

Mountain View Christian Academy – Athletic Handbook

Mountain View Christian Academy's sports program is designed to encourage Christ-like character, teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit within a competitive environment as a part of producing well-adjusted, morally sound individuals equipped to transform society.

Goals of Education Based Athletics

1. Learn sportsmanship to win graciously and to lose with dignity
2. Model integrity through playing by the rules
3. Use teamwork in order to contribute to a greater goal in which the athlete places the team's success or recognition before that of an individual
4. Reach out to assist teammates, which translates into helping others around them in life and contributing to the community
5. Develop perseverance and the ability to bounce back from defeats
6. Incorporate goal setting learned through athletics into their approach to life
7. Develop a solid work ethic that emphasizes preparation and effort
8. Recognize positive attributes in others

Sportsmanship

- I. Athlete's Testimony – Athletes should set the example of going the extra mile, and through their words and actions should show honor and respect to God, authority, and peers.
 - a. Athletes or coaches who are ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in the next contest.
 - b. Those ejected will be required to complete an online sportsmanship class offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- II. Fan's Testimony – We expect our spectators to represent the academy in a manner that is respectful of others. While we encourage enthusiastic support, we expect all fans to uphold the same standards we have for our athletes. Referees, the opposing teams, and their fans are to be treated as respected guests.
 - a. A fan who is ejected from a contest by an athletic official or a school official will be removed from that contest and all school contests on the same day in all venues following the first offense.
 - b. Those ejected will be required to complete an online sportsmanship class offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Adults will be required to take the "Positive Sports Parenting" class, while students will be required to take the "Sportsmanship" class.
 - c. Those who are ejected for a second time in a school year will forfeit their privileges to attend any MVCA home games for the remainder of the year.

Description of Programs

- I. Middle School – 5th through 8th grade. The goal of middle school athletics is to develop individual and team skills for the high school level in a fun and competitive environment.
- II. Junior Varsity – High school athletes. Occasionally younger athletes may be asked to play up to help fill a team. Players are placed on JV and varsity teams based on skill, not age. The goal of JV athletics is to develop individual and team skills for the varsity level in a fun and competitive environment.
- III. Varsity – High school athletes. Occasionally younger athletes may be asked to play up to help fill a team. Players are placed on JV and varsity teams based on skill, not age. The most intense level of athletics, the goal of varsity athletics is to develop individual and team skills at an advanced level in a fun and competitive environment.

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Athletic Department Policies

I. Attendance - Regular attendance is mandatory in order to participate in the athletic programs.

a. School Attendance - Athletes must be in the majority of their classes or they will be ineligible to practice or play that day (see chart). A doctor's excuse or office excused tardy is an exception. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the athletic director.

In order to practice or play, athletes must be present...	
Number of Classes Enrolled	Number of Classes Present
2 or 3	2
4 or 5	3

b. Practice and Game Attendance – Athletes who are present at school should be at the day's practice or game on time. A doctor's excuse is an exception. Athletes who miss practices or games will miss playing time. Repeated absences or tardies may result in further consequences from the coach. Athletes must participate in at least 6 practices prior to playing in a game.

II. Eligibility

a. Enrollment Eligibility – The MVCA sports program is open to all enrolled students. Homeschool students may also participate, provided they meet all other eligibility academic, physical, and financial requirements. Students who are enrolled in other schools are unable to play for MVCA. Furthermore, students shall not participate in school athletic contests after graduation from high school with the exception of any spring sports tournaments or playoffs.

b. Team Representation – Students who attend MVCA are expected to represent MVCA in the realm of school sports. As such, the following regulations are in place:

i. Students who attend other schools are ineligible to play for MVCA.

ii. Students who play for MVCA can only play for one scholastic team during a season. Travel teams are exempt from this requirement as they do not play a scholastic schedule.

iii. Students who chose to play a sport for another school instead of MVCA forfeit the right to play for MVCA for the next two consecutive seasons. Exceptions exist when MVCA is unable to field a team in a particular sport.

c. Academic Eligibility – The athletic director will conduct official grade checks for student-athletes every 3 weeks (or 15 school days). Any student in grades 5-12 with an F in any subject or a D in any two subjects shall be ineligible to practice or play inter-scholastic sports for 2 weeks following grade checks. Ineligibility begins at the end of the school day on which official grade checks are conducted. As needed, the athletic director will work with students to monitor grades on a more frequent basis. For sports beginning in the fall, the previous year's end-of-year grades will be used to determine eligibility.

d. Academic Eligibility Reinstatement – In order to be reinstated to a team, a player must have a written note from the teacher of the subject in which they were ineligible. The note must have their current grade and the teacher's signature and must be brought to the athletic director prior to participating in any practice or game.

e. Behavioral Eligibility - The athletic director and administration reserve the right to enforce behavioral ineligibility based on disciplinary situations.

f. Other Eligibility – All athletes must have a current athletic physical on file with the athletic director prior to the first practice. Athletic physicals clear athletes to participate in sports and are valid for one calendar year. In addition, athletes and their parents must read and sign the Athletic Handbook Agreement Sheet each year acknowledging they understand all of the policies in this document.

g. Nationals Eligibility – Should a team qualify to travel to a national tournament, players must be academically and behaviorally eligible in order to travel with the team. In addition, players must have no missing assignments prior to departure and all school accounts must be up to date.

III. Social Media

a. Social media technologies have many benefits in our world; however, they can also be disruptive when inappropriate social media postings occur. Using these communication tools in an inappropriate manner can have negative consequences, especially if unkind words or threats are used with the intent to hurt others. MVCA recognizes and supports student-athletes' and coaches' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context the student-athlete and coach must remember that participating in athletics is a

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privilege, not a right. With this in mind any online postings must be consistent with federal and state laws, as well as school policies.

- b. Guidelines and Information
 - i. Everything you post is public information. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
 - ii. Limit the posting of personal information. To minimize your risk for being a victim of criminal activity, do not post your home address, local address, telephone number, birthdate, or team travel arrangements.
 - iii. Every day is a job interview. Be aware that employers, graduate school personnel, and scholarship committees often review social media sites as part of applicant evaluation.
- c. Specifically prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:
 - i. Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other students, teachers or coaches; and student athletes, coaches or representatives from other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing teams.
 - ii. Incriminating images (photos or altered images) or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity)
 - iii. Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - iv. Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation-regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.
- d. Also prohibited are all on-campus connections to off-campus violations of the policy, including:
 - i. Use of school computers to view off-campus postings.
 - ii. Students accessing posts at school on their own devices.
 - iii. Distribution of hard copies of posts on school property.
 - iv. Re-communication on campus of the content of the posts.
- e. Athletic Department Use of Social Media
 - i. Social media outlets will be used as a communication device for information and to highlight our student-athletes and coaches. They will be used to encourage involvement with family, friends, fans, colleges and recruiting outlets.
 - ii. Do not be afraid to retweet and "Like" so we can promote our sites.

Miscellaneous Information

- I. Physical Exams – Each student must have an athletic physical prior to participating in our athletic program. Athletic physicals are good for one calendar year.
- II. Uniforms and Equipment – All athletes are to show good stewardship in the way they handle uniforms and equipment. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the athletic director within ten days of the final game/competition. All lost, damaged, or unreturned uniforms must be paid for at the rate of replacement cost (approximately \$100 per uniform).
- III. Dress Code – Students are to adhere to MVCA's standards of modest dress while representing the school at practices and games. We understand that not all athletic wear meets the standard of school clothing (e.g., a swimsuit for a swim team member would not be worn for classes), but we ask that every effort be made to ensure the same standards of modesty are met. Practice shorts and shirts will be provided as needed.
- IV. Fees – The athletic fee for homeschool students is \$150 a year, regardless of the number of sports played. This fee must be paid prior to the first game of the athlete's season.
- V. Awards – At the conclusion of the school year, the athletic department hosts an awards night. Coaches are encouraged to have a team get together at the end of their specific season to recognize achievement within their own teams.
The athletic department will give the following awards:

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- a. Participation Certificate – Awarded to anyone who participates in the sport from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. Any athlete who quits or is dismissed from a team will be ineligible for this award.
- b. Most Improved Player – Awarded to one player from each team who the coaches feel showed the most improvement from the beginning of the season to the end of the season in all facets of the sport in which he or she participated.
- c. Sportsmanship Award – Awarded to one player from each team who the coaches feel demonstrated a high level of respect for themselves, their teammates, and the other teams.
- d. Most Valuable Player – Awarded to one player from each team who the coaches feel was the most valuable player to the team in skill, character, leadership, and attitude.
- e. Coach’s Award – Awarded to one player from each team who the coaches feel demonstrated leadership, sportsmanship, team spirit, and teamwork; kept the team intact; promoted team unity; and served as a positive role model.
- f. Scholar Athlete Award – Awarded to the JV/varsity male and female athlete with the highest grades at the time of awards night.
- g. Highest Team GPA Award – Awarded to the JV/varsity team with the highest average GPA at the time of awards night.
- h. Conqueror Commitment Award – Awarded to seniors who played a sport all four years of their high school career.

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**MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AGREEMENT SHEET
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

I _____ (print student name) have read, understood, and agree to uphold all of Mountain View Christian Academy’s athletic policies and will do my best to encourage Christ-like character, teamwork, sportsmanship and school spirit within a competitive environment while an athlete at MVCA.

(Signature)

(Date)

I _____ (print parent name) have read, understood, and agree to uphold all of Mountain View Christian Academy’s athletic policies and will do my best to encourage Christ-like character, teamwork, sportsmanship and school spirit within a competitive environment while the parent of an athlete at MVCA.

(Signature)

(Date)

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