habits towards food, sleep, and exercise.
- i. Please use the line of progression to resolve any problems. Address the problem first with the coach, then to the Athletic Director, the School Director, and finally the School Board.
- j. Represent yourself in a Christian manner before, during, and after athletic events.
- k. Enthusiastically support teams at athletic events without being over zealous or critical of coaches and officials. The coach will respectfully address disagreements with the referee or applicable official as needed.
- l. Pray throughout the course of the season for players, coaches, referees, and parents and all involved with this extra curricular activity.



## **X. Guidelines for the use of Private Vehicles**

In order for private vehicles to be used to transport students on school-sponsored activities, the school-approved guidelines must be followed in each event:

- a. The transportation request does not warrant a school bus (Example: If there are only four student athletes going to a contest).
- b. The AD and MCS School Director approve the transportation.
- c. Each student's parent or guardian is notified in writing regarding the transportation arrangement and give s written consent before a student athlete is transported in a privately owned motor vehicle.
- d. The driver must be at least 25 years of age and hold a valid driver's license.
- e. The owner has liability insurance with limits of \$250,000 per person and \$500,000 per occurrence.
- f. The vehicle is in acceptable working order and properly registered with the State.
- g. Students must be transported in designated seating positions and shall be required to use the occupant crash-protection system provided by the vehicle manufacturer, unless the student's physical condition prohibits such use.

Note: Private vehicle owners who transport students to any school-sponsored activity must provide the following information to the AD prior to departure to the event: the name of driver, a copy of the driver's valid license, and a copy of valid liability insurance.



## **XI. Student Athletic Commitment Contract**

We, the undersigned, realize the commitment needed to participate in athletics here at MCS, so we commit ourselves to the athletic program and to the individual team.

As a student-athlete, I will perform the following duties in order to fulfill the contract and show my commitment to the team and to the school.

- As a student-athlete, I am a leader. I will use this leadership role to honor God and to represent my school in an excellent manner.
- I will be at every practice on time. I will give the coach ample notification if I will be absent. The team will be my number one extra-curricular activity. I will attempt to be ready mentally for every practice and every game.
- I will show respect to all coaches, referees and fans that I come in contact with.

If this contract is broken, I understand that the coach and the Athletic Director will meet and decide from several options as to action taken.

The list of options is as follows:

1. Dropped from the team.
2. One or more game suspensions from the team
3. Sit out portions of games.
4. Public apologies to team and coaches.
5. Any other action the coach and/or Athletic Director deem necessary.

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Signature of Student

Date

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Signature of Parent

Date



## **XII. Athletic Organization Chart**

