Tree of Life
Christian Schools

Athlete and Parent Handbook

2012 - 2013
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Dear Tree of Life Athletics and Parents,

Thank you for being a part of the Tree of Life Christian schools and the athletic program. We look forward to partnering with you and your families on and off the court/field. We hope that you find this handbook helpful in better understanding our athletic philosophies, policies and procedures.

Our approach to athletics stems from our school philosophy of education, our school mission statement, and our school vision statement. The goal of Tree of Life Christian Schools, in partnership with the family and the church, is to educate the whole child – spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically. As we partner with you, we strive to provide an environment where Christian character traits are developed in our young men and women as they compete on and off the field/court. We are committed to the development of a program that is not only competitive, but also one that will glorify Jesus Christ and be a positive experience for all who participate.

We believe the Competitor’s Creed on the next page provides an excellent framework for our athletes as they compete. Please take a few minutes and read the Creed as a family and engage in a conversation on how each athlete can glorify God with their commitment during practice or competition. We strive for commitment on behalf of our athletes, coaches, and parents. It is obvious that the God we serve is a gracious and loving God. It is also obvious that He deserves our best effort, and that if we strive for excellence, we will be rewarded with success as He sees it.

Again, thank you for being a part of Tree of Life schools and the athletic program. We look forward to partnering with each of you.

In Christ,

Yohana Hill     Stephanie Forbes
Athletic Director     Assistant Athletic Director
Tree of Life Christian Schools     Tree of Life Christian Schools
**The Competitor’s Creed**

I am a Christian first and last.
I am created in the likeness of God Almighty to bring Him glory.
I am a member of Team Jesus Christ.
I wear the colors of the cross.

I am a Competitor now and forever.
I am made to strive, to strain, to stretch and to succeed in the arena of competition.
I am a Christian Competitor and as such, I face my challenger with the face of Christ.

I do not trust in myself.
I do not boast in my abilities or believe in my own strength.
I rely solely on the power of God.
I compete for the pleasure of the Heavenly Father, the honor of Christ and the reputation of the Holy Spirit.

My attitude on and off the field is above reproach – my conduct beyond criticism.
Whether I am preparing, practicing or playing;
I submit to God’s authority and those He has put over me.
I respect my coaches, officials, teammates and competitors out of respect for the Lord.

My body is the temple of Jesus Christ.
I protect it from within and without.
Nothing enters my body that does not honor the Living God.
My sweat is an offering to my Master. My soreness is a sacrifice to my Savior.

I give my all – all of the time.
I do not give up. I do not give in. I do not give out.
I am the Lord’s warrior – a competitor by conviction and a disciple of determination.
I am confident beyond reason because my confidence lies in Christ.
The results of my efforts must result in His glory.

Let the competition begin.
Let the glory be God’s

From: Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Philosophy of Tree of Life Christian Athletics

The concept of success in today’s society has been slowly modified to the desires of the individual. For some, success is associated with financial gain, for others stature or public opinion, while for others success is associated with material possessions. As Christians it is vital for us to keep the issue of success in proper perspective. We are taught in scripture to do all things for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31), in a way that honors the Lord (Col. 3:17), and to do everything heartily, as unto the Lord (Col. 3:23). That, in essence, is the true measure of success… is God being glorified through our efforts? As we seek to glorify God in our efforts, the Tree of Life Athletic program believes:

Christian athletics is a ministry. When athletics are seen from the Christian perspective, winning has a broader definition and our athletes a greater purpose. We want our coaches and athletes to be used by God in the lives of those they meet both on and off the field/court. Tree of Life athletics always aim to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as our Lord opens doors for active ministry. “Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve…” (Matthew 20:26, 28).

Christian athletics is an arena for teaching the principles of God’s Word. Athletics is an opportunity to practice God’s principles. Examples of these principles are controlling the feelings that arise in competition, working together as members of the body of Christ, winning from God’s perspective rather than a person’s, being submissive to authority, and demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit during stressful situations. It’s our hope that our athletes are controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and produce Christ-like actions so that others may see Jesus through them.

Christian athletics is an arena used for teaching the importance of winning from God’s perspective. Scripture encourages striving hard for the goal, to be successful and to win the prize. Christ expects us to give a total effort in all that we do, and therefore, is not satisfied with anything less than our best in a practice session, a game, or in the classroom. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (1 Corinthians 9:25) Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christian athletes learn to cherish eternal rewards as a treasure of great price. They learn that the most treasured reward often does not show up on the scoreboard, but in the lives of those who have developed a deeper desire for the things of Christ and in those whose lives were touched by the Christian athlete. Ultimately, winning is defined as pleasing the Lord with our attitudes and actions. This only begins when the athlete develops a desire to please the Lord rather than people. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. (Colossians 3:23) We want our athletes to catch the vision that our Lord attends every athletic event and is our primary audience.
Tree of Life Athletics

Tree of Life Christian Schools was founded in 1978 and has always maintained a strong commitment to Christian based education. Educating the whole child – mentally, socially, physically, and spiritually through the arts, literature, sciences, technology, and athletics – has always been an educational goal of the school.

In 1980 the school established its athletic program, which continued to grow and develop as the school grew. In 1984 the first high school varsity level programs were founded with the sports of boys and girls basketball and boys soccer and girls volleyball. In the mid 1990’s the athletic department added boys’ baseball and girls’ softball to the list of options for interscholastic competition. The primary sports offered for both high school and middle school students are:

- **Baseball**
- **Girls’ Basketball**
- **Girls’ Cheerleading**
- **Boys’ Soccer**
- **Softball**
- **Boys Track and Field**

- **Boys’ Basketball**
- **Cross Country**
- **Golf**
- **Girls’ Soccer**
- **Girls’ Volleyball**
- **Girls Track and Field**

*Opportunities are available to participate in football in partnership with the Columbus Crusaders organization (MS & HS). For details contact Columbus Crusaders: info@columbuscrusaders.org*

**Athletic Affiliations**

Since the school’s beginning in 1978, Tree of Life had been a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and received full accreditation from the ACSI in the fall of 2002.

In 1986, the athletic program became a member school of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), and varsity level athletic programs participate in the OHSAA post-season. The athletic department adheres to the bylaws and regulations established by the OHSAA when organizing and participating in both middle and high school sports.

The middle school and high school sports teams (grades 7-12) are affiliated with the Mid Ohio Christian Athletic League (MOCAL). This league is a Christian School league, which Tree of Life joined in 2001. Currently the league has 7 member schools. The middle school MOCAL was established at the beginning of the 2006-07 school year (7 & 8 grade competition).
Athletic Facilities
Most of the sports offered are played and practiced on-site. The gymnasium is a practice facility as well as game facility for basketball and volleyball competition. It is also an indoor practice facility for baseball and softball in the event of bad weather.

The soccer field and softball field are on-site and serves the dual purpose of practice facility and game field for the respective sports during the season. Also located on-site is a weight room, furnished with quality equipment for the use of students and athletes with appropriate supervision.

Off-site facilities currently used by the athletic program include a baseball diamond, which is located at Ridgeview Middle School for practices and home contests. Middle and high school track & field practices are held at Brookhaven High School. During the basketball season we also use various off-site facilities. This is primarily for our middle school basketball practices only.

Policies and Participation Requirements of the TOL Athletic Program

The Tree of Life Athlete
We believe all Tree of Life athletes should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence, without regard to the score, opponent, time or referee. As Christian athletes display these characteristics, good things usually happen: teams are successful, players are motivated, fans are supportive and enthusiastic, parents are proud, prospective athletes want to participate, and very often non-believers are drawn to Christ. Each student athlete is expected to strive for excellence in their academic endeavors while participating in the Tree of Life athletic program. As a Tree of Life student athlete, you are also expected to strive to positively exemplify five core character values and to do your best to represent Christ, your teammates, and yourself by:

- representing Tree of Life in a Christ honoring and respectful manner, understanding that student-athletes are highly visible TOL representatives to the student body and the greater community.
- respecting opponents, officials, teammates, yourself and the game.
- taking responsibility for your actions in all areas of your life.
- having the integrity to stand by your word.
- providing servant leadership where you serve others while striving to be a personal and team leader.

As a student-athlete at Tree of Life you should only participate in activities that have a positive reflection on Christ, family, team and school. You should not do
anything that would violate team guidelines or breach the TOL student handbook. In addition, each coach and each team will develop expectations unique to their respective program.

**Ohio High School Athletic Association Guidelines**
As a member school of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), Tree of Life must adhere to their bylaws and sports regulations. The OHSAA sets specific standards for high school athletics and competition for in season and out of season competition. Failure to comply with OHSAA standards jeopardizes the schools membership, its sports seasons, and more importantly, its integrity. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and the Principal to implement all OHSAA standards into the Tree of Life athletic program.

**Tree of Life Athletic Guidelines**
Although Tree of Life adheres to the guidelines set by the OHSAA, we have set standards of our own which at times exceed the OHSAA standards. OHSAA clearly states that “In addition to the OHSAA standards, your school may have other standards that apply” (OHSAA guidelines for student athletic eligibility). Tree of Life has set criteria for athletic participation and eligibility, student athlete conduct, student athlete discipline and other concerns, which are related but not directly, to the OHSAA standards.

**Responsibilities of the Athlete**
All athletes who compete for Tree of Life Christian Schools must first and foremost understand that they are held at a higher standard based on the schools commitment to biblically based education. However, there are specific requirements that all student athletes must adhere to in order for participation to occur.

The athlete is primarily accountable to the coach. It should be stated that the coach must also hold their players accountable for their actions during practice sessions and game situations.

Athlete will also be held accountable in the following areas:

**Attendance:**
- **Student athletes are expected to fulfill their commitment to the team as best they can in regards to attendance. Athletes should be at all practices and games on time and well prepared.**
- **A student athlete who is absent from school is not permitted to practice or play on that day.**
- **A student athlete must be present for at least 4 class periods (excluding lunch) throughout the day in order to practice or play on that day.**
• A student athlete must inform their coach of an upcoming absence in advance and must be willing to face the consequences determined by the coach.
• All unexcused absences or tardiness to practice will result in disciplinary action by the coach.

Uniform Care:
• Student athletes are responsible for all uniforms issued to them at the beginning of the season (unless that uniform equipment happens to be personal items).
• Any uniform equipment that has been used throughout the season is to be washed and returned to the athletic department upon conclusion of the season.
• Student athletes are responsible for any uniform equipment belonging to the school that is damaged in some way. All damages or losses should be reported the coach immediately.
• Student athletes are not permitted to wear their athletic uniform as part of their regular school uniform, unless permission is granted from the principal or athletic director (this includes wearing athletic uniforms for physical education classes).
• All uniforms and school equipment must be turned in at the end of the season. Failure to do so will result in not being able to participate in the next sport/season, and grades will be withheld.

Equipment Care:
• Student athletes are to treat all school equipment appropriately and properly. This also includes athletic facilities.
• Student athletes are to understand that any deliberate damage to equipment or facilities will result in disciplinary action from the coach or athletic director.
• Any equipment that is issued to the athlete throughout the sports season is to be returned at the conclusion of the season.

No Quit Policy:
• Once an athlete has made the commitment to participate in a sport he/she must complete the season. We do recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances (such as a family crisis or extended illness) where exceptions can be made.
• An athlete that does quit after their commitment to participate will be ineligible to compete in the next season’s sport.

Fees:
• Students must be willing to pay for any sports specific participation fees.
• All sport specific fees must be paid by the deadline established by the athletic department and/or coach.

**Required Forms:**
• Athletes must have a current year’s OHSAA physical form (forms can be downloaded from TOLCS website or picked up at the Northridge office) on file in the athletic office (physicals are good for one calendar year).
• Athletes must have completed an OHSAA Authorization Form and OHSAA Eligibility Checklist and have on file with the athletic department.
• Athletes must have a current year’s emergency medical card on file in the school’s main office.

**Medical Insurance Coverage**
Athletics are a voluntary co-curricular program in which students may participate if they desire, but do so at their own risk. Parents or guardians must obtain adequate insurance coverage for their students through a family insurance policy. Any liability or cost incurred is the responsibility of the family of the student athlete. Tree of Life Schools does not assume responsibility for doctor, ambulance or medical expenses in case of a medical emergency. TOL no longer provides a secondary insurance policy.

**Athletic Academic Eligibility Standards (Middle and High School)**
While the Ohio High School Athletic Association sets academic standards, an individual school may create a higher standard. TOL chooses to have a higher standard. In order for a TOL student to participate in athletics they must meet the following standards:
1. A student must have no failing grades in the previous 9 weeks.
2. A student must have a “C” average (2.0) or above of all grades based on their credit value.
3. To maintain eligibility to participate, a student must have a minimum of a 2.0 average for the previous grading period and have no failing grades at the end of the previous grading period and/or midterm report.
4. Midterm checks of all athletes’ grades will be conducted during the active season. Failing any class, or failing to maintain a 2.0 average of all classes, will result in a suspension from the team until notification to the Athletic Director indicates a passing grade. Students will be responsible to verify academic improvement to the athletic director. This is necessary for re-entry into a sport.
5. For a student who is taken off of a team at midterm and then re-establishes his/her place on the team, a second mid-term check will be made two weeks after reinstatement. A student may be taken off the team again at this time if grades have fallen below passing.
6. Grades received for the fourth quarter in grades 7-11 will determine eligibility for participation in the fall athletic program. Summer school grades and career center grades cannot be used to determine athletic eligibility.

Team Guidelines
The coaches for each team will determine team rules and communicate them to the team members. Athletes are responsible to abide by these rules.

All coaches of teams at Tree of Life will allow for a period of time to reasonably evaluate all individuals trying out for a team. The tryout period must occur after the start date established by the OHSAA.

Multi Sport Athletes
Students who participate in more than one sport must understand that the sport which is in season ought to be their priority. If two sports seasons happen to overlap the athlete must complete one sport before participation can occur in the upcoming sport. Athletes may not participate in open gym/open fields prior to completing the season in which they are currently participating.

Through OHSAA guidelines, June 1 – July 31 is the only time in the off season where all coaches have access to work with their student athletes. As a result, there will be overlap of practices, conditioning, camps, etc. Multi sport athletes should work with their respective coaches to determine appropriate participation.

Youth Group or Church Functions
Tree of Life stands to work alongside the family and the local church to educate the whole child. We believe that our school families should be involved in church activities at some level. At the middle school level we do not plan practices on Wednesday; however, there may be an occasion that practices will need to be scheduled on Wednesday because of scheduling needs.

Coaches and players alike ought to understand the importance of church activities and plan accordingly around them. However, if a church commitment adds to the burden of athletics a decision ought to be made, and the best counsel would be to not get involved with athletics.

We do believe however, that we are to worship God at all times and in all circumstances. Using our talents and abilities through athletics is one such way that we can bring glory and honor to God.

NCAA Eligibility
All students who plan to participate in Division 1 or 2 athletics should be aware of the GPA, ACT/SAT, and high school core course requirements. An NCAA eligibility form, available in the Guidance Office, must be filed with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
Injury Management

Partnership with OhioHealth
TOL’s Athletic Department has a partnership with OhioHealth to provide support to our athletes and their families. As a result student athletes have access to a part-time OhioHealth trainer and to consult with OhioHealth professionals.

If an injury occurs in practice or a game, the coach has guidelines to follow to promote the safety of all student athletes.

Hours for the TOL’s part-time athletic trainer vary each week during the school year. If you desire to see the trainer, please contact the athletic office for the hours or have your child’s coach contact the athletic office. If you need immediate attention and the trainer is not available, please contact OhioHealth directly at 614.566.GAME.

Tree of Life Christian School Concussion Policy
All Tree of Life will follow the guidelines set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association in the 2011-12 OHSAA Handbook under General Sports Regulations dealing with Traumatic Brain Injuries/Concussions. It reads as follows: “Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a TBI/Concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by an appropriate health care professional (defined as a physician or licensed athletic trainer).” To access A Parent’s Guide to Concussion in Sports visit - http://ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussions/ParentsGuide.pdf

Recognitions and Awards

At the conclusion of each season it is the responsibility of the coaches to complete the awards report recording specific award winners, as well as other recognitions, which have been earned by the team or individuals throughout the season. The coaching staff’s can establish their own criteria for individual awards, but it should be noted that there are some specific awards given by the athletic department to each member of that team.

Team Honors
High school team recognitions earned throughout the season by all members of the program are one of the following:

**Varsity Team Honors**
- The athlete must have been a member of the varsity squad and participated in at least 2/3 of the varsity contests.
• The athlete must have shown commitment to the team and the coaching staff.
• First year letter winners receive their Varsity “T” letter and the numbers representing their graduating year
• Second year letter winners receive a pin representing their sport.
• Third year letter winners receive a bar.
• Fourth year letter winners receive a star.
• All members of the varsity team receive a certificate for participation each year

Junior Varsity and Middle School student athletes are recognized for their participation throughout the season with the awarding of a certificate.

**Individual Awards**

Individual awards are given out to players based on character and leadership qualities. These awards are given by the coaches or through a team voting process, with the approval of the athletic director.

One award that is available annually to each team is the Trojan Award. The Trojan Award is given to the student athlete who best exemplifies Christ-like character, a positive spirit, strong leadership skills and commitment to the team regardless of athletic ability. The Trojan Award is considered to be the most prestigious athletic recognition.

Other awards or recognitions are given out each year based on the coach’s discretion. However, these awards should also be rewarded to athletes who show commitment and dedication to their team, as well as athletic potential, intensity, consistency, servanthood and hard work.

At the end of each season it is the coach’s responsibility to nominate and promote any and all athletes who they think have the potential to represent the school with All-League Honors. Furthermore, at the varsity level coaches have the opportunity to promote potential All-District and All-State Players.

It is the responsibility of the athletic director to give appropriate recognition to any coaches who also receive league, district, or state honors. Those coaches will be presented with a plaque for their efforts.

**Transportation**

Tree of Life Christian Schools currently owns two school buses, but bus drivers are limited. Therefore, we rely heavily on parent volunteer drivers. Students are not permitted to drive other students to off-site practices or away games. Parents who volunteer to drive to off-site practices or away games need to have
on-file in the front office the appropriate paperwork. Forms will be distributed at the mandatory pre-season meeting or are available through the athletic department. Also, at the conclusion of away games, no student is to travel home with another student driver unless the coach receives written permission from the respective student’s parent/guardian.

In regards to the use of the school bus and the availability of a driver the priority goes to the high school team who happens to be traveling the furthest distance or the team with the greatest number of athletes traveling. If at any time there are two teams traveling to the same away location bus transportation will be attempted.

It is a priority that at least one member of the coaching staff ride on the bus with the team at all times. That coach is responsible for maintaining order and proper control of the athletes while on the bus.

Parent/Guardians

Expectations of Tree of Life Parents
The parents of Tree of Life student athletes are the key to our school establishing a distinctly different, distinctly Christ-honoring sports program. As your child participates in the Tree of Life athletic program they will experience some very rewarding moments. It is also important to remember that there will be times when adversity and disappointment inevitably occur. At all times the leadership and example of our parents will be watched by our students; coaches, along with the parents, students, and coaches of opposing teams. The parents of Tree of Life student athletes are expected to:

Be Supportive of Coaches – In front of your child, be supportive and positive of the coaches’ decisions. If you have problems with what the coach is doing, it is best to talk directly with the coach.

Teach Respect for Authority – There will be times when you disagree with a coach or official but always remember they are trying their best and are trying to be fair. Let your conduct always model Christ and show good sportsmanship by being positive.

Let the Coach Do The Coaching – When your child is on the field or court, let the coach do the coaching. Shouting instructions or criticism may hinder the overall experience of the student-athlete. You can teach life skills that athletics and activities bring to the forefront.

Model Good Sportsmanship at Games – When cheering for a Tree of Life team, only cheer for the Trojans. There is never any reason to cheer against or “taunt” the other team. Never question or “boo” an official about
a call. Always treat the visiting school as guests before, during, and after games. Realize that the word Christian means “Christ-like.” Cheer for the Trojans to play hard and to play to win, but with an attitude of Christian sportsmanship. Long after the score is forgotten, our behavior will be remembered and is a reflection upon the entire ministry that is Tree of Life.

Help your Children Learn Through Failure – The way your child handles failure can help them face the certainty of disappointment that life will throw at them in the future. The worst time for you as a parent to give advice is immediately after a disappointment. Encourage and support them as they cope with their disappointment.

Be Mindful of Your Role as a Role Model – Take a good honest look at your attitude, actions and reactions in the athletic arena. The loudest thing your child will hear is not what you say but what they see you do.

Show Unconditional Love – The most important thing: show your child you love them and are proud of them, win or lose.

The Bottom Line -- If we are to be the people our loving God intends for us to be, we must not separate athletics from our calling as Christians. Coaches must coach, players must play, and fans must cheer as Christians. Among many things, this means that we will respect authority, our opponents, and each other. Athletics can be an act of worship and a celebration of God’s gifts to us.

Mandatory Parents/Guardian General Athletic Meeting
To participate in athletics at TOL, it is required that every student athlete have a least one parent or guardian attend a mandatory general meeting at least once per year. Notification of these meetings will come from the athletic department office.

As a part of the general requirements, the Ohio High School Athletic Association requires that all parents watch a DVD prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues and sporting behaviors.

Parents are also expected to attend preseason meetings called by each individual coach. Coaches will let you or your student athlete know when these meetings will be held.
The Role of Christian Coaching

As a Christian School and Athletic program we believe our coaches are also teachers. Coaches then have a great responsibility and a very unique ministry opportunity as they teach biblical principles through athletics.

We believe our Tree of Life Christian School Coaches will:

- develop the Christian athlete through positive relationships
- instill Christ-like qualities in the athlete
- promote biblical principles
- provide team & individual instruction for skill development
- maximize the potential of each individual
- represent the school in a positive manner

In further support of the teaching and ministering done by our coaches, we ask you to follow the Team Communication Partnership framework throughout the respective season(s) your son or daughter participates in.

Team Communication Partnership  (Information has been adapted from OHSAA Respect the Game)

Clear communication between parents and coaches will facilitate a positive athletic experience for our student-athletes. Listed below are some steps to enhance parent/coach communication. It is important to remember that as a Christian school, in all of our communication we need to rely on the Lord for guidance and direction.

The initial link in the communication chain should be the between the coach and the student-athlete. Please encourage your child to speak directly with his/her coach about any topic, and preferably before a parent/coach conversation is scheduled.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child’s Coach

- Philosophy of the coach and Tree of Life as it relates to athletics and using the sport to grow in our faith.
- Evaluation of your child’s strength/weaknesses in that sport.
- Recommendation for improvement of sports skills.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- Procedure should your child be injured in practice or an event.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child’s participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Specific health concerns dealing with your child.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns in regarding Tree of Life athletics and/or parent expectations.
Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches
• The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
• Ways to help your child improve.
• Concerns about your child’s behavior.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches
• Playing time
• Individual position assignments
• Team strategy
• Play calling
• Other student-athletes

Appropriate Procedures For Discussing Concerns with Coaches
• Pray first
• Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
• Describe your areas of concern.
• Limit your discussion to your own child’s issues. Do not discuss issues related to other athletes unless they specifically involve your child or the safety and well being of another student-athlete.
• Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not typically promote resolution).

If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution
• Call to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
• At this meeting the appropriate next steps can be determined.

Fan Conduct
Romans 12:2 tells us not to conform to the patterns of this world, and while our modern culture has promoted elements of disrespect, mockery and rudeness as acceptable in the realm of athletics, we desire to demonstrate a positive contrast to our culture. Therefore, students and fans who represent Tree of Life at athletic contests are expected to be supportive of our teams, not degrading of the opponent. This applies at both home and away contests, and students or fans who demonstrate a lack of self-discipline in such environments may face school discipline. Students attending athletic events must be fully clothed and dressed moderately. Face painting and temporary hair coloring is permitted, but chest painting is not.

Concerns regarding fan conduct and behavior (either student or adult) should be referred to the Athletic Director, Contest Host, or Principal, where discernment
will be used prior to disciplinary implementation. Possible discipline could include suspension from athletic events.

**Study Tables**
Study Tables have been established for students who need time after school to study prior to athletic events or parent pick-up. From the school’s perspective this is also a matter of student supervision, therefore there are some specific requirements in place.

Students are to report to Study Tables by 3:05 p.m. and must be picked up or dismissed for practice by 5:00 p.m. Student athletes are required to be at Study Tables prior to their scheduled practices or games and will be dismissed to their events 15 minutes before the scheduled time, or when the coach signs them out. To ensure students are being properly supervised, non-student athletes must be signed out by their parent.

Once a student athlete has been dismissed to the scheduled practice or game they are not to return to study tables. For further information regarding study tables, refer to the Tree of Life Student Handbook.

**Sport Schedules**
Season sports schedules are subject to change due to a variety of reasons. For updated schedules, please visit [http://www.highschoolsports.net/](http://www.highschoolsports.net/) or TOL Athletic Department [http://www.tolcs.org/athletics/index.htm](http://www.tolcs.org/athletics/index.htm).

**Tree of Life Athletic Boosters**
The mission of the TOL Athletic Boosters Organization is to support the athletic programs at the Middle School and High School levels. They are dedicated to the support of our student athletes, coaching staff, and the TOL athletic office.

Members believe that athletics go hand in hand in our children’s success and enriches their school experience.

**What Are The Benefits Of Membership?**
1. Building school spirit for the benefit of student-athletes
2. Investing in the future of the athletic programs
3. Participating in the success of the athletic programs
4. Advocating for and supporting your child’s sport(s)
5. Enhancing community and developing new relationships
6. Making a difference for Tree of Life athletics
Here are a few frequently asked questions:

**What is the Athletic Booster Program and why is it needed?**
The Athletic Booster Program exists to support Tree’s Athletic Department and the sports that are offered. Boosters help with raising awareness, athletic events and raising needed funds to buy sporting-related items that the current Athletic Department Budget does not support.

Booster contributions include team uniforms, portable PA system, softball field drag, home & away signs, mascot mat, softball field repairs, freezer, soccer balls, basketball backboard pads,

**Does the Athletic Booster Program do anything other than raise money?**
Yes. The Boosters helps the Athletic Department with different events, such as the Coaches’ Appreciation Breakfast, Senior Nights and Sports Banquets.

**Who determines how Boosters spends the funds?**
Boosters works with the Athletic Office to determine where the greatest needs exists and the Boosters discuss how best to meet those needs at the monthly meetings.

**When are the meetings and is attendance required?**
Boosters meet at Northridge the first Monday starting in August through May at 6:00 pm. Meetings typically are over by 7:45 pm. Attendance isn't required by Boosters, but it is encouraged.

**What if I want to join or have more questions?**
Please contact us at boosters@tolcs.org
Doug & Jacque Saunders - Athletic Booster Leadership
In closing, we leave you with a few words from Coach Rick Parcher -

“**Athletics is a life laboratory...sports teaches life lessons:**
commitment, sacrifice, focus, sportsmanship, teamwork, and self discipline.

**Victory? It is victory over one’s sinful nature, the nature that wants us to quit, that wants to celebrate idols, the nature that seeks to justify the man through a resume’ of Ws.**

**Hold nothing back as you practice, as you play the game. Leave it all on the floor. Then you will hear the coach say –**

> ‘**Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.**’”

*Matthew 25:21*

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**Handbook Policy**

All Tree of Life Athletic Policies are superseded by the Tree of Life Student Handbook.

Thank you for being a part of the Tree of Life Christian Schools and the Athletic Program. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact us at 614.784.1937 or athletic@tolcs.org.

Yohana Hill, Athletic Director
Stephanie Forbes, Assistant Athletic Director

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