



JOHNSON FERRY
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**PARENT/STUDENT
ATHLETICS HANDBOOK**

2023-2024



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JFCA ATHLETICS OVERVIEW

The Parent/Student Athletics Handbook exists for athletes and their parents to better understand their responsibilities and rights when participating in the Johnson Ferry Christian Academy athletic program. It shall be understood that the Student/Parent Handbook of Johnson Ferry Christian Academy is applicable to all students, including student-athletes, and shall have precedence over the Parent/Student Athletic Handbook should any question arise regarding interpretation of guidelines.

VISION

Developing leaders for Christ through excellence in sport.

MISSION STATEMENT

Innovated Christ-centered education developing students grounded in academics, faith, and community.

PHILOSOPHY

Extra-curricular activities are an important and vital part of the American educational system and have great potential to contribute to the sound growth and all-around development of students. The standards and ideals established and practiced will greatly influence the student, the school, and community; therefore, only the best traditions of good sportsmanship and conduct will be fostered. The program of activities should conform to and be closely and wholly integrated with the administrative policies of the school to the end that there shall be no undue interruptions or interference with the established rules and principles.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of our athletic activities is to offer interscholastic sport competition to students to benefit from the act of (and preparation for) competition, to grow in all facets of life, to foster community at JFCA and JFBC, and to place an emphasis on producing future Christian leaders in our families, churches, government, and businesses. The objective of our sports program is to provide age-appropriate activities while giving students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals, develop skills, understand the rules, compete proficiently, and exemplify Christ-like sportsmanship. The school ministry expects its athletes to be positive leaders both academically and spiritually. Our student-athletes are expected to give their best and to have an appropriate attitude at all times. They are expected to behave in a Christ-like manner both on and off the school's campus.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy is committed to developing and maintaining a Christ-centered, competitive athletic program. High school interscholastic athletics will be governed by rules established by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and by those regulations developed by our school's affiliation with the Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools (GAPPS). Sports participating in separate approved leagues or organizations shall adhere to all regulations governing said organizations.

Sports Programs

Each year, GAPPS provides dates indicating the start and end of a sport season. Johnson Ferry Christian Academy offers each of the sports listed below for the 2020-2021 school year. Teams are formed based on numbers of students desiring to participate. Tryout dates, preseason conditioning, or summer practices may take place out of season. Your team's head coach will supply you with this information at team meetings.

High School Sports

Sport	Grades	Teams	Gender	Season	League	Begins	Ends
Archery	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	November	March
Baseball	8th – 12th	Varsity	Boys	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Basketball	9th – 12th	Varsity/JV	Boys & Girls	Winter	GAPPS	October	February
Cheerleading	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Fall	N/A	July	November
Clay Target Sports	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Fall	GAPPS	July	December
Cross Country	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Fall	GAPPS	July	October
Football	9th – 12th	Varsity	Boys	Fall	GAPPS	July	November
Golf	8th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Soccer	8th – 12th	Varsity	Boys & Girls	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Tennis	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Swimming	9th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	October	January
Volleyball	9th – 12th	Varsity/JV	Girls	Fall	GAPPS	July	October

Middle School Sports

Sport	Grades	Team	Gender	Season	League	Begins	Ends
Archery	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	November	March
Basketball	5th – 8th	Middle School	Boys & Girls	Winter	GAPPS	October	February
Bass Fishing	8th – 12th	Varsity	Boys	Winter	GAPPS	November	March
Cross Country	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Fall	GAPPS	July	October
Golf	8th – 12th	Varsity	Co-Ed	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Soccer	8th – 12th	Varsity	Boys & Girls	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Swimming	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	October	January
Tennis	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Spring	GAPPS	January	May
Volleyball	5th – 8th	Middle School	Girls	Fall	GAPPS	July	October

Elementary Sports (5th Grade Only)

Sport	Grades	Team	Gender	Season	League	Begins	Ends
Archery	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	November	March
Basketball	5th – 8th	Middle School	Boys & Girls	Winter	GAPPS	October	February
Cross Country	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Fall	GAPPS	July	October
Swimming	5th – 8th	Middle School	Co-Ed	Winter	GAPPS	October	January
Volleyball	5th – 8th	Middle School	Girls	Fall	GAPPS	July	October

ATHLETIC FEES

Athletic Fees are essential for the day-to-day operation of the Athletic Department. Every effort is made to keep these fees minimal. Each sport requires a specific fee to meet the needs of that sport. The fee amount is determined annually by the Director of Athletics and is set to cover facility rental, coaching stipends, equipment, GAPPs fees, and JFCA overhead among other expenses. Some sports may require additional charges as deemed necessary by the Director of Athletics. Parents will be supplied with information regarding additional charges prior to the beginning of the season. Student-athletes may not practice or compete until the season fee has been paid or a payment plan begun. **Once submitted, there shall be no refunds.** Athletic fees are invoiced to families through your school FACTS account. 30 days are given to make the payment once the invoice is sent, however we ask that you please pay in a timely manner. Payment plans can be established as well. Any registration and FACTS invoice completed and sent 1 week after the first official practice date will incur a \$25 late fee.

FALL SPORT FEES		WINTER SPORT FEES		SPRING SPORT FEES	
Cheerleading	\$475 +uniform	Archery	\$300	High School Baseball	\$550
Cross Country	\$300	Middle School Basketball	\$450	Middle School Baseball	\$400
Football	\$800	High School Basketball	\$550	Golf	\$300
eSports (Comp./Non-comp.)	\$300/\$200	Swimming	\$550	High School Soccer	\$550
Varsity Volleyball	\$500			Middle School Soccer	\$350
Junior Varsity Volleyball	\$450			Tennis	\$450
Middle School Volleyball	\$400			Track & Field	\$325
Middle School Developmental*	\$200				
Clay Target Sports	\$600				

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Our athletes represent Christ, their families, and their school in an extracurricular setting; thus, they are held to a high code of conduct. It is a privilege to participate in athletics at Johnson Ferry Christian Academy. This privilege comes with a great deal of responsibility. We expect every student-athlete to demonstrate respect, kindness, responsibility, and self-control at all times at all school-related programs, activities, and events both on and off-campus. Please refer to the JFCA Parent-Student Handbook for more information on expectations of student behavior.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents and students who are part of the JFCA Athletic Program are held to the following codes of conduct:

- I will abide by and be held accountable to the JFCA Parent/Student Handbook(s) guidelines and policies.
- I will treat coaches, players, volunteers, and officials with respect.
- I will be open to coaching, instruction, fair criticism, and guidance throughout the season.
- I will not lie, cheat, steal or engage in dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field.
- I will not engage in disrespectful conduct, profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, taunting, boasting, or other action that demean a person. I will never intentionally harm another person.
- I will maintain a healthy lifestyle and not participate in the use of alcohol or drugs which include performance enhancing drugs.
- If I have a concern with another player, coach, or volunteer, I will follow the Matthew 18 model and privately try to resolve the conflict with the person directly in a Christ-like manner, preferably in a time and place that is non-public. If the issue is not resolved, I will go to my parents then the coach or Director of Athletics.
- I understand that if I am placed on academic probation, get into trouble with the law/police, or are placed on disciplinary leave, these offenses are grounds for discontinuation in the athletic program until the issues are resolved or the Director of Athletics or Dean of Students determines that return to the program is permissible.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Student-athletes and parents are asked to use discretion when participating in social networking avenues. For good or for bad, you are always "on the clock" when it comes to representing JFCA and the Saints. Student-athletes are representatives of JFCA and are in the public eye more so than other students. Assume anything posted to your personal account could be read by JFCA staff, teammates, classmates, opposing teams, recruits, alumni, parents or other family members, media members, a current employer, future employers or coaches, and even the local police. There should be no communication between student-athletes and JFCA coaches on social media.

Best practices

- Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social media websites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
- Be honest, respectful, polite, and positive.
- Think twice before posting. Remember many different audiences will see your posts, including fans, alumni, children, student-athletes, parents, staff, faculty, etc. If you would not want your parents, family, coaches or boss to see your post, do not post it!
- Remember that the Internet is permanent. Even if you delete something on the Internet, it still exists on servers and storage.

- Understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world - any content placed online becomes the property of the site(s) and is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access to your page.
- Avoid posting offensive or inappropriate language, pictures, videos or comments.
- Ensure content posted on these sites does not depict inappropriate or illegal activities.
- Do not post comments that attack a student, coach, or administrator from JFCA or another institution.
- Be in the right state of mind when you make a post - don't post when you're angry, upset, or your judgment is impaired in any way.
- Check your privacy settings. Understand and follow the rules of each particular social media site.
- Never post your home address, local address, phone number(s), birth date, or other personal information.
- Ensure any information placed on the website(s) does not violate JFCA, athletic department or student-athlete codes of conduct.
- Do not comment on athlete injuries, rosters, playbooks, officiating, or any other team information that should be kept confidential.
- Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.
- **Student-athletes may face discipline and even dismissal for violations of team, department, JFCA, and/or GAPPS policies.**

ELIGIBILITY

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy sets a high standard of eligibility which meets or exceeds the GAPPS requirements for athletic participation. For Saints Athletics there are requirements of academic performance, conduct expectations, and age limitations which must be met to establish and maintain eligibility. Eligibility is a privilege for JFCA students with the goal of sport participation benefiting their education and not at the expense of it. As such, eligibility standards are implemented and followed to prioritize a student's education.

JFCA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All students must maintain a 2.5 GPA to remain academically eligible for sport participation. Students below a 2.5 GPA or failing one or more courses will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation status entails conditional eligibility-dependent academic improvement. A student will remain eligible on academic probation until improvement in a failing class is not evident or grades worsen. At that point, the student will be deemed ineligible to protect the academic progress. A student-athlete who does not meet eligibility standards at the end of the current semester will not be eligible to participate athletically in any sport the following semester(s). Failing to maintain JFCA standards of eligibility will supersede any league mandated minimums for eligibility. A student deemed ineligible by JFCA requirements, despite meeting all league standards, will be ruled ineligible for sport participation. Additional JFCA

standards, including academic probation and minimum requirements to maintain enrollment, are discussed in the JFCA Parent/Student Handbook.

GAPPS ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be passing at least five classes at the end of the first semester to remain eligible. They must pass at least five classes for the second semester or for the year to be eligible for the following year. They can earn up to two credits during the summer.
- If not passing five subjects at the end of the semester or the year, the student would be ineligible to play until the next semester.
- A student must be taking the appropriate number of subjects each year to be on track to graduate in four years.
- Cases with extreme circumstances can be appealed to the Dispute Committee and this rule will not have any effect on what units a school will count toward graduation.

ATTENDANCE

Student-athletes must maintain JFCA attendance requirements to participate on a school team. If a student misses more than a half-day of school for any reason on the day of a competition, he/she may not be eligible to participate in the school-sponsored event scheduled for that day.

INELIGIBLE ATHLETES

A student-athlete who is ineligible may not participate or be present at team practices, ride on the bus, participate in a contest, or sit with the team for any contest in which the team is participating.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Age eligibility refers to grade level restrictions for sports participation. Generally, student-athletes must meet the grade specifications set by the association for participation. In some cases, underclass student-athletes are permitted to participate in programs designed for higher grade levels. Coaches make all roster determinations and may request a waiver for participation with approval of the parents, Director of Athletics, and Head of School. The host conference will have the final decision in these matters. A student-athlete will never be permitted to participate in programs designed for lower grade levels. High school athletes are afforded 8 consecutive semesters or four consecutive years to compete in high school. The moment a student begins 9th grade, the first semester has begun with no allowances for injury or grade repeat.

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

JFCA encourages multi-sport athletes. Many of our student-athletes participate in multiple sports during the school year. When one sport season overlaps a second, it is important that the student-athlete completes his/her obligation to

the current team/sport before advancing into the next season. Guidelines for approval by the Director of Athletics will be presented to the athlete and the family on a case by case basis.

HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

As a Division I GAPPS school, home schooled students are not eligible for JFCA sports. Currently, there are some sports with exceptions due to league status of the sport which allows home schooled students to participate. Home-Schooled student participation may be withdrawn in future years dependent on league/association rules and classification. JFCA Athletics program places a strong commitment to providing every opportunity for our enrolled students to participate in the sport of their choosing. Home-Schooled students must be approved by GAPPS and the Director of Athletics. It is recommended to be advised on league eligibility limitations by the Director of Athletics prior to participation.

OPERATION

ATHLETIC REGISTRATION

A student may not participate in any camps, practices, or games until all Athletic Registration requirements have been completed by a parent or guardian. Online registration and waiver signing provides a convenient process for families and is expected to be completed in a timely manner. Registration includes a physical evaluation by a doctor, participation waivers, contact information, and participation fee. **Registration takes place on the TeamSnap website. There are set windows of time to register for each sport season. Any registration outside of the season window (occurring 1 weeks after registration closes) is deemed a late registration which will incur a \$25 late fee and does not guarantee the athlete will receive player gear for the team.** Any participation fees over \$300 will have payment plans as an option to make payments over several months. All participation fees will be paid through FACTS.

Athletic Registration Windows

Fall: May - August

Winter: August - October

Spring: November – February

SPORTS PHYSICALS

Students may not participate in camps, practices, games, or any events that require physical activity under the JFCA Athletics Program until they have been medically cleared. JFCA seeks to provide all students desiring to participate in athletic-type events the safest conditions of participation. Therefore, every student seeking to participate in these events will be required to submit to a physical examination by a licensed medical professional. Such an exam will be at the expense of the family. The completed sports physical must be turned in to the Athletic Department before participation. Physicals must be updated for each school year. **All physicals from the previous school year are void and will not be accepted.** Physicals **must be** dated on or after April 1 of the current year. **A physical dated after April 1st** will be valid for the entire following school year (e.g. April 1, 2022 is valid for 2022-2023 school year).

GAME SCHEDULES/POSTPONEMENT

Schedules are posted to team portals in TeamSnap and the JFCA Athletics website at <https://www.jfsaints.org/templates/schedule/>. In cases when competitions are postponed, cancelled, or re-scheduled, parents will be notified as soon as the information becomes available. Inclement weather or facility issues may cause last-minute changes in scheduling. If a scheduled game is cancelled or postponed on the day of the event, teams will be notified via email or the team portal. Parents should review schedules regularly for changes and are encouraged to subscribe electronically to team schedules rather than print.

TRYOUTS & PARTICIPATION

Tryouts may be required for certain team sports and are a necessary component to the success of any team. In order to put the most competitive teams on the field, teams may have a designated tryout period. The team's head coach will determine the period of time necessary to accomplish this goal. Student-athletes will be required to meet all eligibility requirements before attending the tryout process. Student-athletes will be selected based on several criteria including but not limited to: physical condition, sport skill, attitude, dedication, and coachability. Once placed on a roster, the student-athlete is expected to be an active member for the entire length of the season. Student-athletes who quit a team will forfeit all fees, awards, and be subject to review of future eligibility in other sports and seasons.

Practices and competitions will never be scheduled on Sunday so that they are free for families to be together and attend church. We also try to avoid doing any competitions on Wednesday nights so that our student/athletes can attend church events. There will be times when an athletic event may have to take place on a Sunday or Wednesday, but this is rare.

GAME ENTRANCE FEES & PASSES

Game Entrance Fees or "Gate Fees" are fees charged to enter athletic events. **All entry fees are set by the host school within GAPPS determined maximum prices.** Season Passes for all regular season, home JFCA events are available for \$100 (Family) and \$30 (Student) and can be purchased from www.jfsaints.org. All others will be asked to pay at the gate fee. The passes offer a savings for those who plan on attending several games hosted by JFCA throughout the sport season. Passes are not valid when visiting other schools or for any playoff events. Below are GAPPS maximums by event which will likely be charged at away games. JFCA entry fees are set at the start of each season and will never exceed league limits.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS						
SEASON	REGULAR SEASON		REGION TOURNAMENTS		STATE PLAYOFFS	
	GAPPS	JFCA	GAPPS	JFCA	GAPPS	JFCA
All Sports (Unless Specified)	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5
Baseball	Double Header – Adults \$8 Double Header – Students \$6		Double Header – Adults \$10 Double Header – Students \$7		Double Header – Adults \$10 Double Header – Students \$7	

Cross Country	Per Car - \$5 (Single Occupant) Per Car - \$10 (Multi Occupant)		Per Car - \$5 (Single Occupant) Per Car - \$10 (Multi Occupant)		Per Car - \$5 (Single Occupant) Per Car - \$10 (Multi Occupant)	
Basketball	Adult: \$7 Student: \$5	Adult: \$7 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$10 Student: \$7	Adult: \$10 Student: \$7
Volleyball	Adults - \$6 Students - \$4	Adults - \$6 Students - \$4	Adults - \$7 Students - \$5	Adults - \$7 Students - \$5	Adults - \$10 Students - \$7	Adults - \$10 Students - \$7
Football	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5			Adult: \$10 Student: \$7	Adult: \$10 Student: \$7

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS						
SEASON	REGULAR SEASON		REGION TOURNAMENTS		STATE PLAYOFFS	
	GAPPS	JFCA	GAPPS	JFCA	GAPPS	JFCA
All Sports (Unless Specified)	Adult: \$5 Student: \$3	Adult: \$5 Student: \$3	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5
Middle School Basketball	Adult: \$5 Student: \$3	Adult: \$5 Student: \$3	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$6 Student: \$4	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5	Adult: \$8 Student: \$5

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Students/Parents will need to report concerns or questions first to coaches. Coaches report to administration (Director of Athletics, Dean of Students or another admin). If questions and concerns cannot be alleviated at this level, then they may be taken to the Head of School.

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION & RESPONSE

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy requires all coaches to participate in concussion recognition courses to understand the effects and to recognize the symptoms of a concussive event. Concussions can occur in any type of activity and are not restricted to sport participation. It is important not only that our coaches are educated but that our parents and student athletes become more aware of symptoms of a concussion. The National Federation of State High School Sport Associations (NFHS) has developed a Parents' Guide to Concussion. Johnson Ferry Christian Academy has adopted the NFHS Concussion Guidelines protocol as a standard of practice. A copy of the National Federation of High School "Parents' Guide to Concussion" can be obtained from the link below among other resources:

A Parent's Guide to Concussion:

https://www.nfhs.org/media/1014739/parents_guardians_guide_to_concussion_final_2016.pdf

NFHS Concussion Guidelines:

https://www.nfhs.org/media/1018446/suggested_guidelines_management_concussion_april_2017.pdf

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/clinicians/index.html>

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

Concussion Baseline Testing

Athletes in the following sports will be required to complete concussion baseline testing before participating in the sport. **Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Soccer.** All athletes will have access to the concussion testing, but the aforementioned sports are required to complete it. Concussion baseline testing is an important tool that a practitioner will use after an athlete has a concussion to aid in the recovery process. Athletes will receive an email from ImPACT Concussion Testing for the baseline test.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST RECOGNITION & RESPONSE

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy requires all coaches to participate in sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) recognition courses to recognize the signs of a SCA event and manage the event with extreme haste. SCA's can occur at any moment in any type of activity and are not restricted to sport participation. It is important not only that our coaches are educated but that our parents and student athletes become more aware of SCA as well. The National Federation of State High School Sport Associations (NFHS) has developed a free course designed to teach parents and coaches about SCA. The link to the course can be found below.

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>

California Interscholastic Federation: This is a link to a printout with detailed information about SCA.

<https://qweb.clovisusd.k12.ca.us/ParentPortal/Documents/SuddenCardiacArrest.pdf>

REPORT OF INJURY

It is the responsibility of each student and/or parent to notify the head coach of any injury that occurs during participation in an athletic event or practice. On occasion, an injury may not appear to require medical attention until after the student-athlete leaves the event. In those cases, it is important that the head coach is notified as soon as possible. Some injuries may require clearance from a medical doctor before the athlete may return to practices or full participation. *All diagnosed concussions require written clearance from a doctor prior to reinstatement with the team.*

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

All equipment and uniforms issued to the student-athlete are the property of Johnson Ferry Christian Academy and must be returned unless otherwise communicated. Student-athletes are financially responsible for all school equipment furnished to them and may be required to pay for loss or damage.

Please read and follow all washing and drying instructions in the uniforms. As a safeguard, you may choose to dry the uniforms on very low heat or just air dry. Players should only wear their uniforms in preparation of and participation in JFCA games. They are not to be worn to school or any other leisure situations without prior approval.

EARLY RELEASE

It may be necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times due to travel. Early dismissal must be approved by the Director of Athletics and the Dean of Students. Dismissal time will be communicated with teachers, but

it is ultimately the responsibility of the student-athlete to make arrangements with teachers to collect and turn in any missed work.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their student to and from team events (games, practices, meetings, etc.). On occasion, a team may have access to a JFBC bus for team transportation which is limited to availability of the vehicle with a cleared, qualified driver and may not be offered to all teams. Student drivers are discouraged from transporting themselves and other students to events. Coaches are discouraged from transporting students in their personal vehicles.

Instances may occur where a team will be traveling after curfew to return home from a contest. Teen drivers are not exempt from curfew laws when driving home from a school-sanctioned event. Parents are encouraged to know their local municipality's laws regarding curfew and teen drivers and plan accordingly.

TRAVEL ATTIRE

Student-athletes are expected to dress appropriately while traveling to and from athletic events. Each coach will determine appropriate dress for his or her team. Any changes from the "norm" must be pre-approved by the Director of Athletics.

ATHLETIC AWARDS / VARSITY LETTERS

Athletic awards may be presented at the end of each season or school year to honor specific athletes for their performance, effort and attitude, or exemplary behavior. Accounting for the competitive nature of JFCA Athletics, every athlete will not be presented an award. Sports and teams will be allotted a limited number of awards to recognize student-athlete performance and conduct above the norm. These awards are honors to celebrate the season and will not be distributed to all athletes.

GAPPS awards will be presented to athletes recognized by coaches within the region and state with All-Region and All-State awards in team sports of football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and soccer. JFCA team awards may include Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, and Coaches' Award among others. These awards are decided upon by the coaching staff to recognize athletes going above and beyond the expectations of the team. Athletes with a desire to be recognized with a team award are encouraged to be a leader on their team, highly coachable, and striving to make their team better at every opportunity.

The Varsity Letter is one of the highest honors the athletic department has to offer. At the conclusion of a sport season, the Head Coach provides the Director of Athletics with nominations to receive the award. The award is presented to the athlete at a ceremony following each season. Minimum requirements for all athletes to be eligible to receive a JFCA varsity letter are as follows:

1. Athlete must be participating on a varsity team in grades 9-12.
2. Athlete must maintain a Christ-like attitude and represent the school in such a manner.

3. Athlete must be devoted to attending practices and competitions.
4. Athlete must remain on the team until the season has ended (excluding injury or academic ineligibility).

After meeting the minimum requirements above, athletes will be eligible to receive a varsity letter by satisfying the sport specific criteria in the table below.

Sport	Letter Criteria
Archery	Top six average scorers who have attended at least 2/3 of the season's meets and practices.
Baseball	Must make plate appearance equivalent or equal to 25% of plate appearance leader.
Basketball	Must appear in 25% of quarters played in the season.
Bass Fishing	Must qualify for the state tournament.
Cheerleading	Must appear at 80% of quarters played in football regular season games.
Football	Must appear in half of all regular season games.
Cross Country	Automatic Qualifiers: Must compete at Regions. Non-Automatic Qualifiers: Must check ALL boxes below... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compete in over half the races, half of which entered into Varsity races • Compete in the State Championship • Train at the majority of Team Practices
Golf	Qualify for State OR Appear in 75% of all regular season matches.
Swimming	Must have a state qualifying time in at least one event.
Soccer	Must appear in more than 50% of halves played in the season.
Track & Field	Must have a state qualifying time or score in at least one event.
Volleyball	Must appear in half of all regular season matches.

LEAGUE FINES

If any student-athlete or parent's conduct or behavior results in Johnson Ferry Christian Academy being fined, that family shall be responsible to pay the fine and the student's school account will be charged. Fines may be assessed by the league for ejections or failure to participate in qualified state competition.

COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

Those student-athletes who will eventually participate on the college level need to meet NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA guidelines as they relate to recruiting and eligibility. A copy of the NCAA guide for the college bound student-athlete is available to the athlete online at www.ncaa.org. The NCAA eligibility center site is www.eligibilitycenter.org. Please connect with the JFCA College Counselor and/or the Director of Athletics for assistance and advisement.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

VOLUNTEERING

At Johnson Ferry Christian Academy, the success of our athletic program depends heavily on parent volunteers. There are many areas where volunteers are needed: team communication, field set-up and takedown, concessions, and gate workers to name a few. In many cases, parent volunteers find themselves serving as assistants to the coaches in positions such as team coordinator, assistant coaches, and bookkeepers. It is the policy of Johnson Ferry Christian Academy that all adult volunteers who have direct contact with the student-athletes be subjected to the same screening as do all employees of our school. Therefore, no adult, parent or otherwise, will be permitted within the immediate area of a team's practice or sanctioned athletic event as a coordinator or coach without prior approval of the Director of Athletics. For volunteer opportunities contact the Director of Athletics.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONS

Parents should support the team in public and private with Christ-like sportsmanship, encourage loyalty to team and school, and provide positive reinforcement to all athletes. Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our student-athletes. When your child becomes involved in JFCA Athletics, you should understand what expectations are placed upon your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the program.

Johnson Ferry coaches will provide the following in their pre-season meetings:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Location and times of practices, meetings, and contests.
3. Team requirements: practices, special equipment needed, out-of-season conditioning, and special concerns for the specific sport.
4. Procedures to be followed should your child be injured during participation.
5. Discipline which may result in removing your student from participation.

Communication that coaches should expect from athletes and parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly from the athlete to the coach first, then from the parent to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts made to coach well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations at start of season.

As your student(s) become involved in JFCA Athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your students wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged such as:

1. Ways to help your student improve.
2. Concerns about your student's attitude.
3. Academic support and college opportunities.

It may be difficult to accept your student not playing as much you may hope or in the position you desire. Coaches make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes in their program. As seen in the list

above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach such as:

1. Team strategy
2. Playing time
3. Team selection
4. Play calling
5. Matters concerning other student-athletes

There may be situations which require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged only after the student has communicated directly with the coach without resolution. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic office. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Waiting 24 hours after an event before contacting a coach with a concern will allow for emotions to settle and a productive conversation to take place.

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics and coach to discuss the situation.

SUMMARY

JFCA Athletics, like athletic programs across the nation, was established with support from research which indicates a student involved in athletic participation does better in their academics and has a greater chance of success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided here makes both your and your student's experience with the Johnson Ferry Christian Academy Athletic program more informed and enjoyable.