



West Coast Impact Athletic League

Athletic Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

We require that the athletes of West Coast Impact Athletic League (WCIAL) exemplify Christ-like behavior on and off the court. The purpose of this handbook is to set forth the standards by which we expect our athletes and families to adhere. We require that parents and athletes read this handbook so you can properly support the league and help your student-athlete be successful.

Bill and Jodie Joslin

Founders, West Coast Impact Athletic League

*this handbook to be revised at the discretion of the WCIAL Board and/or Athletic Directors

Vision

To see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

Statement of faith

We believe only the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelations 22:19, Matt. 24:35, John 1:1)

We believe that God is Triune; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 13:14)

We believe that man is created in the image of God, but then by voluntary disobedience fell from perfection, thereby imputing sinfulness into all (Romans 5:12)

We believe that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)

We Believe Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross, and was raised from the grave. He will return as our victorious Lord. We Believe our salvation comes only through Jesus Christ and cannot be earned. It is a gift of God. (Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; we further believe His power and gifts are available to believers today. (Acts 2:4, Ephesians 4:30-32).

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hold to the truth that God uses His people as a means to bring the gospel to the world. Jesus commissioned us to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

It is the goal of West Coast Impact Athletic League to provide an opportunity where every athlete can explore the capabilities God has given him through participation in sports. The

guidelines of WCIAL will be followed by all participants. Parents are expected to support the standards and goals of WCIAL.

Winning is important to the continuance of a solid athletic program. Winning, however, must be tempered by the basic beliefs of our Christian faith. First and foremost, it is the responsibility of all Christians to honor the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:23). We can win games and tournament titles, but with the loss of our Christian testimony all becomes vain or worthless. The prevailing attitude among all those connected with the sports program at WCIAL should be – I want Christ to be seen in my life.

I. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

A. Each athlete must have a current physical, waiver of liability, signed handbook compliance form and registration payment fees paid in full ***prior to*** practicing or playing on a WCIAL team. The athlete cannot compete in tryouts, practice, or games without the above documents and fees.

B. Stated non-refundable deposit due at time of registration. Payment in full due at the time of the first practice.

1. An athletic participation fee will be charged to help cover the season expenses. These fees may include, but are not limited to gym rental fees, referee fees, insurance liability fees, tournament/entry fees, equipment and uniforms.
2. The athletic participation fee for each sport will be determined by the nature and involvement of that sport.
3. Failure to pay dues and/or fees will result in that player sitting out of games until the account can be reconciled. The player is required to continue to participate in practices and show and dress for games.

C. If the athlete has a medical condition please inform the coaches immediately.

II. GAME AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

As we begin each season, be aware of the expectations for the players and families. First know that all coaches, board members and athletic directors are VOLUNTEERS (that means they don't get paid a dime for this). They are giving up their valuable time from work and families to coach your athlete. Respect their time and dedication to the teams by doing the following:

A. Commit yourself to the team for the season: If you are choosing to join the team, then you need to commit to it and let your "Yes be Yes" (James 5:12). What does that look like?

1. Show up on time for every practice. Every minute of practice time is planned and valuable to the individual player and the team as a whole. We cannot stress enough the impact on player and team continuity that happens when a player misses practice. Plays and drills are taught at each practice and if a player misses practice, they generally have a hole in their understanding of what is going on.
2. Be sure to clear your schedules for the games. The whole point of practicing on the team is to be able to compete in the games so please make every effort to be there. As mentioned above, life happens and if you know you will be missing a game, be sure to give your coach a few days notice as game preparations generally involve resetting line-ups and game strategy based on the personnel available.

B. During the games, be sure to keep your cheering to an 'encouraging' tone to all players, coaches and referees. Sometimes, during the heat of competition, passions rise, however it should never trump our testimony for Christ. We represent Christ first and foremost by:

1. Not harassing the game officials or making negative comments about them. They are human and are subject to making mistakes. If you think that you can do a better job of officiating, then we will gladly add you to our referee roster.
2. **Letting the coaches coach, the players play, and the parents cheer. If your child is going to improve and play well for their team, they must have ONE voice they listen to; that is their coach. Our coaches have dedicated time and energy to learning their craft and building team strategy. They have poured into your child and know the strengths and weaknesses of each player and the role they play best for the good of the entire team. Refrain from coaching your child from the stands. It will only serve to distract and confuse them.**
3. Be polite to players and parents from the opposing team. Don't forget, long after the score is forgotten, our behavior, reputation and character are remembered.
4. WCIAL's philosophy on playing time and involvement;
WCIAL desires that our teams be serious about their commitment to their team. Success of players, coaches and the improvement of each team are dependent on this concept. Each player will have opportunities to play, but understand that players purchase a "seat" on the team. The fees do not guarantee playing time. You pay to be trained and participate as part of a team not as a guarantee to play in games. Playing time is at the discretion of the coaching staff, based on several criteria including, but not limited to attendance, practice, attitude, game performance and skill.

C. Should you need to discuss your athlete with the coach, do so outside of the context of a practice or game. Allow for a 24-hour cooling off period before you approach a coach after a game. If you have concerns or questions, speak with the coach in person. **Text messages and emails are not the appropriate format for these discussions.** If a concern should arise, first, go to your coach directly. If you do not get resolution, then contact the Athletic Director. Below you will find a chain of contact guide.

COMMUNICATION CHAIN OF CONTACT

SITUATION	CONTACT ORDER
Questions regarding your individual player	1. Team Head Coach 2. Athletic Director
Schedule questions	1. Team Head Coach 2. Team Parent 3. Athletic Direction
Questions regarding coaches philosophy	1. Team Head Coach 2. Athletic Director
Account or billing inquiry	1. Bookkeeper 2. Athletic Director
Player issues and/or with teammate(s)	1. Team Head Coach 2. Athletic Director

D. WCIAL has a NO TOLERANCE policy regarding the consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other 'controlled substance'. Players that are found to have participated in activities where these substances were used or consumed are subject to disciplinary actions that can range up to immediate and permanent dismissal from the team. Any players who are disciplined for these actions will not have any portion of their season fees refunded.

E. WCIAL is a Christian sports program. There will be prayer before practices, games and tournaments.. There will be occasional Bible reference/devotionals as part of the regular course of practices or events. All players will respectfully participate as part of maintaining team unity. Our Statement of Faith can be found on our website and in this handbook. By joining WCIAL you agree to this participation.

F. Once a player is assigned a team, he/she will not be allowed to change teams after the start of the first week of the season. A change of team will be based on discussion with the coaches of the teams involved and with final decision by the AD. If the family chooses not to continue to play on the assigned team, no refunds will be given.

G. All athletes must meet the athletic dress code as it is stated by the coach and what is proper for the uniform of that sport.

H. Athletes are expected to wear warm-up clothing/practice clothing (T-shirts, shorts, warm-up pants, etc.) properly and modestly at all times. Altered t-shirts that would expose the midriff or chest are unacceptable. Shorts must have an inseam of at least 4" minimum.

I. With regard to COVID-19, we ask that all athletes and families do their part; if you feel ill stay home, if you are running a temperature stay home, and use hygiene precautions such as hand washing.. WCIAL will not "police" this as we believe each and every family is free and able to make reasonable decisions for their families.

III. ATHLETES' CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Every athlete is expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner on and off the playing area.
- B. Every athlete is expected to respect and follow the directions of the coaches.
- C. Every athlete is expected to respect the officials.
- D. Every athlete is expected to exhibit a sportsmanlike attitude at all times toward other players/opposing teams and teammates.
- E. Every athlete is expected to play as part of a team and not for himself.
- F. Every athlete is expected to understand that you have joined the team to **LEARN** skills and concepts of that particular sport; you have not joined to have equal playing time.
- G. Every athlete is expected to be respectful of facilities, equipment, and uniform care.
- H. Every athlete is to be present and on time for all practices and games unless other arrangements have been made ahead of time and communicated with the coaches.
- I. Any permanent removal of a player from the game by an official due to an attitude or language will result in a one game suspension. The athletic director and administration may review and make final decisions regarding game suspensions.

IV. PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Maintain good communication with the coaches and assist in enforcing the Student Athlete Code of Conduct
- B. Ensure that your athlete attends practices and games on time.
- C. Participate in fundraising events, attend games and fill volunteer rolls. Success of the team depends on your faithful participation.
- D. Allow the coaches to coach. Don't coach from the sideline. Refrain from talking to the players during practices and games.
- E. Coaching is not an exact science. All coaches have different approaches and make decisions that are popular and unpopular. However, believe that the coaches of WCIAL act in the best interest of the team and each and every athlete. You may not agree with every decision a coach makes, but please respect that decision.
- F. Understand that your athlete has joined the team to **LEARN** skills and concepts of that particular sport; they have not joined to have equal playing time. The coaches are committed to developing ALL players' skills and, although the coaches will do their best to make sure everyone plays/participates as much as they can, there is no guarantee of equal playing time.

G. Observe a 24 hour waiting period after a game before approaching a coach if there are any concerns, complaints, criticisms or suggestions. If there is a concern about what is happening during practices, games, etc. *please speak directly to the head coach, not another parent and not through text or email.*

H. Understand that although sometimes problems arise, we consider this league and any sports involved in this league a *no strife zone (aka "no drama")*. Being the cause of strife or continuing to further discord among the team, parents, etc. is cause for dismissal from the team whether the strife comes from the player or the parent and no refunds will be given. If you have a problem with the coaches or another parent please go directly to that coach or parent and work it out. Follow the biblical model of "going to your brother" (Matt. 18:15).

V. GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY

A. All those involved in WCIAL must be privately home schooled; that is one who is taught at home by his parents, grandparents, older sibling of at least 18 years of age, or legal guardian or in a charter school setting with at least 51% parent teaching. Please note; although we invite charter school students to join us, we are not a vendor and therefore do not accept charter funds. Additionally, WCIAL recognizes there are extenuating circumstances that arise for student athletes who may find themselves in a public school setting. Participation in WCIAL will be taken on a case by case basis and left to the discretion of the AD.

B. WCIAL has always considered itself an outreach. We are first and foremost a ministry to reach the world for Christ through the athletic realm; we are secondly an athletic organization. As such, we offer the public school community to participate in WCIAL sports. Once again, this will be on a case by case basis at the discretion of the AD. That stated, if you fall under this category as a public school student, *be aware that this is a Christian organization and by completing the registration process you are agreeing to abide by the WCIAL handbook and participate in all functionings of WCIAL including, but not limited to, all parameters that reference prayer, devotionals, being representatives for Christ, honoring our statement of faith, and honoring our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do on and off the court. Participation is required; there will be no opting out.*

C. Athletic eligibility will be determined by the parent(s) of the athlete. In an effort to allow families to have the freedoms home education affords, we feel athlete participation based on grades and responsibilities at home should be determined by what is appropriate to the rules and needs for each individual family.

Athletic Handbook Compliance Form and Confirmation of Adherence to WCIAL Statement of Faith

This form is to be completed and returned ***before*** an athlete participates in his first sport (prior to or at the first practice). In the case of online registration, an “agreement” is checked as part of the registration process

By my signature and the signature of my parent(s)/guardian(s), and/or by checking “yes” and/or “agreement” in the online registration form, I am confirming that I have read and understand the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I do agree to abide by these rules, regulations and guidelines and will faithfully exemplify Christ-like behaviors, support the coaches, athletic director and administration of West Coast Impact Athletic League.

In addition, by my signature and the signature of my parent(s)/guardian(s), I have read, agree with and firmly support the Statement of Faith of WCIAL.

ATHLETE’S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____