BRAZOSPORT
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2008-2009 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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This handbook is intended to acquaint the parents and students of Brazosport Christian School with the school's current policies and practices. BCS policies may be changed from time to time, as the school, in its sole discretion, may elect. Furthermore, such policies shall be considered in light of the overall policies and proceedings established for the school's students. The policies expressed herein, as they may be amended from time to time, shall supersede and have control over any previously published guidelines and/or policies.

The Athletic Handbook is provided as an addendum to the Student Handbook. Nothing in the Athletic Handbook should alter or negate any statement found in the Student Handbook.

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ATHLETIC POLICIES

Philosophy

Our goal is to train and develop students' spirits, souls, and bodies. We are fulfilling that goal by training students to live responsible and successful lives based in the Word of God.

BCS believes quality education includes the opportunity to participate in athletic programs. The athletic program is a voluntary privilege that requires an investment of considerable time outside the school day. The students are expected to represent BCS as a part of the Christian community with exemplary behavior wherever they go (Philippians 1:27).

It is vital that each student involved with the athletic program realizes that no matter how formidable the opposition, the team competes to win. Every athlete should strive to be first (1 Corinthians 9:24). However, the student must know there is no shame or disgrace to the team that plays its best and is behind at the end of the contest. Winning is not the guiding principle. It is how well the team or individual competes.

The strength of athletics lies in its ability to develop character traits such as cooperation, determination, perseverance, self-control, discipline of emotion, sportsmanship, humility, commitment, and maturity. These traits are part of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22). Therefore, athletics is valuable to the Christian community and the Christian school.

BCS is committed to training and developing our students for Christian service and leadership. Athletics is not the whole answer to character development at our school; it is but one building block of many designed for Christian character development of the student at BCS.

Eligibility

Each student participating in the athletic program will be required to meet certain minimum standards in the area of academics. He/she will also be expected to maintain at all times a proper Christian testimony for the Lord.

All high school sports are governed by the rules of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS).

9th – 12th graders will try out for each sport.

A student must not be on Academic or Disciplinary Probation as outlined in the Student handbook in order to make the team. A student with an incomplete on their report card is ineligible for extra-curricular activities or sports.

A student must be in attendance at BCS on the day of practice or games in order to participate. Exceptions may be made by the Head of School or Athletic Director.

A student must be in good standing with the school and the particular area of participation. This means that school owned equipment checked out by a participant in any sport is his/her responsibility; the loss or misuse of equipment will be the financial obligation of the

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participant. Participants will not be allowed to continue competition or receive awards until that obligation is fulfilled. Charges are based on current replacement costs.

The student must follow these guidelines to become eligible to participate in practice or games, as an athlete or student manager/statistician.

The following signed athletic forms must be turned in prior to the first practice. This applies to all sports in Junior High, Junior Varsity and Varsity. The following forms are available from the coach or on the website under “Athletics>Sports”.

- TAPPS Physical Evaluation - Medical History Form (1st page) and Physical Examination Form (2nd page). The Medical History form must be completed by a parent annually. The Physical Examination form must be completed by a doctor for all new athletes, 7th grade athletes, and returning 9th and 11th grade athletes. Cheerleaders must have annual physicals turned in prior to summer camp.
- TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules Form (2 pages) for 9th- 12th grades
- TAPPS Parent and Student Notification Steroid Use Agreement Form

2008-2009 ATHLETIC FEE SCHEDULE

All athletic fees must be paid prior to the first practice. There is no family maximum. Fees are per athlete.

- Football: $175
- Volleyball: $100
- Basketball: $115
- Baseball: $100
- Softball: $100
- Track: $75
- Golf: $100

Team Rules Of Conduct

The student who chooses to participate in the athletic program is in a unique position. Many public and private schools, media, parents, guests, peers, teachers, and the public at large will observe him/her. It is an opportunity to demonstrate one’s desire to be Christ-like in sportsmanship and performance.

Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their teams. The coach shall provide a set of rules explaining conduct and penalties for both minor and major infraction of the rules in the following areas.

A participant must adhere to all of the requirements of the Student handbook and the Athletic handbook.

A participant in any sport is required to be neat, clean, well groomed, and in proper attire for games and practice.

The dressing rooms and all team areas will be kept clean. Athletes are expected to maintain a clean positive environment.

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A participant will exhibit a Christian lifestyle and represent the school in a Christ-like manner at all times. Failure to commit to this lifestyle may result in the forfeiture of the opportunity to participate in the athletic program.

A participant must be ready to show effort, cooperation, respect, and support for coaches and other team members.

A participant on academic or disciplinary probation is required to dress out, attend and participate in all practices and dress out and attend all home games in order to receive physical education credit for this sport. It is at the discretion of the coach if the student is allowed to travel with the team to out-of-town games. He/she is not allowed to participate in games while on probation. In the case of special competitions, contests, tournaments, etc. participation by the athlete is at the discretion of the coach. Any student on academic probation during district play will not be eligible for nomination for post-season awards such as All-District, All-Region or All-State recognition.

A participant is expected to attend all scheduled practices, meetings and contests whether or not school is in session. If it is necessary to miss any meeting, practice or game, prior arrangements must be made with the coach. Participants may be dismissed from the team after any unexcused absences.

- Unexcused absences are those, which are for personal benefit.
- Excused absences are outlined under “Attendance” in the Student handbook.
- Injured athletes who are able to attend school are expected to attend practice sessions.
- Any non-emergency absences from games or practice will be considered unexcused.
- An unexcused absence for a practice prior to a game will make that athlete ineligible for that game.

A participant will know the procedures for being “cut” from the team if cuts are to be made.

All equipment must be turned in from a previous sport to begin practice in the second sport unless the participant is involved in overlapping sports.

A participant will know what is expected of him/her in order to receive an athletic award. Requirements for lettering in a Varsity Sport are outlined in this handbook.

The athletic season will run from the date of the first scheduled school workout until the Monday after the last contest. Participants must complete the entire season to be eligible for awards and honors. Participants are expected to commit for the entire year’s program in the sport(s) they select, including tournaments and playoffs. They will not be allowed to quit one sport in order to start another sport. The consequence for quitting a sport early is at the discretion of the Athletic Director. The student must honor his/her commitment to the team.

In addition, the participants may be required to adhere to any other rules and requirements adopted and enforced by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director and/or Head of School.

In case of minor or major infractions of the above stated rules, the coach of the sport may place the athlete on probation or suspension until the matter is resolved. After a coach has

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met with the athlete at least one time to explain the disciplinary action, and the student understands the requirement, the matter will be considered resolved. This meeting may involve parents unless exclusion from the sport is the penalty, in which case the parents must be involved. The coach will be responsible for notifying the Athletic Director of any intention to exclude or suspend a student from a sport prior to the meeting with the student athlete and his/her parents.

Travel

All athletes are expected to travel to and from all away contests in transportation provided by or arranged by the school. Boys and girls will not sit together. All athletes are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from home games. The one exception is for home football games, the football players and their support staff are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from BCS. The school will transport the football players and their support staff to the location of the home football game. In case of personal or family inconvenience, other arrangements may be made with the coach. An athlete may ride home from a contest with his/her parent or legal guardian. An Alternate Transportation Form must be signed by the athlete's parent and returned to the coach, preferably prior to departing for the contest, if the athlete is to ride home with someone other than the athlete's parent. Athletes will only be released to adults. Upon departing from the contest, the coach will have a team roster to check attendance. Any athlete who has turned in an alternate transportation form must have the adult he/she is riding home with sign him/her out on the roster. Any athlete riding home with a parent must have the parent sign him/her out on the roster. The coach will then be responsible for transporting all students whose names remain on the roster.

Athletes traveling to and from games will dress in attire designated by the coach and in keeping with the BCS dress code.

The electronic device policy in the Student handbook applies to athletic trips as well. The coach will determine the music played in the vehicles. Magazines and non-school related reading materials will not be allowed in any school vehicle.

School vehicles will be left clean after each use.

The drivers of the vehicle are the ultimate authority and all students must submit to his/her instructions.

Any student who does not comply with the above-mentioned travel rules will forfeit his/her right to travel with the team.

Equipment

The athlete will be held financially responsible for any lost or misplaced equipment. The cost of any uniform returned in a condition in which it cannot be reissued will be charged to the athlete; this includes uniforms that have been improperly laundered or cared for. The cost of any deliberate mutilation of school property will be charged to the athlete. Athletes will not be allowed to continue in or begin a new season until all financial obligations have been

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cleared. Current replacement costs will determine the amount for which the athlete will be held accountable.

Player Expense

The athletic program at BCS is supported in part by gate receipts, fundraising, and gifts. The student athlete's parents will be scheduled to work the gate for the games and at annual fundraisers.

The athletic department supplies the players' game uniforms but the players will be required to buy a practice uniform. Participants will be expected to furnish their own shoes, socks, and other needed items for the sport in which they are competing. The athletic department will provide criteria for shoes.

The student must provide special wraps, braces, or supports. Additional personal expenses may be incurred while the team is traveling (i.e. eating, lodging, etc.).

Eagles Wings Athletic Booster Club

The athletic program at BCS is supported in part by gate receipts, concessions, and fundraising. The BCS Booster Club is responsible for gate keeping and concessions at all games, as well as fund-raisers approved by BCS Administration. The success of athletic fund-raisers directly benefits student athletes and their parents by allowing BCS to keep athletic fees as low as possible. Every BCS athlete is expected to participate in all Athletic Fundraisers sponsored by the Booster Club. The student athlete's parents will be scheduled to work the gate and concessions for the games and at annual fund-raisers.

School Mascot

The school mascot will fall under the authority of the Cheerleading Program Director or the Athletic Director, as well as the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook, including the Athletic Policies.

Requirements For Athletic Awards And Lettering In A Varsity Sport

All applicants for letters are contingent upon the fulfillment of the following General requirements plus the Minimum standards.

General Requirements

- Attendance, general attitude, sportsmanship, practice, game, and training participation, as well as participation in all athletic fundraisers are to be considered. Consideration must also include an athlete's effort to excel to the best of his or her ability.
- In the event that a player is injured in a sport and not allowed to participate further, he or she will be entitled to an award upon the recommendation of the coach.
- Athletes must complete the season in good standing.
- With regards to letter jackets, an athlete may not order a letter jacket until he/she has completed an entire season and has fulfilled the general and minimum standards listed here.

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Minimum Standards For Major Athletic Awards And Lettering

- Track - General requirements plus placing 1st-6th in the District Meet as an individual or member of a relay team.
- Golf - General requirements plus placing in the top 15 at the District Tournament.
- Cheerleading – General requirements plus cheering at football and basketball games.

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CHEERLEADING POLICIES

Eligibility

The following is required of each girl, in order to tryout:

- Must be registered with BCS for the upcoming school year.
- Must be current on all tuition payments to BCS.
- Must have all forms and fees associated with cheerleading turned in by the due date.
- Must attend informational meeting prior to tryout with at least one parent.
- Must attend instructional clinic prior to tryout, tryout, practices in May after tryout summer camp, and clinics as called by the coach.
- Must attend and participate at practices and games according to this handbook.
- Must enroll in the Cheerleading Physical Education class offered in the course schedule during the fall semester.
- Eligibility as stated in the Student handbook and the Athletic handbook.
- Must agree to comply with the Team Rules of Conduct in the Athletic Policies and the Demerit System.
- If student is currently failing one or more subjects at the time of tryouts, she may not be allowed to tryout at the discretion of the administration.
- Any previous cheerleader who has quit or has been removed from the squad may not be eligible to tryout for at least one school year at the discretion of the Program Director.
- The final decision rests with the Program Director and administration.

The following forms and fees must be filled out and returned by the due date prior to tryout:

- Tryout Application
- Teacher Recommendation Form may be requested by the Program Director
- Commitment Letter
- Responsibility Release
- Fee to cover cost of tryout judges.

Demerit System

Cheerleaders may be required to agree in writing to a demerit system.

Selection Process

Junior High (7th & 8th grades)

- The Program Director and the administration will determine the number of cheerleaders. All girls signed up will have to meet the cheerleader eligibility requirements as outlined in this handbook. All girls will have to go through the tryout process.
- Independent cheer judge(s) will be used for tryouts.
- Only participants, coaches, judges and administration will be allowed in tryouts. Additional individuals may be in attendance at the discretion of the Program Director.
- The final decision rests with the Administration.

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Varsity (9th – 12th grades)

- The Program Director and the administration will determine the number of cheerleaders based on a minimum score requirement.
- Independent cheer judge(s) will be used for tryouts.
- Only participants, coaches, judges and administration will be allowed in tryouts. Additional individuals may be in attendance at the discretion of the Program Director.
- The final decision rests with the Administration.
- A cheerleader who has been a Varsity cheerleader for two consecutive years and is in good standing may not be required to tryout.

Dress Code

For tryout practices no short shorts, no words or lettering on the back of shorts, no tank tops or sleeveless tops. For tryouts wear blue cheerleading shorts (no short shorts, words, lettering etc.) with BCS, solid white or solid gray t-shirt. Tennis shoes and socks must be worn. No jewelry. Hair is to be pulled back.

Posting of the Results

Results will be posted alphabetically on the door of the BCS gym. The time of the posting will be announced at the instructional clinic prior to tryout.

Responsibilities

Athletic Forms

Cheerleaders are also responsible for all forms listed in the Athletic Policies.

Player Expense

Player Expense will be listed in the cheerleading forms available at the mandatory informational meeting prior to tryouts.

Camp

The squad will attend a one-week Christian cheerleading camp during the summer. The cheerleading coaches will accompany the squad. Attendance at camp is mandatory.

Pep Rally

Junior High

- Will be in attendance, dressed in full uniform.
- Extent of involvement is determined by Varsity.

Varsity

- Will be in attendance, dressed in full uniform.
- Responsible for the scheduling and planning of the pep rally.

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Practices and Meetings

- Cheerleaders are expected to do everything with a positive, cheerful, and cooperative attitude.
- Cheerleaders are expected to be on time to all practices and meetings.
- Cheerleaders are expected to be dressed in appropriate attire when they arrive at practice.
- Cheerleaders are required to inform the coaches in advance if they are going to be absent or late to a practice or meeting.
- If a cheerleader is injured but able, she is required to attend practices and meetings to support the squad even though she is unable to cheer herself.
- When a cheerleader is absent, it is her responsibility to call a fellow cheerleader to find out what was missed. This includes cheerleading material that was taught on the day that the cheerleader was absent.
- Dress Code: Wear designated cheerleading shorts and t-shirt. No short shorts, no words or lettering on the back of shorts, no tank tops or sleeveless tops. Tennis shoes and socks must be worn. No jewelry. Hair is to be pulled back. Short nails.

Games and Performances

- Cheerleaders are required to arrive at the games at least 30 minutes prior to game time. They must inform the coaches in advance if they are going to be absent or late to a game or performance.
- Cheerleaders are required to eat before they arrive at a game.
- Travel is addressed under “Athletic Policies”.
- Cheerleaders may not leave the premises at anytime from the start of the game to the end of the game without express permission from the cheer coaches.
- Cheerleaders are required to pay attention to the game and are not allowed to excessively talk to other squad cheerleaders or friends during the game.
- No gum, candy, or food is permitted during games, practices, or competitions.
- Water bottles are expected to be brought to each game by the cheerleaders.
- Cheerleaders should not stretch or practice in front of the crowd.
- If a cheerleader sustains an injury that would keep her from practice and/or games, she must notify the coach. The coach may request the cheerleader provide a written note from her doctor.
- If a cheerleader is injured but able, she is required to attend games and performances to support the squad even though she is unable to cheer herself.
- Cheerleaders stay with the squad before, during, and after each game or activity until properly dismissed by the coaches.

Junior High cheerleaders will be expected to cheer at the following:

- All home Junior High football games.
- Cheering at away Junior High football games will be decided after the game schedule is set.
- All home Junior High boys’ basketball games in the fall semester.
- Cheering at away Junior High boy’s basketball games during the fall semester will be decided after the game schedule is set.
- Pep Rallies in the fall semester

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Varsity Cheerleaders will be expected to cheer at the following:

- All Varsity football games, home and away.
- All home Varsity boys' basketball games.
- Cheering at away Varsity boy's basketball games will be decided after the game schedule is set.
- Pep Rallies
- Competition
- Special events or performances

Dress Code

- Clean uniform; cheerleading shoes; hair pulled back in the required ribbon; nails must be trimmed to a short length; no colored fingernail polish; no jewelry.
- If a cheerleader is not in full uniform she may be asked not to cheer and be charged with an unexcused absence.
- Cheerleaders are expected to be dressed and ready a half hour before the game or performance (unless otherwise stated by the coaches).

Competition

Junior High

- Do not attend competition.

Varsity

- May attend regional competitions annually.
- May attend national competition periodically.

Fund Raisers

Varsity

Cheerleader Mini-Camp during football season on a Saturday. The Varsity cheerleaders host a mini camp for elementary age girls. Participation by the Varsity cheerleaders is mandatory. Optional second fundraiser may be held.

Mission Project

Participation in the mission project is mandatory. The cheerleading coaches, together with administration, will select the mission project.

Leadership

Administration

The selection and use of cheers and music, as well as the dress code and performance of all cheerleaders, must meet the approval of the administration of BCS at all times. The Cheerleading Program Director is selected by and responsible to the administration. The cheerleading coaches are recommended by the Program Director with final approval by the administration.

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Cheerleading Program Director

- The Program Director is responsible for the cheerleading coaches.
- The Program Director will have the final authority in decisions regarding the cheerleaders with regard to the athletic and cheerleading policies. The consequence for quitting the sport early is at the discretion of the Program Director. The student must honor her commitment to the squad.
- The Program Director also serves as a coach.

Cheerleading Coaches

- Coaches are responsible to the Program Director.
- There must be two coaches for each squad.
- Coaches may be parents, staff or volunteers.
- The annual FCC Coaches Conference is recommended.
- At least one coach per squad must be ACCA safety certified in order for the squad to stunt, as defined in the ACCA manual.

Captain Selection

The Program Director, together with administration, will select the captain(s) of the squad. There may be one captain, co-captains or the squad may rotate the responsibilities of captain from game to game or week to week at the discretion of the Program Director.

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