

VIKING

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2026-2027



ETERNALLY FOCUSED.
EXCELLENCE DRIVEN.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

JUSTIN NEWTON

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VIKING ATHLETICS

- Christlike Character
- Excellence in Competition
- Servant Leadership
- Academic Excellence

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

Victory Christian School | 2026-2027

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ATHLETICS PURPOSE

Victory Christian School athletics exists 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.

ETERNALLY FOCUSED. EXCELLENCE DRIVEN.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

JUSTIN NEWTON | VCS ALUMNUS



JUSTIN NEWTON

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR | VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A Victory Christian School alumnus, Justin Newton returns home to lead Viking Athletics after more than 15 years in the college ranks. His coaching career includes head-coaching stops at Motlow State, Reinhardt University, and Andrew College, along with assistant coaching experience at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Lee University, Columbus State University, and South Georgia State.

Newton has accumulated more than 150 wins as a head coach. At Reinhardt University, he led the Eagles to the 2021 AAC Regular Season Championship. At Andrew College, he led the Tigers to a record-breaking 24-8 season and a regular-season championship. In his first season at Motlow State, the program won 17 games - more than double the previous season total.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT VISION

Eternally Focused. Excellence Driven. Viking Athletics will pursue excellence while developing Christlike character, strong relationships, academic responsibility, and servant leadership.

PASTOR

CT TOWNSEND | LEAD PASTOR, VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH



PASTOR CT TOWNSEND

LEAD PASTOR | VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

CT Townsend serves as lead pastor of Victory Baptist Church in North Augusta. He is also an evangelist, author, singer, songwriter, and founder of CT Townsend Evangelistic Ministries.

Pastor CT became pastor of Victory Baptist Church in 2019. His ministry is centered on reaching people with the Gospel and investing in the next generation. He also founded the Arise Youth Conference, which ministers to thousands of teens and young adults.

A STRONG CHURCH. A STRONG SCHOOL.

Victory Christian School is a ministry of Victory Baptist Church. Pastor CT and the church family are committed supporters of VCS and its mission to provide students an exceptional education built on a strong Biblical foundation.

PRINCIPAL

CYNTHIA SMITH | VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



CYNTHIA SMITH

PRINCIPAL | VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A Victory Christian School alumna and former classroom teacher, Cynthia Smith serves as principal with a commitment to academic excellence, uncompromising integrity, and Biblical education.

After graduating at the top of her class from VCS, she continued her education at the University of South Carolina Aiken and Victory Baptist Bible College. She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education, teaching certifications through NCCSA and SCACS, and an M.Ed. in Higher Education: Educational Leadership from Liberty University.

EDUCATING WITH PURPOSE

Ms. Smith's educational philosophy emphasizes collaboration among teachers, staff, students, and families so that every student can grow academically and spiritually and reach his or her God-given potential.

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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 team members with the rules, regulations, and policies governing athletics at Victory Christian School. The Athletic Director administers these rules and regulations as they relate to teams, coaches, student-athletes, and families.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program. Participation is a privilege and carries the responsibility to conform to established school and athletic-program standards. This privilege may be limited or revoked when an athlete fails or refuses to comply with those standards.

Mission Statement

The mission 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 Department Vision

Eternally Focused. Excellence Driven. We seek to develop young men and women of Christlike character who compete with courage, discipline, humility, and excellence.

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."

PROGRAMS OFFERED

VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS | 2026-2027

VOLLEYBALL

Girls and boys volleyball - Grades 6-12

FOOTBALL

Football - Grades 5-8

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country - Grades 6-12

BASKETBALL

Basketball - Grades 6-12

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading - Grades 6-12

BASEBALL

Baseball - Grades 6-12

SOFTBALL

Softball - Grades 6-12

GOLF

Golf - Grades 6-12

PEE-WEE BASKETBALL

Boys and girls - Grades K5-5

PEE-WEE SOCCER

Boys and girls - Grades K5-5

PEE-WEE CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading - Grades 1-5

REQUIRED PAPERWORK & FORMS

STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The following items are required for participation in Victory Christian School Athletics:



PRIMARY INSURANCE COVERAGE

Student-athletes must have primary insurance coverage on file.



UPDATED SPORTS PHYSICAL

A current sports physical must be completed and submitted.



SCACS LIABILITY FORM

The required SCACS liability form must be completed and on file.



SPORT-SPECIFIC FIELD TRIP FORM

A sport-specific field trip form is required for away trips.

BEFORE PARTICIPATION

All required documents should be submitted and approved before a student-athlete participates in practices, contests, or team travel, as applicable.

ELIGIBILITY, FEES & EQUIPMENT

Athletic Eligibility

Participation in athletics is a reward for academic success. Under the existing VCS handbook standard, athletics is available to students maintaining a passing average with no more than one failing class (excluding Bible). A student who falls below this standard is ineligible until the required average is achieved. A student-athlete who fails to maintain a godly testimony may be removed from the team at the discretion of the Athletic Director in consultation with school administration.

Athlete Fees

The handbook sports fee is \$150 per sport; cheerleading fees may be higher. Fees help offset transportation, facilities, officials, uniforms, and other program expenses. Any sport-specific or updated fee information communicated by the school supersedes this handbook amount.

Awards

At the conclusion of the athletic year, the VCS Athletic Department may host an awards program where student-athletes receive team and department recognition selected by coaches and school leadership.

Equipment / Uniform Care

All facilities, equipment, locker rooms, and uniforms are to be treated with respect. Student-athletes are responsible for equipment issued to them. School-issued uniforms and equipment are for athletic participation and must be cleaned and returned as directed at the end of the season. Parents are responsible for the replacement cost of lost or damaged school-issued equipment or uniforms. Damage should be reported promptly to the Athletic Director.

GUIDELINES FOR AWAY TRIPS

Conduct

- Student-athletes represent Jesus Christ, their families, Victory Christian School, and Viking Athletics.
- Athletes are expected to conduct themselves with Christlike character and appropriate sportsmanship at all times.
- The coach is the final team authority on away trips. Drivers are responsible for safe transportation, and their instructions must be followed.
- The Athletic Director, in conjunction with school administration, reserves the right to interpret and administer athletic rules and policies.

Dress

Athletes represent VCS while traveling. Dress for away trips will be established by the coach and must remain within school guidelines.

Transportation

- Team members are expected to travel with the team to and from contests when school transportation is provided.
- Students may be released to their parents after an away contest with verbal or written consent to the coach. Release to another adult requires parent consent.
- Students may not ride with other students as transportation to or from athletic contests.
- Coaches remain responsible for student-athletes returning from off-campus events until all students have been picked up.
- Buses and vans must be kept clean. Athletes share responsibility for leaving transportation in good condition.
- Parents should make every effort to be available at the communicated return time.

DAILY ATHLETIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Locker Room Conduct

Locker rooms must be left clean after practices and home games. Boys and girls should never occupy the same locker room at the same time. Personal belongings remain the responsibility of the student-athlete. Intentional damage to any home or away locker room may result in financial responsibility and disciplinary consequences determined by the coach, Athletic Director, and/or administration.

Practice

Practice is vital to individual and team success. Attendance and participation are expected. Student-athletes should communicate with the coach before any anticipated absence. Unexcused absences may result in consequences at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director.

School Attendance

Student-athletes must maintain a good attendance record, including punctuality. If an athlete is too sick to attend school, the athlete should not participate in a sporting event that day. Students are responsible for making up academic work missed because of athletic travel or competition. Attendance-related athletic consequences may be determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director in accordance with school policy.

TEAMS, PARENTS & PLAYING TIME

Selection of Teams

Team selection decisions are made carefully by the coaching staff with the best interests of the program and student-athletes in mind. Coaches will evaluate skill, effort, attitude, coachability, team needs, safety, and other sport-specific factors. When cuts are necessary, coaches will strive to communicate decisions respectfully and with appropriate care.

Parent Expectations

- **Christlike Character:** Honor the Lord in words, conduct, and interactions at athletic events.
- **Support, do not distract:** Encourage your athlete and the team without coaching from the stands.
- **Think team-first:** Support all members of the program, not only the interests of one athlete.
- **Stay in your lane:** Allow coaches to coach, officials to officiate, and athletes to compete.
- **Do not use athletics as punishment:** Communicate directly with coaches when family circumstances affect participation.
- **Model sportsmanship:** Demonstrate respect toward officials, opponents, fans, athletes, and coaches.

Playing Time Policy

VCS believes participation can broaden the student-athlete experience, but the athletic program also strives for excellence. No minimum per-game playing time or minimum number of contests is guaranteed at any level. Playing-time decisions are the responsibility of the coaching staff. Athletes with questions about their role are encouraged to speak directly and respectfully with their coach.

COACHES

The coach is the “living curriculum” for the student-athlete. VCS coaches are teachers, leaders, and active participants who carry a significant responsibility to model Christlike behavior and attitudes.

COACHING EXPECTATIONS

- **Christlike Character** - model faith, humility, integrity, self-control, and service.
- **Demanding without being demeaning** - maintain high standards while preserving the dignity of every student-athlete.
- **Respectful** - treat athletes, parents, fans, opponents, and officials with respect.
- **High clarity = High performance** - communicate expectations, roles, schedules, standards, and feedback clearly.
- **Do the work** - prepare thoroughly, teach the sport well, develop athletes, and continually improve the program.

Coaches are expected to be knowledgeable in their sport, detailed in preparation, capable of motivating and teaching athletes, able to make adjustments during competition, and willing to work effectively under the authority of the Athletic Director and school administration.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

Being a Viking student-athlete is a privilege. Our athletes are expected to pursue excellence while representing Christ, their families, their teammates, and Victory Christian School.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

- **Christlike Character** - compete with integrity, humility, discipline, and respect.
- **Commitment** - be dependable, attend practices and contests, communicate, and put the team before self.
- **Maximum Effort** - bring consistent energy, preparation, toughness, and effort.
- **Pursue Academic Excellence** - take classroom responsibilities seriously and remain eligible to compete.
- **Be a Great Teammate** - encourage others, accept coaching, celebrate team success, and respond well to adversity.

OUR STANDARD

We want Viking athletes to be known not only for how well they compete, but for who they are becoming through competition. Winning matters, preparation matters, and excellence matters - but they are pursued within a greater purpose.

ETERNALLY FOCUSED. EXCELLENCE DRIVEN.

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."

VIKING ATHLETICS VISION

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.

We want the student-athlete experience to be powerful and life-changing. Our goal is to produce young men and women of character who are courageous and competitive, who understand the importance of work, service, and relationships, and who pursue excellence with an enduring foundation in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Justin Newton

Athletic Director

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Victory Christian School

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