

ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Fisher Catholic High School believes that participation in athletics, both as a player and as a spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege, not a right, that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the team, the student body, the community, and the individual student athlete.

We believe that if you are to participate in a sport, and be great, it takes a total commitment from each individual. Our goal is to provide our student athletes the opportunity to be successful in every sport, develop their strength and skills more each year, and if they so choose, to play in collegiate athletics.

Interscholastic athletics are considered a supplement to the school's religious and academic programs, which strive to provide experiences that will help to develop the participant physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. Students participating in the interscholastic program are at a prime age to learn Christian values and good sportsmanship, to experience the meaning of competition, to build character, and to develop personal qualities, which will enable them to become great people after their playing days have passed.

ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

Fisher Catholic High School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and competitively competes in the Cardinal Division of the Mid-State League (MSL). As a member of these two organizations, Fisher Catholic voluntarily agrees to abide by rules and regulations published in their official documents.

The following regulations apply to all team members, cheerleaders, student-managers, student-trainers, and auxiliary assistants such as statisticians. Participation in athletics is a privilege that should not be taken lightly.

I. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Before any student may participate in interscholastic programs they must fulfill the following requirements:

- A.** All potential athletes must have an approved and signed physical examination form on file with the athletic administration BEFORE participating in try-outs (OHSAA requirement). Physical forms must be filed annually. The original physical examination forms will be filed with the school nurse.
- B.** All individuals affiliated with a team must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form on file with the Athletic Department. This form will be given to the appropriate coach(es) that will have it accessible throughout the season.

II. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All athletes are students first. Athletes are expected to abide by the standards set forth in the School Handbook presented to them at the beginning of the school year and all Fisher Catholic policies that apply to students. Violation of the student conduct code is also a violation of the athletic regulations. Consequences may include denial of participation privileges. All school administrative disciplinary actions take precedence over athletics, this may include denial of the privilege of participation for a stated period of time. (For example: a student serving an out-of-school suspension is also denied the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities.) The principal, at his discretion, may also deny participation privileges for repeated school violations.

OHSAA Regulations On Non-School Teams

You may not try out, practice or participate in a contest with a non-school team while a member of a school team in the same sport.

- In individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling, however, you may practice and try out for a non-school team but may not compete in a contest.

Those in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball may try out, practice and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season provided:

1. The number of students from the same school on the roster of the non-school team is limited to five (5) students in the sports of soccer, field hockey and ice hockey; four (4) students in the sports of baseball and softball; three (3) students in the sport of volleyball, and two (2) students in the sport of basketball. School football team members are prohibited from competing on non-school teams except from June 1 to July 31. **Note:** Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport season. In addition, there is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-school team from June 1 to July 31.
2. You have no contact with school coaches while on a non-school team other than the 10 days permitted between June 1 and July 31.
 - You may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the school season for violating these during the school season.
 - You may be declared ineligible for the next season for violating these rules outside the school season.
 - A senior may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the school year for violating these rules.

FISHER CATHOLIC ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. The academic performance of student-athletes will be monitored and assessed every week during the season of participation. The grades at the end of the academic quarter will be utilized to determine the student's academic eligibility for the next quarter.
2. A student who is below 65 in two or more courses will be ineligible for the next week. The term of ineligibility will typically begin on Tuesday and it will end on the following Monday. Eligibility reports are due every Monday throughout each season of participation – fall, winter, and spring. The administration reserves the authority to adjust the period for eligibility/ineligibility.
3. Academic ineligibility means that a student athlete is NOT allowed to participate in athletic contests.
 - (A.) A student who is ineligible for a week in a single season is NOT allowed to practice with the team, and NOT eligible to play in the official contests. The student will be allowed to be at practice and allowed to travel with the team.
 - (B.) A student who is ineligible for the third time in a single season is removed from the team. Student-athletes in this category can regain their eligibility for the next season based on the most recent quarterly report card.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student must be in school by 7:55 a.m. following the day of competition and attend a minimum of four academic classes in order to be eligible to participate in the next contest. For contests played on Friday or Saturday, failure to be here by 7:55 a.m., unless a student brings in a doctor's note that day, results in suspension from practice/game that day. Delays due to buses, weather, etc. will be handled individually.

Exceptions to this rule will only be based on doctor's appointments or extreme circumstance, and the student athlete must obtain permission from the Athletic Director and Principal.

An athlete who is suspended (in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension) from school is also suspended from participation in practices and games for the given period. School suspensions can result in dismissal from a team.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

A. If school at Fisher Catholic is canceled due to poor weather, there will be no games or practice unless notified by the Athletic Director or Principal.

HAZING

Please refer to Fisher Catholic student handbook.

TRY OUTS FOR AND QUITTING OF TEAMS

A. Try Outs

Individuals may try out for a team prior to the sport having its first official contest. (An interscholastic scrimmage is an official contest.) Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances such as, but not limited to: gaining academic eligibility, new residents of the district, students that register late in the summer, and athletes cut from another team during the same sports season.

Coaches will give a guideline for the try out to both the students and the parents no later than 2 weeks prior to the try out. Guidelines will also be posted on the school website. The coach will notify students no more than 5 days after the try out completion. Any athlete cut from the team will receive a hard copy of reasons why he or she was cut and given a list of skills to work on, if they so choose to try out the following year.

B. Quitting

Athletes who quit a team or are dismissed from a team after the first official contest (including scrimmages) may not try out for another sport or participate in any organized conditioning programs in the same sports season until the team is no longer represented in competition unless the head coach of the sport and the athletic director grant a release.

EARNING A VARSITY LETTER

General Policies

1. Varsity athletes who remain as members of the team in good standing throughout the full season are eligible to earn a varsity letter, subject to the provisions below.
2. Senior athletes who have participated in a given program (varsity or junior varsity) for at least three years shall receive a varsity letter.
3. Injured athletes who meet the “playing time” criteria for the contests held up to the time of the injury may receive a letter.

4. A student-trainer will receive a letter after his/her second season of service. This will be done under the direction of the Faculty Trainer and the Athletic Director
5. Managers who have held the position for at least two seasons in the same sport may earn a letter. Only those who, in the judgment of the coach, have made a significant commitment of time and effort shall be awarded the letter.
6. Any student involved in the athletic program who does not receive a letter will receive a certificate of participation.
7. In cases of extenuating circumstances, exceptions to the standards listed below are permitted with the approval of the coach and the athletic director.

PLAYING TIME CRITERIA FOR EACH SPORT (regular season events)

- a. Softball: participate in 50% of games played
- b. Baseball: 50% of innings played
- c. Basketball & Football: participate in 50% of quarters played
- d.
- e. Cross Country: Must earn a minimum of 100 points
- f. Golf: participate in 50% of team matches played
- g. Soccer: participate in 50% of halves played
- h. Swimming & Diving:
 - i. compete in 60% of the team's meets AND
 1. score in the league meet OR
 2. meet the qualifying standards for regional competition set by the OHSAA
- i. Tennis: participate in #1-3 flite singles or #1-2 flite doubles for at least 50% of the matches played
- j. Track & Field:
 - i. score at least 15 points during the season in competition against opponents
 - ii. score in the league meet OR
 - iii. place in any event in the district meet
- k. Volleyball: participate in 50% of the games played
- l. Cheerleading: varsity members must cheer in at least 85% of the games and attend 85% of the practices during the combined fall and winter seasons in a single academic year

The head coach has the option to use his/her discretion on handing out a varsity letter to those athletes who are slightly under the needed number of quarters to letter. Their decision will be based on, but not limited to, the athlete's positive attitude, work ethic, and dedication to the sport.

VIII. EQUIPMENT

Failure to return issued equipment or failure to pay for damaged or lost equipment will result in fees being added to tuition account and failure to participate in any extra-curricular activity until fees are paid or equipment is returned.

Some teams require the athletes to purchase uniform supplies such as hats, socks, or personalized jerseys. Athletes are expected to pay for such items prior to their being issued. Participation privileges may be denied until uniform supplies are paid for. (Athletes with a financial hardship should contact the athletic director.)

TRANSPORTATION

A. Fisher Catholic Athletic teams will travel to contests in one of two ways:

1. Teams will travel on a bus to and from the contest.
2. Teams will travel with students being driven by coaches and parents/guardians to and from the contest.

B. Exceptions:

1. The Athletic Department understands that some extenuating circumstances do occur. In that event, athletes must receive approval from the coach and the coach needs written notification from the parent(s) or guardian(s), in advance of contests, of a transportation change.
2. Under special circumstances and with prior approval from the Athletic Director and Principal, a student may be granted permission to drive to and from the contest with written consent from the parent or guardian. However, they will not be permitted to transport other students with them. In this case, students will follow the team bus or caravan to the contest taking the preferred route of the coach.
3. Under certain circumstances and with prior approval from the coach, an athlete may return home with his/her parents.
4. We recognize many of our students carpool to and from school on a regular basis. This is considered a special circumstance, and may allow a student to transport another student(s), with written consent from the parent or guardian of both the driver(s) and rider(s).

INDIVIDUAL SPORT REGULATIONS

Each head coach has the authority to provide athletes with additional regulations and possible consequences for violations. Coach's disciplinary actions may include denying the privilege of participation for periods of time. Such rules will be presented in writing to the athlete and athletic director. Appeals of disciplinary actions taken by the coach may be made by the athlete to the athletic director.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

The athlete will be informed of violations by the coach and/or athletic administrator. In situations where removal from an athletic team are part of the consequences, student-athletes and their parents may appeal the ruling to the principal within five days of the notification of the ruling.