



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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PART 1: Philosophy and Affiliations

Philosophy

The purpose of athletics at FBT/FCS is to glorify God and honor His Son, Jesus Christ. Our goal will be to display and exhibit Christ-like attitudes while being competitive in the arena of athletics. Athletics is merely a tool to build Christian character. We would prefer to lose with dignity than win in a manner that would mar our testimony or dishonor our Lord.

I Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23, 24

Values are “the things that matter most.” Our primary value is to give glory to God and honor to Jesus Christ. Other values that will be stressed are

- Respect
- Discipline
- Excellence
- Self-control
- Determination
- Courage
- Dignity
- Fair play
- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Good attitude
- Physical strength, coordination, and conditioning

Affiliation

Florence Christian School athletic teams compete interscholastically under the guidelines and policies of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).

PART 2: Code of Conduct

Listed below are regulations imposed by SCISA. This does not, however, infer that FCS is limited to these regulations as we maintain and enforce our standards.

- Athletes and coaches shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanship manner, reflecting full and true credit to FCS.
- One would be in violation of the above statement upon one of the following.
 - Making a degrading remark about an official, coach, or athlete during or after a game either on or off the field, floor of play, or on/off the bench.
 - Protesting any decision or action of any official during or after a game.
 - Making any degrading remarks or criticism of any official, coach, or athlete to any new media.
 - Using foul, abusive, or profane language at any time.
 - Hitting, shoving, or striking any official, coach, or athlete at any time.
- In addition to conduct at athletic events, it is required during travel to/from events and at hotels during overnight trips.

Athletes

Athletes become leaders of the student body by default – for good or bad. As coaches and parents, we should be interested in teaching them to lead in a positive manner.

While all students are subject to the rules of the school, coaches should have a higher standard of conduct. In other words, when an athlete breaks a major school rule, there should be a penalty as an athlete as well. To fail to have a higher expectation will result in the wrong role models for the students in general.

If an athlete quits a team after the season begins, the athlete will not be allowed to play or practice with another team until the first team's season is completed.

Coaches

Coaches are leaders. In order to have unity, each coach must subscribe, without reservation, to this philosophy and model it at all times. Coaches are also teacher/trainers of this philosophy. Coaches will teach and model this philosophy by conducting several “sit-down” basic Bible study sessions and use “teachable moments” in practice and games.

Coaches should also look for opportunities to minister to the athletes. When a player violates team or school rules, this is a signal for ministry. Coaches should seek to understand the issue, help the athlete understand the moral or spiritual principle he or she has violated, and pray with the athlete.

Every practice should begin and/or end with prayer.

Fans

Our fans must also reflect our philosophy and values. Each team will have a pre-season meeting with parents to review this philosophy. When there are violations involving parents or players, the coach for that team will talk with the parent. Violations involving other fans will be addressed by the Athletic Director or member of the administration of FCS.

Hazing

FCS does not support hazing of its athletes in any form. The athletic department has a zero-tolerance policy for such actions, and any participation in these types of activities will result in immediate suspension and possible removal from the athletic program.

Officials

Officials are to be treated with respect at all times – before, during, and after the contest. There will be a “zero-tolerance” policy regarding disrespectful behavior toward officials. Adherence to this policy will be required of coaches, school administration, teachers, players, parents, and fans.

PART 3: ELIGIBILITY

Academics

Extra-curricular activities are a vital part of a young person's life. However, we believe at FCS that academics are more important. With the high academic standards we have, it is necessary for us to have an academic eligibility requirement for extra-curricular activities. These policies are based on the requirements set forth by the Athletic Committee of SCISA.

Academic eligibility is determined at the beginning of each school year and after each nine weeks grading period.

Final grades from the previous school year are used to determine eligibility for Fall sports. Student-athletes must have passed all courses and achieve a 2.0 GPA (70 average in Bible and SCISA core classes). According to SCISA, core courses are defined as follows:

“Those courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science (1), Fine Arts (1) and Foreign Language that are recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools” (SCISA Athletic Handbook Constitution, p. 8).

To remain academically eligible during the school year, student-athletes must pass all courses and maintain a 2.0 GPA (70 average in Bible and SCISA core classes) on each report card. Students who do not meet these requirements will be declared academically ineligible on the last day of the nine week's marking period.

NOTE: Ineligible student-athletes will not be allowed to try out for teams, practice, or participate in game day activities. Student-athletes who are ineligible at the beginning of a season will not be allowed to join the team after regaining eligibility if cuts were made during the team's try-out period.

Age

A student is not eligible for:

- Varsity sports if his/her 19th birthday is before July 1st of the current school year.
- Junior varsity sports if his/her 16th birthday is before July 1st of the current school year.
- B team sports if his/her 15th birthday is before July 1st of the current school year.
- Junior high sports if his/her 14th birthday is before July 1st of the current school year.

Eight Semester Rule

A student has eight consecutive semesters of eligibility from the time he/she enters the ninth grade – public or private school.

Enrollment

Student-athletes must be enrolled in FCS before participating in any pre-season workouts or practices. Current students must be re-enrolled for the next school year in order to be eligible for participation in spring football practice and cheerleading tryouts.

Transfers

- A student who transfers after having attended one class, filed the Agreement for Participation during the defined sports season, or practiced with a team on or after first official practice date at another school must wait sixty (60) days to become eligible.
 - This may be waived for a bono fide change in residence.
 - The move must be with the intent of being permanent.
 - The entire household must be moved into the new residence.
 - The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.
- The sixty day waiting period may be waived following a SCISA League/Committee review if all of the following conditions are met to

the satisfaction of the Committee at its sole and absolute discretion for a **non-member to member** transfer (Non-SCISA school to FCS):

- The student has completed a Transfer Form
- The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer;
- The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before
 - September 15th for fall sports
 - January 8th for winter sports (the end of the first semester).
- If approved, a transfer must participate in ten (10) days of practice before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.
- Second semester transfers are subjected to the Sixty Day Rule (*transfers after January 8th/end of the 1st semester*).
- A transfer must have attended classes for thirty days prior to the start of the play-offs to be eligible to participate in the play-offs.
- An academically eligible transfer student (*school year transfer as defined above*) must have been eligible to represent his/her former school under any school, student, or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to become eligible.

Required Forms

Before trying out for any FCS sport, the student-athlete must have the following SCISA forms on file in the FCS Athletic office. These forms may be found on the "Athletic Resources" page on the school's website.

- Agreement for Participation
- Pre-Participation History and Assessment
- Physical Examination
- Warning of Inherent Risk/Minor Waiver/Release
- Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form
- Football Warning: Helmet, Equipment, and Technique (Football Players)

PART 4: Financial Obligations

Athletic Fee

All students participating in athletics must pay a \$50.00 one-time fee. This fee will be used to assist with transportation costs, SCISA fees, awards and other miscellaneous fees that arise.

This fee must be paid prior to the first game of the season. Any child with an outstanding Athletic Fee will not be issued his/her game jersey.

Equipment

Certain activities require that students provide some of their own personal equipment and/or clothing. Each coach or sponsor will provide all potential participants with a list of required obligations. These obligations will include equipment, clothing, and time requirements. This information will be listed on the parent's permission form to be taken into consideration before permission is given.

Insurance

Every athlete must be covered by insurance before he/she can try out for an athletic team. The parent must provide the school with the company name and policy number of their insurance carrier.

PART 5: General Information

Academic Responsibilities

Athletes are responsible for all assignments that are due regardless of practice and/or game schedules. Athletics, like all extra-curricular activities, are undertaken without the compromise of academics in quality time schedules. All FCS teachers, however, will assist athletes by being familiar with game schedules and giving enough advanced notice of assignments. All athletes are required to attend school and complete all assignments the day following a game regardless of arrival time the night before.

Attendance

Student-athletes must attend at least half the school day (3 full classes) on the day of a practice/game if he/she to be eligible to participate. The administration may give permission to participate under unusual circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student to request permission from the athletic director.

Dress Code for Athletes

Athletes are allowed to wear practice clothing authorized by their coaches and uniforms provided by the school. However, the following rules apply:

- Shorts must be long enough that fingers do not touch the skin of the leg.
- Compression shorts can be worn underneath shorts but are not the standard for the length.
- Shorts should not fit too tightly.
- Sports bras can only be worn underneath clothing.

Sports attire should only be worn in the play areas. For example, athletes using the gym should not be in the halls or in any location other than the gym with practice/game attire. Also, athletes should never come to the gym or exit the gym dressed in practice/game attire during school dismissal time. Finally, male athletes should wear shirts at all times.

FCS Athletic Booster Club

The FCS Athletic Booster Club exists for the purpose of broadening the school athletic program and the involvement of students and their families. The booster club works to achieve the following through participation of parents, working closely with the school administration and athletic director:

- To support, promote, and maintain a high degree of Christian values and good sportsmanship in all athletic activities
- To support, promote, and maintain a high standard of spiritual priorities within the athletic program
- To promote and encourage better attendance to all sporting events by parents, students, friends, and faculty
- To raise funds to assist in the development of the athletic program
- To assist in holding down expenses of the athletic program by providing volunteer services which include supervision of parking lots, assisting with admission ticket sales and collection, working concession stands, and other club projects as may be established.

To join the FCS Booster Club, contact the school office. Membership can include season tickets to all home games.

Locker Room Regulations

All valuables should be locked away using the student lockers in the hallway.

The locker rooms are not a place for “horse” playing or anything other than team meetings or changing clothes. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times.

Locker rooms are to be cleaned by the team after each competition (home and away).

Physical Examinations

Every athlete must have a medical examination from a medical doctor before he/she will be allowed to try out for any team. This exam must be recorded on the form provided by SCISA which can be acquired from the school

office. The school will make an effort to arrange with a local doctor to examine our athletes at one time at a reduced rate. However, if arrangements cannot be made, it is the athlete's responsibility to get their exam. One exam per year is all that is required to play every sport for that school year.

Physical Trainers

McLeod Sports Medicine is under contract to provide physical trainers for most varsity athletic events and junior varsity football at all home games. The trainer will also visit the school once a week to check on injuries. McLeod also offers a free clinic on Saturday mornings during the school year for athletes who have been injured.

Practice Schedules

Each coach will provide parents and athletes with a tentative schedule at the beginning of the season. The coaching staff will be responsible for staying at the practice site for the duration of the given practice time and until all the athletes are gone. Parents need to make the effort to be sure that their child is picked up by the end of the practice.

Risk of Participation

By its nature, participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow proper guidelines for safe play and inspect their own equipment.

Transportation Policies

All members will travel with the team to events. All members will travel with the team from events unless one of his/her parents is present at the event and assumes full responsibility. The athletic department may give permission to travel home with an adult under special circumstances.

Trying Out for a Team

Dates of tryouts for each athletic team will be announced during school.

The following are required before a student may try out for FCS athletic teams.

- The student must meet the academic eligibility requirements (p. 5).
- The student must be enrolled in FCS. For spring tryouts/workouts (cheerleading, football, volleyball, etc.), current FCS students must be re-enrolled for the next school year.
- All required forms (Page 7) must be completed, signed, and submitted to the Athletic Director or coach.

Varsity Letter Requirements

Athletic letters are awarded to any participants of varsity sports. Each coach will determine the minimum participation/playing time required for lettering. Also, it is possible for support personnel (managers, statisticians, etc.) to earn letters which will be determined by the coach. It should be noted that just being on the team does not merit letter status.

Weight Room Regulations

Students are not allowed in the weight room without adult supervision. Each coach should provide weight room usage for their athletes and always supervise each workout session. Also, athletes should always workout in pairs and never alone.

PART 6: DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOLS

From Florence Christian

AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN – 313 Baston Road, Martinez, Ga.

Take I-20 West to Washington Road Exit. Turn right onto Washington Road, proceed on Washington Road and turn right onto Furys Ferry at red light (Warren Baptist Church is on the other side of the light.) Proceed on Furys Ferry and turn left onto Baston Rd. School is on the right.

BEAUFORT ACADEMY - Take I-95 south to exit 33 at Point South and follow Highway 17 North. At Gardens Corner take Highway 21 South to Beaufort. Go through downtown Beaufort over bridge to Lady's Island. Turn left at 2nd traffic light (Sam's Point Rd.) School is 2 miles on the right

BEN LIPPEN –7401 Monticello Road. Take I-20 to Columbia. Take exit 68 and turn right. Follow road 2 miles to the sign for Columbia International University. Turn left. Ben Lippen is 200 yds. on the left.

CALHOUN ACADEMY – 51 Academy Road, St. Matthews, SC 29135-Take I-95 to exit 98 (Santee, Highway 6 exit). Go right on Highway 6. Travel Highway 6 through Santee and Ellore (Be sure to obey all traffic laws!) and into St. Matthews (approx. 22 miles from exit.) Coming into St. Matthews, pass the city limit sign and turn left onto Richland Avenue. Go two blocks and turn left onto Butler Street. Calhoun Academy is located at the end of Butler Street.

CALVARY CHRISTIAN –4511 Dick Pond Road- Take 501 through Conway. Take a right on to highway 544. After crossing the Intercoastal Waterway, the school is a ¼ of a mile on the right. The sign says Calvary Bible Church and School.

CARDINAL NEWMAN - Take I-20 W toward Columbia. Take exit 76A onto Alpine Road. School in on the left at 2945 Alpine Road.

CARDINAL NEWMAN'S SOFTBALL FIELD - Take I-20 West to Columbia. Take the Alpine Rd exit and turn right. At first traffic light, turn right (Polo Rd.). Go about 1 1/2 miles, speed limit changes to 35; you'll pass a baseball field and some little league fields. The softball field is the uppermost field on the left (across from horse stables). If you pass St. John Church, you've gone too far.

CAROLINA ACADEMY – 351 N. Country Club Road, Lake City, SC 29560--Take U.S. 52 to Lake City. Turn right at the second traffic light in Lake City. Go 1 mile past warehouse and turn left at the Carolina Academy sign. The road goes straight to school.

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY-291 Ronald McNair Blvd.-Exit off Hwy. 501 onto Dick Scobbe Rd., turn left @ dead end(less than a mile) take the first left. The driveway for Christian Academy is (next to St. Mary's Church).

CLARENDON HALL –1140 S. Dukes St.-_From I-95 Southbound take Exit 108. Turn right onto Rd. #102. Continue past the Summerton Inn Motel. Turn right on the first paved road past the motel (Felton Rd.) Follow this road until a stop sign. Clarendon Hall is directly across the street.

CONWAY CHRISTIAN –1200 Medien Parkway- Take highway 501 into Conway. Go past Wal-Mart and turn left on to Medlen Parkway (beside the Pepsi Plant). The school is one mile on the left.

DILLON CHRISTIAN –3014 South Commerce Dr. Dillon, SC 29536- Take I-95 to Dillon. Take the Dillon Exit (Hwy. 9). Take Highway 9 towards Dillon. Go approximately ¼ of a mile and take a left onto Commerce Drive between the Huddle House and Shoneys. Dillon Christian School is located on the left at 1325 Commerce Drive.

DORCHESTER ACADEMY – 234 Academy Road-Take I-95 to Exit #77/St. George. Take Hwy. 78 through St. George (2 stop lights). Just before dual-lane ends, take left on Academy Rd. School is on the right.

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Take US-76/W. Palmetto toward US-52. Turn left on US-52. Take ramp right for SC-34/SC151 toward Hartsville. Turn left onto SC34/SC151/Pearl Street. Keep straight onto SC-151 E. Bobo Newsom Highway. Keep straight to stay on Bobo Newsom Hwy. Turn right onto US-15/S. 5th St. Keep right to stay on US-15N/S. Marquis Hwy. Arrive at 949 N. Marquis Hwy. Hartsville, SC. 843-332-2271.

FAYETTEVILLE CHRISTIAN – Take I-95 north to exit 40 (Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg). Business 301 – 7.2 miles and 4 stoplights will be Owen Drive-take a left. Landmarks – Cumberland County Auditorium, Hardees and Burger King will be on the right. Go down Owen Drive 2.3 miles and at the 5th light, Village Drive, make a left. Cape Fear Hospital, Bordeaux Shopping Center, and Burger King are the landmarks. Go down Village Drive to the 3rd stoplight (Ireland Drive) and make a right. Go through the next stoplight past Douglas Byrd Senior/Junior High School. Fayetteville Christian will be on the left at 1422 Ireland Drive.

HAMMOND SCHOOL –854 Galway Lane- Take I-20 to Columbia. Take I-77 South to Exit 9A (Garner Ferry/Leesburg Road/Sumter Exit). At the end of the exit ramp turn right at the stop sign onto Leesburg Road. At the traffic light, go straight across Garners Ferry Road onto Veterans Road. Dorn V.A. Hospital is on the right. The road will fork. Go right onto Byron Road. Turn right onto Wormwood Lane. The road curves to the left and becomes Galway Lane. Meadowfield Elementary School is on your right. Continue straight down Galway Lane and you will enter the school property when the road dead ends. The traffic pattern turns to the right through the gates.

HEATHWOOD HALL –3000 South Beltline- From Florence, take I-20 to Interstate 77 in Columbia. Exit onto Interstate 77 going towards Charleston. Take Exit 5 (Bluff Road Exit) and make a right. A short distance (50-100 yards) you will make a left at the first traffic light (you should see a sign for Heathwood Hall). This is their private road. Travel approximately one mile—go through the gates and bear left to go to the gym.

JAMES ISLAND CHRISTIAN – Take I-95 South. Exit onto I-26 East to Charleston. Take US 17 South. Follow US 17 South and at the Taco Bell on US 17 there is a fork you must stay right to turn onto Lockwood Blvd. Turn left onto Lockwood Blvd and follow signs to James Island/Folly Beach. Turn left onto Folly Rd. Turn left onto Ft. Johnson Rd. The soccer club is on the right. (Play on ANNEX field.)

THE KING’S ACADEMY – Located at 1015 S. Ebenezer Rd. in Florence.

LAURENCE MANNING -1154 Academy Dr., Manning, SC 29102-- Take I-95 to the second Manning entrance (the Ford dealership will be on the left).

Turn left back over the bridge after exiting off I-95. Turn left just past the truck stop onto the frontage road. Follow the frontage road past the Ford dealership to the end. Turn right at the stop sign. The school is about 1/2 mile on the left.

MARLBORO ACADEMY -1035 Bennettsville Fire Tower Road, Bennettsville, SC 29512-- Take I-95 to exit 181 (Hwy. 38). Follow to Bennettsville. Take a right at first light (McDonalds will be on the right). This will be the 15/401 by-pass. Go 10 miles to Tatum Community. Turn left at the railroad. Post Office will be on right (Firetower Rd.). School is 3-4 miles on the left.

OAKBROOK PREP- 190 Lincoln School Road **FROM GREENVILLE:** Follow business 85 north to Exit #66, Highway 29. Proceed north (toward Spartanburg) on Highway 29 for approximately 4 miles. Turn left at North Blackstock Road beside Ingles. (If you pass Hobby Lobby you have gone too far.) Go eight tenths of a mile and bear left at the Y intersection, Old Blackstock Road. Go to the second left, Lincoln School Road. Turn left and drive to the end of the road. Enter school property through the stone pillars. The main entrance is on the right under the portico

ORANGEBURG PREP -168 Prep St.NE, Orangeburg, SC 29118 or 2651 North Road, NW, Orangeburg, SC 29118-- Take I-95 south to exit 97 (Hwy 301) to Orangeburg. In Orangeburg turn right (Hwy 178). Lowe's will be on the left. Go about 1-2 miles past K-Mart and the school will be on the left.

PEE DEE ACADEMY -2903 E. Hwy 76, Mullins, SC 29574-- Take U.S. 76 to Marion. Go through Marion towards Mullins. The school will be on the right before arriving in Mullins. The school is adjacent to Marion County Medical Center.

PINEWOOD PREP – Take I-95 South to I-26 East toward Charleston. Get off at exit 194 (Jedburg-Pinnapolis Exit). Go right into small town of Jedburg. Go through the caution light and you will go over railroad tracks. Go 2 miles and there will be a fork in the road. Take the left hand fork (Orangeburg Road). Go one mile and school will be on the left. Approximately 6-7 minutes from the interstate.

RICHMOND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – Take Hwy. 52 to Bennettsville. In Bennettsville take Hwy. 38 to Hamlet. Highway 38 ends at Hwy 74. At the stoplight at Hwy.74 take a left. Stay on Hwy. 74 to the next stoplight. Go

straight onto Spring Street; continue through the residential area and through one stoplight. When you get to the caution light, take a right onto Wiregrass Road. Take Wiregrass Road to Washington Street. Take a left on Washington Street and go approximately three city blocks and the school will be on the right.

ROBERT E. LEE -630 Cousar St. Bishopville, SC 29010--Take I-20 to the 1st Bishopville exit. Go toward Bishopville. Turn right across from a softball field on the left (just before getting to Bishopville). The school will be about 1/2 mile ahead.

SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN- 8740 Asheville Hwy., Spartanburg, SC 29316

SUMTER COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER (Tournaments) – Take highway 76 to Sumter. Highway 76 turns into Liberty Street. Stay on Liberty Street and go through Sumter (older town section). The Exhibition Center will be on the left.

THOMAS SUMTER -5265 Camden Hwy., Rembert, SC 29128--Take I-20 west to Exit #116 (Hwy. 15). Go south toward Sumter for about 2 miles to Hwy. 441. Turn right on Hwy. 441. Go about 10 miles to a stop sign. The school will be on the right.

TRINITY-BYRNES COLLEGIATE SCHOOL-Located at 5001 Hoffmeyer Road, Darlington.

WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY -1000 Sandy Bay Road, Kingstree, SC 29556-- Take Hwy. 52 to Kingstree. At the 1st stop light in Kingstree turn right onto Sandy Bay Rd. The school will be 1/4 mile on the right.

WILSON HALL -520 Wilson Hall Rd., Sumter, SC 29150-- Take Hwy 76 through Timmons ville to Sumter. Turn right onto Hwy. 378 when approaching Sumter heading towards Shaw AFB. Turn left at the Boyle-Oldsmobile Cadillac dealership (Wilson Rd. w/ Wilson Hall sign). The school will be 2 miles ahead.

Updated: July 2016