

GO VICTORY NATION



ATHLETIC **HANDBOOK**
2023-2024



Student-Athlete Handbook Victory Christian School

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Introduction

The Victory Christian Athletics Handbook is a reference guide for coaches, student-athletes, and parents concerning the policies that govern interscholastic athletics at Victory Christian School.

The coach of an athletic team reports to the Athletic Director and is primarily responsible for the compliance of his/her team members to the rules, regulations, and policies governing athletics at Victory Christian School. The Athletic Director will administer these rules and regulations as they relate to inter-team and inter-coach relationships.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program. Students are not obligated to participate, and participation is not required for graduation. Thus, competition in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Accompanying this privilege is the responsibility to conform to established rules for the school athletic program. This privilege may be revoked if the athlete fails or refuses to comply with the rules.

It should be carefully noted that the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook are reflective of the policies of the Victory Christian School administration and of Victory Baptist Church.

Thank you for your participation in our athletic program. May God bless you as you use your God-given athletic abilities and desire to serve Him in this integral part of school life.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of the Victory Christian School Athletic Department is to **glorify God** through the **discipleship of student athletes** and **the pursuit of excellence in athletics** with the Bible as the foundation and Jesus Christ as our focus.

Athletic Theme Verse

Colossians 3:17 – “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Affiliation

VCS is affiliated with the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS) and the American Association of Christian Schools (AACS).

All athletic contests are operated under the rules and regulations governing that sport by the National Federation of High School Athletics (NFHS).

All officials used in home games are currently certified under NFHS.

Athletic programs at VCS are open to all qualifying eligible students; teams, however, are gender specific.

Part-time students attending VCS for one or more classes may also participate according to SCACS rules.

Programs Offered

- Volleyball
 - Girls volleyball is currently available for students grades 7-12 only.
 - Boys volleyball is currently available for students grades 7-12 only.
- Basketball
 - There may be as many as (3) different SCACS-affiliated basketball programs:
 - Junior Varsity Boys (Grades 7-10)
 - Varsity Girls (Grades 7-12)
 - Varsity Boys (Grades 7-12)
- Cheerleading
 - There may be as many as (2) cheerleading squads in a given year. They include:
 - Elementary Cheer (Grades K5-6)
 - Varsity Cheer (Grades 7-12)
- Baseball
 - Boys Baseball is currently available for students grades 7-12 only.
- Golf
 - Golf is currently available for students grades 7-12 only. Golf is the only co-ed sport recognized in SCACS.
- Pee-Wee Basketball
 - Pee-Wee Basketball is currently available for boys and girls in grades 3-6.

Athletic Eligibility

Participation in athletics is a reward for academic success. Participation in VCS Athletics is only available for students maintaining a passing average with no more than (1) failing class (excluding Bible).

If a student should fall below this average, they are ineligible until that average is achieved.

Because of the testimony of the VCS Athletic Department, a player failing to keep a godly testimony may be removed from the team at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

Athlete Fees

All athletes are required to pay the Sports Fee of \$150 per sport (Cheerleading fee may be more). This covers the costs of transportation, field rentals, gas, referees, uniforms, etc.

Awards

At the end of each year's athletic calendar, the VCS Athletic Department will host an Awards Banquet where athletes may receive a variety of different awards voted on by the coaches.

Equipment / Uniform Care

Any damage to facilities or equipment should be reported to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

All fields, equipment, locker rooms, and uniforms should be handled with utmost respect. All directions and instructions will be obeyed.

Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose.

When the season is over, all equipment and uniforms are to be cleaned and returned to the Athletic Director who will keep an inventory of all items issued to the teams.

The parent is responsible for the dollar replacement cost of any lost or damaged school issued equipment or uniforms.

Guidelines for Away Trips

- **Conduct**
 - The Athletic Director, in conjunction with the administration, reserves the right to interpret, enact, or change any written rule as he/she sees fit.
 - All athletes are representatives first of Jesus Christ, second of their parents, and third of VCS and the athletic program. This responsibility should not be taken lightly.
 - Athletes are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times – on and off the field.
 - While the coach is the final authority on away trips, the driver of the bus or cars has the responsibility to transport the athletes safely. It is imperative that their requests be followed.
- **Dress**
 - Our athletes represent our school, so we want them to dress appropriately and within school guidelines on all away trips. Dress on away trips will be dictated by the coach. Guidelines will be given by the coach the day before the trip and will be followed by anyone going with the team.
- **Transportation**
 - All team members are expected to ride with the team to and from contests when transportation is provided. The mode of transportation will be either in a VCS bus, rented bus, or coaches' vehicle.
 - Students may be released to their parents after an away contest with verbal or written consent to the coach. Students may be released to another adult only with verbal or written consent from that students' parents.
 - At no time should students ride with other students.
 - Coaches are responsible to stay with student athletes returning from off campus events at night until all students have been picked up. Likewise, a coach must remain at an away event until all students have been picked up.
 - Buses and vans are to be kept clean at all times. It is the responsibility of each athlete to keep our transportation clean.
 - The coaching staff will do their best to be accurate and timely when informing parents on the time we will return back to the school; in all fairness, please have someone ready at the school at that time.

Locker Room Conduct

All locker rooms are to be left clean after every practice and home game. **Guys and girls should never be in any locker room at the same time.**

All personal items are the responsibility of the individual athlete. Valuables should be kept and put away by athletes. VCS is not responsible for your belongings.

Any athlete involved in intentionally damaging a home or away locker room will pay for any and all repairs and receive suspending punishment determined by the coach.

Practice

Practice is vital for success in any area of a person's life; that said, attendance and participation is mandatory.

Any questions about practice can be directed to the school office or the Athletic Director.

All athletes are expected to be at every practice. Please contact the coach before any expected missed practice. Unexcused practices will be punished at the discretion of the coach.

School Attendance

All athletes must have a good attendance record (including tardiness). Any player regularly missing or tardy from school will be punished under the discretion of the coach and / or Athletic Director.

If an athlete is too sick to come to school, they are too sick to participate in a sporting event.

Any athlete who misses school the day after a game will be punished under the discretion of the coach and / or Athletic Director.

Students are required to make up any missed work that was missed due to a sporting event.

Selection of Teams

Cutting any young person from a team can be critical to that person's self-esteem. Before an athlete is cut, the decision is thoroughly discussed with the coaches involved. They will strive to make the best decision they can with the wisdom God has granted them. Above all, remember that the athletic department at VCS wants what is best for every young person.

Our Parents

Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and encourage coaches and teammates at all times. Parents are not coaches and learning to trust coaches is a key step to learning the value of the life lesson experiences athletics provides. It is also important that parents honor the Lord when attending athletic events.

- The parental code centers on four areas:
 - Let the coaches coach your athlete. Refrain from shouting advice during the game (i.e., "coaching" your athlete from the stands). This can be confusing and frustrating for the athlete.
 - Be an exemplary role model by supporting all members of the team.
 - Support coaches and their decisions about playing time. Playing time is strictly the decision of the coach. If your athlete has a concern about playing time, they are encouraged to speak to the coach.
 - Model good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive behavior at all times towards officials, opposing players, fans, and coaches.

Playing Time Policy

While it is true that our coaches and administrative personnel believe it to be important to broaden the experience of VCS athletes, and that broadening is enhanced by playing time, it is also an important goal of the VCS athletic program to strive towards excellence. Therefore, no minimum per game playing time provisions or minimum numbers of athletic meets in which athletes must compete are established at any level. Playing time decisions are left up to the individual coaches.

Coaches

The coach is the “living curriculum” for the student athlete. Coaches at VCS are the most significant components of the Athletic Program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. They always have responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes.

In order to be an effective coach and role model, VCS coaches must also be thoroughly knowledgeable of their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, able to make adjustments during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the Athletic Director and school administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they have to mold young lives for Christ.

Christian Winner's Creed

I believe that a true winner always does his best; never to the glory of self, but always to the glory of God. With the Lord's help, I will strive to be a true winner today.

This handbook was written in accordance with guidelines and policies laid out by Victory Baptist Church and Victory Christian School. Therefore, all rules and guidelines given by these two institutions must be followed.



The purpose of the athletic program at Victory Christian School is to provide students a setting to glorify God through the development and exercise of personal character, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and athletic ability. Student athletes are encouraged to do their best and to learn the vital life skill of being a team player. In victory or defeat, students are taught to demonstrate both grace and dignity.

A quality, Christ-honoring athletics program at a Christian school generates so much positive momentum for the school and community if it is done right. At VCS, we want to do more than just train winners in the scholastic competition. We want the student-athletes' athletic experience to be so powerful and life-changing that they go on to make a difference in society. We want our programs to produce young men and women of character, courageous and competitive, who understand the importance of work, service, and relationships. We want our programs to continue their rich tradition of success and be a collaborative partner with our school - striving for excellence in the classroom, the arts, and all other endeavors with an enduring foundation in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The energy and effort to fulfill this vision glorifies God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Isaac Burr'.

VCS Athletic Director



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A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

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