

T.T.C.A.

TWIN TIERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Adopted by the TTCA Board of Education 10/11/2016

## **Twin Tiers Christian Academy Athletic Handbook**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the interscholastic program of Twin Tiers Christian Academy is to provide a sound athletic educational opportunity that focuses on glorifying God while developing individual skills, personal discipline, accountability, cooperation, self-control, and leadership qualities in the lives of our student-athletes.

“For in Him we live and move and have our being.”

~ Acts 17:28

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

~ Colossians 3:23

It is the aim of TTCA to represent God well and build Christ-like character through skilled competition. Christ-like character has to do with being able to celebrate victory with good grace to the opposing team and experience defeat with good will that rises out of doing one’s best. Our athletic program recognizes that we are facing opponents who are worthy of respect and not enemies deserving of malice.

### **II. Philosophy**

The leadership at Twin Tiers Christian Academy considers our Christian school athletic program to be educational, recreational, and Christ-honoring. Through our athletic program, we seek to work with the home by providing equal opportunity to all who commit to sport. The “scoreboard” is always secondary to striving to win God’s way and glorifying His name.

Why are athletics so important in a Christian school?

To glorify God (I Cor. 10:31); To build Christian character (Gal. 5:25-26); To exercise our bodies (1 Tim. 4:8) To boost school spirit

### **III. Pledge**

The administration and coaching staff of Twin Tiers Christian Academy will consistently seek to conduct a Christ-honoring program that is consistent with the school’s stated purpose and philosophy.

#### **IV. Prayer**

Dear heavenly Father,

*“Use the athletic program of Twin Tiers Christian Academy to develop Godly character in the life of each young student-athlete who participates. May you be glorified by our testimony at all times. Amen.”*

#### **V. OUR PROGRAM.**

##### A. Health and Safety

1. For scholastic sports eligibility, all students must submit to the school office proof of a current (within the past 12 months) sports physical. In addition, families must submit a current medical form to the school office in order for a student to participate.
  - Student-athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the FREE sports physicals offered each summer in the Horseheads school district.

\*\*\*\*\* Top Priority of Safety: AED machines are always kept on site for emergency situations. Medical kits and the athletes' health forms are with the teams at all times throughout the season. \*\*\*\*\*

2. Every member of an athletic team must be covered by a health insurance policy. At the time of initial enrollment in the school, families are to communicate their students' insurance information on the medical form that is included with the enrollment paperwork. If this information changes at any time during a student's enrollment, the family is to notify the school office immediately. The school does not carry student accident insurance.
3. Concussions: The school's registered nurse provides information and training to the TTCA coaches so that they can respond appropriately if a concussion is suspected.
4. First Aid and CPR Training: Periodically, the school's coaches are required to undergo training in First Aid and CPR.

5. In the event of lightening (outdoor sports) or game stoppage due to an injury TTCA will abide by the NYSPHSAA, Section IV federation rules of the game.

## B. Affiliations

- Twin Tiers Christian Academy holds current membership:

The NYPENN Christian Athletic Conference

New York State Section IV “Friends & Neighbors”

\*decision to change affiliations will be decided by the athletic director, administrator, and school board.

## C. Dress

Choice of the apparel that one wears is often an indication of that one’s concept of self-worth and moral values. The student-athletes and coaches should dress for practices/games in such a way as to promote school spirit, team unity, and a positive testimony for the Lord and TTCA.

1. Student-athletes are expected to honor the standards of God’s Word related to modesty that are set by the leadership of TTCA. If student-athletes are observed violating the school’s dress code policies, they will be subject to disciplinary action and may miss game competition.
2. All team members are wear required school dress as set forth in the student handbook to all games unless otherwise notified by their coach.
3. When suitable changing areas are not available, athletes will be asked to change into their uniforms prior to departure. Over their uniforms, they will need to wear warm-up suits (athletic pants, sweatpants, sweatshirts, etc.) to and from the games. Students will be notified of this by the coach or athletic director prior to the game.
4. After games, athletes are to change out of their uniforms and may change into suitable, athletic attire (i.e. warm-up pants, sweatshirts, etc.) or jeans. No shorts.
5. During practices, coaches will be responsible to see that a good balance of modesty and comfort is maintained in all apparel. No “spaghetti strap” tank tops, tight shorts, rolled up shorts, or

removal of clothing will be permitted during any practice sessions or game competition.

6. Failure to abide by the above regulations will limit the athlete's participation at the following game.

#### D. Attendance

As a result of the nature of team involvement, team competition, and the object of character development, there will be certain regulations that will be true of the TTCA athletic program.

1. Practices: Attendance is required at regularly scheduled practices.
2. Games: Attendance at all scheduled games is required.
  - On a game day, students must be in attendance and arrive at school no later than 11:30a.m. in order to be eligible for that day's competition. A commitment to academics is crucial to the success of an athlete.
3. Absences: Any unexcused absence from a practice or game is viewed as an irresponsible action toward the team and school and will affect the athlete's game eligibility.
4. Excused absence includes:
  - a. Absence that was previously communicated to and approved by the coach.
  - b. Absence due to sickness (note from parent/guardian is necessary).
  - c. Absence due to family emergency (note from parent/guardian is necessary).
  - d. "Work" is not recognized as an excused absence. For the athlete, scheduled sports activities take precedence over employment.

#### E. Eligibility

No student-athletes may represent TTCA at any time in an athletic competition or in a supporting role when declared ineligible. Eligibility for extra-curricular activities is based on the following criteria and is explained further below: academic standing, attitude/behavior, age requirements, sports physical, and full-time student.

## 1. Academic Standing

- a. A review of a student-athlete's grades occurs every five weeks, at the mid-marking period and at the end of the marking period. Student-athletes must maintain an overall grade average of 75% or higher (with no failing grades) to remain eligible for sport activities.
- b. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible, he or she may not participate in any extra-curricular games or practices until the next grade review.
- c. Students who have a grade average between 74% and 65% with no more than one failing grade will be placed on a two-week probation. Further, students who have an average above 74% but who are failing one class, will also be placed on probation. While on probation, students can continue to participate in athletic events. After the two weeks have passed, if there has not been an overall improvement in academic standing, the athlete will be declared ineligible.
- d. Students on ineligibility status at the end of the sport's season will not be eligible for post-season awards or recognition (i.e. acknowledgement at the sports awards night, etc.).

## 2. Attitude/Behavior

- a. It is expected that TTCA athletes and coaches will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times whether during practices or at games. If an athlete or coach conducts himself or herself in a manner inconsistent with the standards of TTCA as articulated in this handbook and the general student handbook, then appropriate measure will be taken by the school's administration (athletic director, school administrator, and/or school board). Such actions include but are not limited to: counseling, game suspensions, short-term ineligibility, removal from school teams, or removal from student (or employee) status at TTCA.
- b. In keeping with the policies of the school's student handbook, if a student-athlete accumulates 30 or more demerits in a semester, he/she will be declared ineligible for a minimum two-week period. Depending upon the infractions, a student may be removed for the remainder of the sport's season.

### 3. Age requirements

- a. Modified: Grades 7-8. Those in grade 6 at Horseheads Christian School may participate upon the recommendation of the athletic director after consultation with coaches.
- b. Junior Varsity: Grades 8-10. Those in grade 8 may be eligible for junior varsity play based upon the recommendation of the athletic director after consultation with coaches.
- c. Varsity: Grades 9-12. Those in grades 9-10 may be eligible for varsity play based upon the recommendation of the athletic director after consultation with coaches.
- d. No student who has reached his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by July 1 will be eligible for interscholastic competition the following year.

### 4. Sports Physical

- a. In order to participate in an interscholastic game, athletes must have passed a sports physical. Physicals by a licensed medical practitioner are required.
- b. The physical must have taken place less than one year from the start of the sport's season, and proof of the physical must be given to the school nurse before interscholastic competition is allowed.

### 5. Full-time Student

- a. Only full-time, enrolled students are eligible to participate in the TTCA athletic program.
- b. TTCA does not permit part-time or home-school students to participate in our athletic programs.

### F. Transportation

1. All students are required to travel with their individual team unless a special exception is made between the parent and coach prior to the departure.
2. A player that misses the scheduled bus trip may not be permitted to participate in that day's game/match.
3. Players are expected to return on the school bus/van unless they leave with their parents or unless special permission has been granted by a coach or athletic director for a student to ride with another family. A written, signed permission slip from the

parent/guardian of “student A” must be submitted to the coach in order for “student A” to ride home with “family B” after the competition. The written slip must specifically state that “student A” can ride home with “family B.”

4. Typically, teams will not stop to eat on a school night unless it is under special circumstances and such stops are at the coach’s discretion.
5. Team bus/van rides will be focused on growing team unity and positive Christian fellowship. On the way to and from athletic trips, student-athletes will sit together as teams (front or back) with the coaches sitting in the middle area.
6. On the bus/van trips, coaches will monitor the use of technology devices. Student-athletes may not play/listen/use anything that would not bring glory to God. Further, athletes will refrain from unsafe or inappropriate actions (i.e. hanging out of windows, standing on the bus, throwing projectiles, yelling, abuse of property, etc.). Athletes must submit themselves to the authority of the coaches and/or driver. Failure to do so will result in game ineligibility or other disciplinary action.
7. After away games, the team bus/van will typically return first to Horseheads Christian School and then to TTCA. Any deviation from this practice will be communicated in advance to families.
8. Upon returning from away trips, the coaches will enlist the help of team members to clean trash, etc., from the vehicles.

#### G. Athletic Participation Fee

As a result of the overhead cost of an extra-curricular program each student-athlete is required to pay an “athletic participation fee” per sport. The fee is set annually by the TTCA school board and is to be paid directly to the TTCA office. Students are ineligible for competition until the fee has been paid.

#### H. Uniforms and Athletic Equipment

1. The opportunity to wear a school athletic uniform is to be viewed as a privilege. The care of the uniform is assigned to the student-athlete.

2. If a uniform is returned damaged beyond normal wear, the student and his/her family will be responsible to replace the uniform.
3. A student-athlete that does not return his/her assigned uniform must pay to replace the uniform and will not receive his/her report card until such fee is paid.
4. If an athlete's negligence contributes to the damaging of athletic equipment, the student and his/her family will be responsible to reimburse the school for the damage. The student will not be eligible for competition until reimbursement is made.

#### I. School Sports

The athletic office of Twin Tiers Christian Academy seeks to offer opportunities for student-athletes to reach their potential for the glory of God by running a balanced program for both boys and girls. Current sports offerings at TTCA include:

- FALL SPORTS: Soccer and Cross-Country
- WINTER SPORTS: Basketball and Cheerleading
- SPRING SPORTS: Volleyball

#### J. Athletic Awards

1. Each May, the athletic department of TTCA will host an annual athletic sports awards event. At the event, each participating athlete will be recognized if they have participated for more than half of the season. The awards ceremony will also include individual awards chosen by the team members and coaching staff.
2. To be eligible for recognition and/or awards, students must be in good standing academically at the time of the awards ceremony and have exhibited an attitude and behavior during the year consistent with the standards of the athletic department as determined by the athletic director and coaches.
3. As previously stated, students on ineligibility status at the end of the sport's season will not be eligible for post-season awards or recognition (i.e. acknowledgement at the sports awards night, etc.).

## **VI. Student-Athlete Expectations**

*Give God the final glory in all victories and defeats  
 Respect the rights and property of others  
 Take care of the property you are on or near  
 Do not waste opportunities for excellence  
 Never leave the general area of your competition without permission  
 Make sure the coach knows where you are at all times  
 Obey the authority over you at all times  
 In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit for help in building self-control  
 Give thought to your testimony for Christ and TTCA  
 Be a team player that is humble in all ways  
 Seek to glorify God in all things.*

## **CHRISTIAN WINNER'S CREED**

I believe that a true winner  
 Always does his best,  
 Never to glory in self,  
 But always to the glory  
 of God.  
 With the Lord's help  
 I will strive to be a true winner today.

*And whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not to men.  
 Colossians 3:23  
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
 Philippians 4:13*

## **VII. No-Quit policy**

- A. In order to maintain an attitude of excellence and determination in an athletic program that aims for high standards, the coaches and administration of TTCA strongly discourage the act of quitting a team sport once an athlete has committed to even one day of practice.
- B. Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to "Commit to sport," and persevere as they gain the blessings of participating in a team sport.
- C. If a player leaves a sport/team, he/she will not be allowed to return to the team for the remainder of the season. Further, one who quits a

team will be ineligible for post-season recognition and for post-season team parties.

### **VIII. Code of Ethics for All Spectators**

- Use only positive cheers/chants during athletic contests.
- Sit on the side of the court/field opposite the players and coaches.
- Never use negative comments towards opposing players, coaches or visiting fans.
- Respect the authority (game officials) at all times during the athletic contest. Taunting or yelling at the game officials will never be permitted.
- Men should remove their hats for prayer and the playing/singing of our national anthem.
- Courtesy should be given to the cheerleaders of the opposing teams.
- Always be respectful when a player is injured.
- The worldly practice of booing is never an acceptable action and always regarded as unsportsmanlike. Further, spectators should never yell or jeer when a player is shooting a free throw.
- Do your part to keep the building and grounds clean and free from litter.
- Throw all trash in the proper containers.

Should a parent or TTCA booster (friend, alumni, supporter, etc.) fail to adhere to the code of ethics above and depending upon the infraction, one or more of the following will happen:

1. The athletic director or school administrator will approach the individual to request his/her cooperation with following the code of ethics.
2. Following the event, a call will be placed to the residence of the offending party to discuss the incident and request cooperation in the future.
3. The athletic director and/or administrator will request a face-to-face meeting with the offending party to discuss the incident and request cooperation in the future.
4. The athletic director or school administrator will ask the offending party to leave the premises and/or will deny the offending party from attending subsequent events.

### **IX. Problem-Solving**

It is always a possibility that real or perceived problems can arise from time to time while managing a team in an athletic program. Student-athletes, parents, and fans will not always agree with those in authority. In the event of a serious issue, the following things should be kept in mind:

- A. At no time should complaints or deep concerns be addressed just prior to, during, or immediately after an athletic contest. The energy of the game makes it very difficult for such conversations to be had at those times.
- B. Any complaint or concern must be addressed with the coach in the context of a scheduled meeting. A chance meeting at a grocery store, for example, is not an appropriate time to address the concern.
- C. Whenever possible, meetings should be face-to-face. Telephone meetings can be held if a face-to-face meeting cannot be arranged.
- D. If the meeting with a coach does not resolve the issue, then the athletic director and/or administrator will meet with the various parties in an effort to seek resolution.
- E. If a resolution has not been reached, the TTCA school board can be addressed. The school administrator or board chairman should be contacted by any of the parties in question to request a hearing at the next scheduled board meeting. The decision of the school board will be considered as final to resolve disputes.

My signature below indicates that I have read the athletic handbook, 2016 edition, and understand the policies contained therein. \*\*Students will be ineligible to play in game competition until this signed copy is received.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_