

MILFORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2017 - 2018

**ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK**

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS



HOME OF THE BULLDOGS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Milford Christian Academy athletics is to provide an atmosphere where student-athletes can develop their physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual gifts through the avenue of competition. The mission of our athletic department is to develop our students so that they are pliable to God's will in submitting their lives to pointing others to Christ. This mission cannot be accomplished without structure and order, and this goal remains consistent in the athletic program. There is little to gain from exercise, sports, and competition if these activities are not accomplished in a godly way. The athletic program shall proceed with this priority as a driving force so that win or lose, the athletic program will bring glory to God and always endeavor to point others to Christ.

MCA athletics should be a catalyst that helps develop a lifestyle of character, integrity, discipline, hard work, teamwork, and leadership. Athletics provide a wonderful opportunity to develop and practice skills and lessons that are learned in the classroom. MCA athletics can be used as another tool to help educate and develop our student-athletes as they mature.

The interscholastic athletic program at MCA is an integral part of the entire school program. It is never to be thought of as being separate from, above, or beneath any program of our school. The athletic program supports and reinforces the mission and purpose of Milford Christian Academy and First Baptist Church of Milford.

ARTICLE 1: CHAIN OF COMMAND

The chain of command is in place to best answer questions that may arise during the season. Coaches are the best contact for day-to-day questions. If you have a question about athletic department philosophy, please feel free to contact the athletic director directly. Otherwise please use the chain of command as we have endeavored to make this the Biblical outline (Matthew 18) of how to handle issues of concern; to maintain consistency within the athletic department; and to meet our mission statement, philosophy, and goals.

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| A. First Contact | Team's Head Coach |
| B. Second Contact | Athletic Director |
| C. Third Contact | Administrator |
| D. Final Contact | Pastor of FBC of Milford |

ARTICLE 2: AFFILIATIONS

Milford Christian Academy is a member and participant of the Ohio Valley Christian Conference (ovccsports.com). We also participate in the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association (ohiocsa.org).

ARTICLE 3: SPORTS SEASON

Once a student has participated in a practice, scrimmage, or contest, a student is considered an athlete of Milford Christian Academy. Sports fees are non-refundable when the student athlete has attended one practice. Student-athletes and parents of student-athletes are governed by the policies of the athletic handbook as well as the school's handbook until the end of the school year. If a student-athlete quits or is dismissed from a sports team, that student-athlete may be required to sit out the next sport, even if the sport will be played the following school year.

ARTICLE 4: SPORTS FEES

All student-athletes will be assessed a sports fee. These fees go directly toward the operational costs of the athletic program.

Sports fees for this school year will be assessed as follows.

3rd-6th grade = \$25

7th – 12th grade = \$100 (first sport); \$75 (second sport); \$50 (third sport)

Sports fees are nonrefundable after the student-athlete's first practice of the team sport. The sports fee does not guarantee playing time, which is ultimately determined by the coach.

Sports fees are due by the first game. If the sports fee has not been paid, the student-athlete may be denied participation until payment is made.

There may be additional expenses involved in the student-athlete's particular sport which are not covered by Milford Christian Academy such as shoes, selected apparel/spirit-wear, special purchases, competition fees, required or special equipment, and away meals/lodging. Fundraising may be organized with the athletic director to help defray these additional expenses. All fundraisers must be approved by administration before they begin.

ARTICLE 5: LOCKERS, VEHICLES, AND EQUIPMENT

The neatness and cleanliness of locker rooms, vehicles, hallways, and other team facilities is the joint responsibility of student-athletes, coaches, athletic director, advisors, and appropriate school personnel.

Improper behavior, horseplay, vandalism, roughhousing, harassment, hazing/bullying of others, and improper care of equipment are examples of activities related to locker rooms and team areas for which disciplinary action would be appropriate, up to and including denial of participation.

Incidents are to be reported to a staff member immediately.

The athletic director, coaches, and student-athletes are only permitted in the locker room or designated team meeting area. All others (including family and friends) must wait outside these areas for student-athletes and coaches.

ARTICLE 6: ELIGIBILITY

Academic Eligibility

Eligibility will be checked and determined for all junior and senior high student-athletes every three weeks. At the beginning of each quarter, there must be a minimum of five daily grades and one test grade for any class to be counted toward eligibility.

Incoming 7th and 8th graders are eligible to play fall sports immediately. Their first eligibility check will be the first three-week check in the 1st quarter.

Incoming 9th graders and all 10th-12th graders are eligible to play the first three weeks of fall sports based upon their 4th quarter grades of the previous school year.

All student-athletes must have earned a 2.0 GPA and received no failing grade (average of all individual grades for that particular subject) at the three-week eligibility check.

Homeschool student-athletes must present their grades at the three-week eligibility check. Failure to do so may result in not playing until grades have been submitted to the athletic director.

Transfer students' eligibility will be based upon the last reporting of grades from their previous school.

Ineligibility of the student-athlete should come as no surprise to the student-athlete nor the parent.

- a. Student-athletes that are ineligible may participate in practice but may not dress for games.
- b. Student-athletes that are ineligible may not travel to away games on school nights or travel to tournaments.
- c. Student-athletes that are ineligible must attend all home games and sit on their team's bench. They also must be dressed in their school uniform.
- d. If a student-athlete is ineligible for two consecutive three-week periods during the season, the student-athlete will be removed from the team for the remainder of that particular sport's season.
- e. Student-athletes must be eligible and in good standing to participate in any official team function such as tournaments, senior night, etc.

ARTICLE 7: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete may not participate in a practice or game if the student was absent for more than two class hours on that day unless approved by administration prior to the absence. Student-athletes that leave school early because of an illness cannot participate in any school activity that day unless approved by administration.

ARTICLE 8: PHYSICALS AND RELEASE FORMS

Student-athletes must have a valid Ohio High School Athletic Association physical that is current for the entire season. A parental permission form must also be on file in the athletic office before the season begins. Athletic forms are available on the school's website.

ARTICLE 9: TRANSPORTATION

All student-athletes must ride to the game via the school's transportation unless permission is given by the athletic director or administration. Student-athletes may ride home with another teammate's parent provided that the parent of the student-athlete provides written permission via email notification to the student-athlete's coach. Students that do not have permission must ride the school provided transportation back to the school. Parents can fill out the Parents Notice For Coaches form on the school website. This form is found under the athletic tab. Please fill out this form if your student-athlete is riding home after a ballgame with a parent.

ARTICLE 10: GAMES

- A. Early dismissal or overnight stays may be necessary due to travel distance or tournament schedules. These games will be approved by the administrator and athletic director.
- B. There is absolutely no guarantee of playing time at the high school level. Coaches will do their best to play student-athletes. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.
- C. A student-athlete or parent who has a question regarding playing time may contact the coach at the conclusion of a practice. Under no circumstance should a parent ask this type of question before or after a game. The coach will schedule the meeting at a minimum of 24 hours from the time requested.
- D. Student-athletes may not use headphones at games or while traveling to a game.

ARTICLE 11: FACILITIES

No student-athlete should use the facilities of the gymnasium, locker rooms, or athletic fields outside of scheduled practice times without the approval of the athletic director. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 12: INCLEMENT WEATHER

Activities will not be conducted on days when school is not in session due to severe weather unless approved by the athletic director or administrator.

ARTICLE 13: GAME-DAY DRESS

Student-athletes must wear school uniforms on all game days while at school. Special permission may be given by the athletic director or administrator to wear a team shirt or other spirit wear on the day of a game. Student-athletes that play basketball must remain in their school uniform until their time to dress for their game. Homeschool students that participate in athletics at Milford Christian must purchase school uniforms for travel.

ARTICLE 14: UNIFORM CARE

Student-athletes are required to take care of laundering their uniform. Any damage or discoloration will result in a fee being assessed for repair or replacement. Most uniforms should be washed in cold water and either drying on low heat or hanging on a plastic hanger.

ARTICLE 15: DISCIPLINE

Any student-athlete who is suspended from school may not participate in any athletic event the day of the suspension. Further discipline could also be considered based upon the severity of the offense. Persistent misbehavior in the classroom may also result in discipline from the athletic director regarding the student-athletes participation in the sport. Coaches may also discipline the student-athlete based upon attitude during a practice or game.

ARTICLE 16: FORMS, DIRECTIONS, AND INFORMATION

All sports forms can be found on the school's website. Sports Travel Sheets for all away games will be available on the school website the day before the scheduled away game. All game and practice schedules are on the website. Periodically these two schedules may change based upon unforeseen circumstances. We will update the schedules on the website with the updated date on the schedule. We will also use our Remind texting service to inform you of the changes.

ARTICLE 17: AWARDS AND SCHOOL LETTERS

The requirements to earn post season awards will be set by both the athletic director and the head coach prior to the beginning of the season. The athletic department presents standard awards to all student-athletes who meet the minimum requirements for their season. The head coach may also bestow special individual awards and set the minimum requirements for those awards.

A. School Awards

- a. 7th - 8th graders will receive a certificate of participation for each sport they play.
- b. 9th - 12th graders will receive the school letter for their first varsity sport. For every sport played after their first varsity sport, the student-athletes will receive a pin for their varsity letter.

- c. Varsity lettermen jackets are available for purchase at the end of their first varsity sport. Lettermen jackets can be ordered on our school website and are purchased through the Neff Company.
- B. Requirements
- a. Student-athletes must be eligible the entire season.
 - b. Student-athletes must not miss a game unless approved by the athletic director or the administrator.
 - c. Student-athletes must return all athletic equipment issued to them by the athletic department or make arrangements for replacement.
 - d. Student-athletes must be in attendance at the awards ceremony to receive an award unless written notification with the reason for absence is turned in prior to the ceremony.
 - e. Student-athletes must meet all requirements set forth by the head coach.

ARTICLE 18: NATIONAL ANTHEM

We ask that anyone associated with Milford Christian Academy, who is able, to please stand for the national anthem. All coaches and athletes will stand during the national anthem and show respect to our country, those that fought for our freedom, and, most importantly, those that paid the ultimate price for our country -their life.

Conduct During a Rendition of the National Anthem

1. Individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note.
2. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform.
3. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. When the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.

ARTICLE 19: PARENT/SPECTATOR STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Remember that our athletic events are just games. Be honest about your child's ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and actual skill level. Be the parent, not the coach. Be supportive from the stands. Let the coach do the coaching. When a parent coaches (i.e. yelling for the student-athletes to shoot or instructing them as to what to do from the stands or bleachers while the game is in progress), the input may be contrary to the coach's direction. If they are listening to you a parent, then they are not listening to the coach. Be supportive of the coach in the stands and at home. If a parent undermines the coach, eventually this undermining will appear in the child.

- A. I will remember that young people participate for their enjoyment, not to entertain me.
- B. I will respect the official's decision and will encourage all participants to do the same.
- C. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches, athletic director, and administration and understand that they have given their time to provide extracurricular activities for our young people.
- D. I will show respect for opponents.
- E. I will always show good sportsmanship, since young people learn best by example.

Parents are expected to work the concession stand as well as the gate during the year. We will try to schedule your time to work around your student-athlete's game but cannot guarantee a certain schedule. These two areas of service allow Milford Christian to keep our sports fee to a minimum.

ARTICLE 20: WEIGHT ROOM RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. No horseplay at any time.
- B. No food, drinks, or gum in the weight room (with the exception of water in a closed bottle).
- C. Shoes must be worn at all times (no sandals or open toed shoes).
- D. Students are never permitted to be in the weight room without supervision by a coach, teacher, or athletic director.
- E. Never interfere with someone who is lifting.
- F. Proper and appropriate clothes must be worn to work out.
- G. Do not alter or abuse the machines with reckless techniques or improper use.
- H. Schedule is as follows:
 - a. MCA men staff – 5:00am to 6:00am; 7:00pm to 8:00pm
 - b. MCA women staff – 6:00am to 7:00am; 8:00pm to 9:00pm
 - c. PE classes – 12:15pm to 1:55pm
 - d. Athletic teams – 3:00pm to 6:00pm

MILFORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BULLDOGS

BELIEVE

SPORTSMANSHIP

IS AN EXPECTATION!

PLEASE LET THE PLAYERS PLAY.

LET THE COACHES COACH.

LET THE OFFICIALS OFFICIATE.

LET THE SPECTATORS BE POSITIVE.
