

CALVARY ACADEMY



Athletic Handbook

Do Everything for God's Glory

- I Corinthians 10:31b

Vision

To compete at the highest level possible while maintaining integrity

Mission

Our goal for CA athletics is to teach every student athlete the importance of discipline, dedication and a desire to do everything for God's glory so that they will succeed in athletic competition, the classroom and life.

- Discipline – training that develops self control, character, organization, efficiency, obedience, responsibility, time management, a coachable spirit, and respect
- Dedication – devoted or faithful, wholehearted devotion, loyalty, commitment, determination, teamwork, and perseverance
- Desire – to wish or long for, crave, to do everything for God's glory with selflessness and humility

Strategy

DISCIPLINE

No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it. - Hebrews 12:11

Coaches – must be an example of what it means to be disciplined

- have a written, detailed and organized practice plan
- begin and end practice on time
- be in control of team – make rules and enforce them
- be in control of yourself – coaches' coach, officials officiate
- be a student of the game so that you can be a teacher of the game
- inform Athletic Department of any conflicts that arise between students and/or parents

Athletes – will develop character through proper discipline

- come to practice on time and prepared to work
- respect coaches, teammates, officials and competitors out of respect for the Lord
- inform coach or Athletic Department of any practices/games you will be unable to attend
- be diligent in studies

DEDICATION

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men. – Colossians 3:23

Coaches – will set the example by being dedicated to the team

- promote teamwork – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, a great team is better than individual stars
- commit to seeing each athlete improve in their skills so that the team can become the best it can be
- make the sacrifices to be at every game and practice
- have a passion for the success of the entire athletic program

Athletes – will understand how to fulfill a commitment by being dedicated to a team

- support team by attending all games and practices even when injured
- encourage fellow teammates in word and action
- be prepared by improving in the off season and being in shape when the season starts
- do all things to the best of your ability – you play like you practice so practice like you play
- desire to do your best always

DESIRE

Do everything for God's glory - I Corinthians 10:31b

Coaches – desire to have a growing hunger for God's word

- be an example of a servant to your athletes as Christ was an example to his disciples
- attend carefully to your public and private walk with God to encourage the athlete to rise above the level of spiritual mediocrity
- recognize that it is impossible to bring glory to both yourself and God at the same time
- coach with humble gratitude as one privileged to be serving God

Athletes – desire to have a growing hunger for God's word

- recognize it is only God who gives the ability and strength to play, so play for His glory
- when preparing, practicing and playing, conduct should be above criticism both on and off the field

The results of our efforts must result in HIS glory.

Policies and Procedures

The administration is directed to implement these policies and those established by the league, at all levels of competition

Absence Policy

Participation in an organized sport requires commitment on the part of athletes and parents. Student athletes are expected to participate in all practices and games. Excused absences include illness, family emergency or situation, or conflict in work schedule. Athletes are expected to communicate with their head coach 24 hours in advance if they will be absent or late to games/practices, failure to do so will result in the player not starting in the next game. Unexcused absences from games and/or practices will result in the player not starting in the next game. In both instances, entry into the next game is at the discretion of the coach. Athletes are expected to communicate their games/practice schedule with their employer to avoid conflicts in work schedules. Excessive absences, at the discretion of the coach and/or Athletic Director may result in dismissal from a team. Coaches will take attendance at each practice and game.

Student-athletes must be in school for at least four hours in order to participate in practices or games that day. Please take into consideration that games requiring early dismissal will necessitate the student being in school 4 hours prior to the early dismissal. The Athletic Director is the only person able to make exceptions to this rule.

Academic Requirements

A student who receives a grade point average of less than 1.70 for a specific marking period will be placed on *Academic Observation* for the next marking period. The parents will be contacted in writing informing them of their child's academic status and the student will be excluded from sports practices, games, extra & co-curricular activities.

Teacher(s), parent(s), and student, should work together and agree on strategies that will assist the student to be more successful in the coming marking period.

The student's grades will be reviewed every three weeks, as long as the student on *Academic Observation* is putting forth a reasonable amount of effort to correct the situation, he/she may not be excluded from extra-curricular or co-curricular activities.

A student will be removed from *Academic Observation* when his/her quarterly and or final grade point average is 1.70 or greater.

Upper School Calvary Athletes: In order to participate in any of Calvary's sports programs, athletes must maintain a minimum GPA of 1.70 and not be placed on Academic Observation or Behavioral Probation. In order to support our athletes academically, students may be required to stay after school for remediation and may be excluded from games and practices until minimum grade requirements are met. A Ticket To Play may also be issued upon discretion of administration.

After school guidelines when waiting for practice

- All players who do not practice immediately after school should go home after school unless special arrangements are set up with the school office.
- Change into practice clothes immediately after school
- Be in the designated classroom by 3:00pm until practice time
- Have homework or something to do in the designated classroom
- Ask permission to leave the classroom
- No cell phone use – transportation should already be arranged
- Show appreciation and respect to teachers/parents who are supervising
- Ask the supervising teacher if there is anything you can do for them

REMINDER: It is a privilege to stay after school and wait for practice to start. Teachers and/or parents are volunteering their time to supervise the teams. This privilege can be removed if guidelines are not followed.

Away Games

Middle School

Meals: Most MS away games are within a half hour of the school; therefore the MS teams will generally not make a dinner stop on the way home. Dinner stops will be made if the game is an hour or more from the school. Please see schedule to determine if a dinner stop will be made. If so, students should bring \$7 – \$12 for food.

Arrival times: Students should call home when directed to by the coach to let parent know of the expected arrival time at the school. Please be on time.

Varsity

Meals: Most Varsity games are at least 1 hour from the school and the Varsity teams will make a dinner stop on the way home. Students should bring \$7 – \$12 for food.

Arrival times: Students should call home when directed to by the coach to let parent know of the expected arrival time at the school. Please be on time.

If a player is not riding the bus back to school from a game, the adult who is taking them is responsible to sign them out with the coach. Do not leave without speaking with the coach.

Awards

Sports Awards Ceremonies will be held three times a year following each season. The selection of awards is an important part of athletics. The coach will make all decisions in regard to awards with the counsel of the Athletic Department.

Dress Code for Awards Ceremony:

In an effort to show respect for the sport, the school, and the team, athletes attending sports awards ceremonies are expected to dress appropriately.

- **NO** jeans or shorts are to be worn to sports awards.
- Girls' dresses should follow the guidelines as shown in the family handbook under "formal attire guidelines for young ladies". Please dress modestly.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the student athlete receiving their award following the ceremony.

Athletic awards at Calvary Academy include:

MVP Award

Most Valuable Player Award is given to the athlete that made the greatest contribution to the success of the team

MIP Award

Most Improved Player Award is given to the athlete that showed the greatest improvement in their athletic skill during the season.

COACHES Award

Coaches award is given to the athlete who consistently demonstrated a Christ-like attitude, showed dedication to the team and the coach, had a determination and desire for personal improvement as an athlete, and was an encouragement to his/her team mates.

Middle School Awards

Certificate of Participation

Middle School athletes will be given a certificate of participation

Varsity Awards

Varsity Letters/Pins

Student - Athletes will be given a varsity letter based upon playing time and participation in a varsity sport. Only one varsity letter will be given to an athlete regardless of the number of varsity sports they play. Athletes will receive a sports pin for each varsity sport they play. (Grades 9 – 12) 7th and 8th grades who play on the varsity team will not receive a varsity letter until 9th grade.

Varsity Jackets

Jackets may be purchased after the student athlete has received their first varsity letter and may only have a sports patch after they have completed a full season of the specific sport.

Cancellations

When games or practices are canceled, the parents will receive a message from our “Automated Parent Alert” system. In addition, the Calvary Academy website www.calvaryacademy.org > sports calendar will be updated. The front office will also be notified of any changes.

Captains

Captains are appointed by the coach with the approval of the Athletic Director. No more than 3 captains should be appointed for each team.

Qualifications of a captain:

- Spiritual leader
- Desire to be a servant-leader on and off the field
- Have a good knowledge of the sport
- Communicate information to teammates
- Assist coach willingly during practices/games
- Be responsible for team’s equipment
- Not have received excessive disciplinary consequences

Cell phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones may only be used during games or practices with the permission of a coach. Cell phones will not be collected when traveling to away games. Cell phones must remain in the students-athletes bag on silent mode on the way to games. This time should be used for studying, reading and preparing for the game. On the way home, student-athletes can use their cell phones with the permission of the coach to call or text to arrange transportation home and listen to music. For safety reasons cell phones are not to be used for casual conversations or taking pictures. If these guidelines are not followed, cell phones will be confiscated and given to Mrs. Cruz for further disciplinary action.

All electronic devices are not permitted during games, practices, or bus rides without the coaches’ permission. Students are solely responsible for all their possessions. Calvary Academy will not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage or unauthorized usage of cell phones.

Cleats

Cleats may not be worn in the building or on the bus at any time. Please be respectful and neat.

Detentions – After School

If an athlete receives a detention for any reason, the detention form must be signed by a parent and returned the following day to the Principal. Please check the sports calendar before you choose the

detention date and avoid scheduling detention for a game day. If your child has detention on a practice day, it is the responsibility of the parent to sign them out of detention at 3:30 and accompany them to practice or make prior arrangements with the coach.

Devotions and Prayer

Devotions should be a part of the team practices. Coaches can determine how to implement devotions for each team. The team should make it a habit to pray before and after every practice and game. The coach should integrate biblical truths whenever possible.

Directions to Games and Practices

All directions are available online. Go to www.calvaryacademy.org > Sports Calendar > click on the day > schedule will appear beneath the calendar > click on desired event > new page will come up with the address > click on “get directions” > this takes you to map quest > enter starting address > directions will be given to event location.

Discontinuing Participation

If a player decides to no longer be a member of the team, he/she must communicate their concerns with the coach. The coach must try to make every effort to work out the differences with the player. If that is not accomplished the coach must notify the Athletic Department and a meeting will be set up with the player, coach, Athletic Department and parent to try to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached the player must turn in the uniform and will no longer be allowed to have any involvement with that team.

Doctor’s Notes

If a note is received from a doctor, excusing a student from gym class or athletic activities, and the note does not state a “return to activities date”, an additional note from the doctor must be received, in order to clear the student to return to activities. A note or phone call from a parent does not allow a student to return to activities.

Dress for Game Day

During the school day, students will dress in their school uniforms unless permission is given by Athletic Department. Students, who are scheduled for PE on a game day, must change into their PE uniform for class, sports uniforms are not acceptable in PE class and will result in a grade reduction.

Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading, Baseball and Softball

All athletes will change into their sport uniforms/warmups before leaving the campus for a game.

Return from away games

Varsity athletes will leave away games wearing the following:

Soccer	uniform or black athletic pants and CA soccer hoodie or soccer jersey
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Basketball	uniform or black athletic pants and CA basketball hoodie
Cheerleading	black athletic pants and CA cheer jacket or hoodie (to and from games)
Baseball/Softball	uniform pants and CA baseball/softball hoodie or baseball/softball jersey

Dress for Practices

On practice days, students are to dress in Calvary Academy gym uniforms or the equivalent as mandated by coaches.

Girls may wear sleeveless tops, but not tank tops with straps that are less than 4 inches across, shirts that show the midriff or cleavage, excessively short (length must be to finger tips when hands are at side) or tight shorts, or shorts or pants with writing on the back that draws attention.

Boys may wear crewneck, sleeveless shirts that are not open on the side, but not tank top style shirts with thin straps. Boys must wear shirts while attending practice.

It is the responsibility of team captains and coaches to ensure that students dress appropriately.

Infractions will incur the following:

First offense:	warning by coach or coach appointed team member
Second offense:	gym uniform must be worn to next practice
Third offense:	player will not participate in next game

Eligibility

1. Students in grades 6 – 8 participate in our Middle school athletic program. Students in grade 5 may participate at the discretion of the Coach and Athletic Department.
2. Students in grades 9 – 12 will participate in the Varsity program.
3. A student can not receive excessive disciplinary actions. A student who accumulates excessive detentions will meet with the Athletic Department to discuss and rectify the issue. The student may be dismissed from the team if he/she receives a suspension for behavioral matters. Team captains who receive excessive discipline will lose their role as captain.
4. Students must meet the academic requirements listed above.
5. Students must have no physical or emotional problems that would jeopardize the player's own health and safety or the health and safety of other students. Students must have an annual physical and receive clearance from a doctor prior to participating in practices or games. Physicals are due to the athletic office before try outs for each sport. See due dates below under "Sports Physicals".
6. Parents and students must sign the Sports Participation Agreement. Due date corresponds to each sport and is listed under "Sports Physical" below.
7. A fee is required for indicated sports. Due date corresponds to each sport and is listed under "Sports Fee" below.
8. The student may not have reached his or her 19th birthday by the beginning of the sport season (September 15, December 15, and April 15). This also includes transfer students.
9. Students who are in middle school or high school and **do not attend** Calvary Academy are ineligible to practice, scrimmage or play with the Calvary Academy teams.

Fundraising

No fundraising may be done without administrative approval. If administrative approval is given for car washes, the same dress as practice is required. Students may not wear bathing suits. All teams are encouraged to hold at least one fundraiser throughout the year.

Game/Practice Schedule

All games are shown on our website – www.calvaryacademy.org under Sports Calendar. Parents should check calendar daily as games/practice times and locations change often. Practices and games will be scheduled during school breaks. Coaches must be notified if there is a family commitment that makes it impossible for the player to attend practice/games.

Home Games

Soccer

Most Middle School and Varsity home games will be played at John Patrick Sports Complex 1000 Vine Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701 – check website to be sure www.calvaryacademy.org

Basketball

Middle School and Varsity home games are played in the Calvary Academy gym.

Girls' Softball

Most Middle School and Varsity home games will be played at John Patrick Sports Complex 1000 Vine Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701 – check website to be sure www.calvaryacademy.org

Boys' Baseball

Most Middle School and Varsity home games will be played at John Patrick Sports Complex 1000 Vine Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701 – check website to be sure www.calvaryacademy.org

If a player is not riding the bus back to school from an away game, the adult who is taking them is responsible to sign them out with the coach.

**Players must be picked up at location site of all home games –
transportation back to the school is NOT provided.**

Improper Behavior

Behavior guidelines for sporting events are the same as behavior guidelines during the school day. Improper behavior at practices, games or traveling to or from a game/practice will result in the following disciplinary actions:

- Coaches will issue a detention notice. Detention notice will be given to the AD who will notify the Vice Principal. Detentions will also be given for poor sportsmanship.

- Suspension and/or removal from a team may be determined by the school administration for repeated offenses.

Injuries

All injuries are to be reported to the coach and Athletic Department. A green insurance form will be given to the student. If the student visits the Dr. or emergency room due to the injury, the green insurance form must be submitted to the doctor's office or emergency room at that time. Please follow the instructions given with the green insurance form to ensure that a claim is open for the injury.

If an injury precludes an athlete from temporary game participation, he/she is expected to attend practices and games with the team and wear his/her uniform to games.

Makeup Work for Classes Missed Because of Activity Participation

When students who are involved in athletic activities miss class time to participate in an event or activity, the student is responsible for all assignments assigned and due dates.

Students excused early for athletic activities must turn in all assignments for any missed classes the following school day. Student-athletes are also responsible to obtain and complete assignments for the next day. Early dismissal is never an excuse for missed homework assignments, except in the case of illness.

Students who miss quizzes or tests must make up the test the day following early dismissal.

Parent Conduct

Parents and family attending all athletic events that involve Calvary Academy, whether at Calvary or another facility, are expected to speak and act in a Christ-like manner. They are representatives of Calvary and must adhere to the same expectations as players, coaches, and referees. We encourage and endorse the enthusiastic support of family and friends. Referees, opposing teams and their fans are to be treated as honored guests.

Parents are expected to support their children as well as the team, the coach, and the athletic program. If parents have a concern about their child, they are expected to adhere to the Calvary Academy Handbook's "Conflict Resolution" policy. Parents are expected to help their children learn dependability, promptness, and accountability by being aware of practice and game schedule and other responsibilities.

Practice Schedule

Fall/Spring Sports

When bad weather prevents the teams from practicing outside, varsity teams will have priority. A decision will be made by 12 noon as to who will have practices and when they will be. Student-Athletes should always be prepared for indoor practice by having sneakers as well as cleats.

Saturday practice

The coach will use his/her discretion and the availability of the gym/fields.

Wednesday practice

Sports may or may not have Wednesday practices – this schedule will change weekly. All other teams may have Wednesday practices if there is a game on Thurs., or if practice is cancelled on another day of the week.

During school breaks

Practices will be scheduled during school breaks. Coaches should be notified if there is a family commitment that makes it impossible for the player to attend practice/games.

Sports Fees

Sports fees are collected to help cover the cost of officials for home games. All other expenses such as uniforms, equipment, transportation, use of facilities, coach's stipends, etc. are included in the general school budget. Fees are due before try-outs and returned in the event that a student does not make the team. Fees are non-refundable once the student has begun practicing with the team following try-outs.

See each year's Participation Agreement for fees.

Sports Physical

Students participating in sports must obtain a medical physical. In order to be following our civil authorities each candidate for a school athletic squad or team is to be examined within 365 days prior to the first practice session. Documentation must be made on the "New Jersey Department of Education Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form" Parts A, B, and Cardiac Release. A student that does not have a completed Athletic Pre-participation form shall not be permitted to participate. Calvary Academy has adopted this new form as of January 2012. Due dates for each physical are listed below – physical must be received prior to student participating in try outs, practices and or games.

In addition, if more than 60 days have elapsed since the physical examination, a Health History Update of medical problems experienced since the last medical exam is required before try-outs for any athletic team.

Fall sports:	Soccer/Volleyball	Aug. 15
Winter sports:	Basketball/Cheerleading	Nov. 1
Spring sports:	Softball/Track	Mar. 1
	Baseball/Bowling	Mar. 1

Drivers

Bus drivers for the Calvary Academy bus are required to have a current State of New Jersey commercial driver's license and comply with all NJ requirements to attain it, including appropriate fingerprinting and background checks. With assistance from our bus drivers, the bus undergoes routine safety inspections and is serviced regularly, and as needed.

Student drivers may only drive themselves to off-campus practices or home games. They may drive other student-athletes home with written permission from their parents as well as the passengers' parents. It is the students' responsibility to provide the written permission to the coach or athletic director. Students who fail to provide this may forfeit their driving privilege.

Uniform Policy

Students are responsible for their uniforms and any other equipment issued to them for use in a season. If a uniform or piece of equipment is lost or damaged due to negligence, a **replacement cost of \$75 per item** will be assessed. Report cards, transfer cards and/or 8th grade or 12th grade certificates will not be issued until uniforms are returned or a replacement fee paid. A replacement fee of \$75 per item will be issued if uniform is not returned.

The following items will be issued to the athlete at no charge and do not need to be turned in at the end of the season.

- Soccer socks – 1 pair
- Baseball/softball socks – 1 pair
- Baseball hat – 1
- Softball visor – 1

If additional items are needed, a fee will be charged.

Purpose of Middle School Athletics

The purpose of MS athletics is to develop players' skills and talents and to prepare them to play varsity sports. Since MS is for the development of the athlete, an emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals of the sport, so that when they leave MS they will be capable of performing the basic operations of the sport.

Cuts

MS cuts will be handled so that cuts are only made due to over-population, not based on skill. All cuts are made by the coach with the approval of the Athletic Department. Some student-athletes may be considered "alternates" on a team and should expect to practice in order to improve their skills, and should attend all games, but may not play in games.

Playing Time

Every MS athlete should play in every game; however, the amount of time played is at the discretion of the coach. Occasionally it is not possible to play every athlete in every game, if this occurs, the players who did not play, should be the first to be subbed in during the next game.

Purpose of Varsity Athletics

Varsity athletics is designed to present the opportunity for the schools' best athletes to compete and use their God given talents to glorify Him.

Cuts

Varsity cuts will be based upon the skill level and the work ethic of the athlete. All cuts are made by the coach with the approval of the Athletic Department.

Playing Time

The purpose of Varsity teams is to compete at the highest level possible, therefore not all players will receive playing time in every game and will be based upon what the coach believes is best for the team's success.

Sports Offered at Calvary Academy

Fall Sports

Girls' and Boys' Middle School Soccer
Girls' and Boys' Varsity Soccer
Girls' Volleyball

Winter Sports

Girls' and Boys' Middle School Basketball
Girls' and Boys' Varsity Basketball
Girls' Middle School Cheerleading
Girls' Varsity Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Girls' Middle School and Varsity Softball
Boys' Middle School and Varsity Baseball
Boy's and Girl's Track
Boy's and Girl's Golf
Boy's and Girls' Bowling