

ICA

LOGANVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

STUDENT

ATHLETICS  
HANDBOOK

*2023-2024*





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### **Athletic Purpose Statement**

The Loganville Christian Academy Athletic Department endeavors to use athletic competition to train young people in how to more faithfully reflect their Creator.

### **Athletic Philosophy**

LCA athletics desires to create the best athletic experience possible for each young person while providing a culture defined by love, energy, hope, and vision. We strive to build an athletic community that every person desires to be a part of. Our belief is that the development of the student-athlete spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically will remain at our core.

LCA coaches will pride themselves on being the best teacher they can be. Our focus will always remain on daily improvement which should lead to development. If each student-athlete is developed to their maximum potential, our athletic teams should thrive.



## The LCA Way - Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

All student-athletes are expected to abide by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct throughout the entire season.

Student-Athletes will:

- Accept responsibility for representing LCA
  - Develop and demonstrate Christ-like character
  - Own your actions
  - No cheating or playing unfairly in any way
- Accountable to your team at all times
  - Model responsibility by arriving on time for practice or competitions
  - Will have all required gear/equipment when needed
  - Do what is expected without the need for direct supervision
  - Only you are in control of your effort and your effort should never be defined by the circumstances
- Show respect to authority, coaches, teammates, and opponents at all times
  - Use the proper titles to authority
  - Consistently use the practice of self-control
  - Excel in outstanding Sportsmanship
    - Acknowledge, during competition, the student-athlete competes under the GIAA Sportsmanship Statement
    - Avoid words/actions that demean or taunt the opponent
    - Never argue with an official or umpire
    - Help opponent off the court / field if appropriate
    - Display humility in victory and graciousness in defeat
      - Shake hands with the opponent post-game
- Be respectful of all property and equipment
- Not possess or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs

Student-athletes will be responsible for the decisions they make and should be aware that these decisions may result in removal from the team. Parent and/or student-athlete signature on this handbook agreement form indicates an agreement to and adherence of all items on the student-athlete code of conduct.



## **The LCA Way - Parent/Guardian and/or Volunteer Code of Conduct**

Parent/Guardians and Volunteers will:

- Be responsible for their own behavior at contests
  - Cheer for our team, not against the opponent.
    - No heckling of opponent, coach, individual players, game administrators, or officials/umpires
    - Refrain from personal comments directed at opponents
  - Noisemakers are prohibited
  - Officials are to be addressed by only the coaching staff
  - Accept the decision of officials and coaches without dispute
  - Stay off the playing area
  - Not allowed in the dugout, locker room, bench area, or the sideline
  - Coaching from the stands or sidelines is prohibited
  - Show respect for property and equipment
  - Work properly with school officials and supervisors in keeping order
  - Must abide by the GIAA sportsmanship statement while at a contest
  - Any parent/guardian or volunteer who demonstrates poor sportsmanship will be warned and/or may be excused from an event.
    - Subsequent violations may lead to suspension
- Serve by example.
  - Support and volunteer for school athletic functions and fundraising events.

Parent and/or Volunteer signature(s) on this handbook agreement form indicates an agreement to and adherence of all items on the parent/guardian and/or volunteer code of conduct.

### **Policy Disclaimer**

All written policies and areas of concern either specific or nonspecific covered in the Athletic Handbook are subject to clarification and/or change by the school administration.



## Programs Offered

Sport	Boys / Girls / Co-ed	Season
Football	Boys	Fall
Softball (Fastpitch)	Girls	Fall
Volleyball	Girls	Fall
Cheer (Spirit) Football	Girls	Fall
Cross Country	Co-Ed	Fall
Clay Targets	Co-Ed	Fall
Esports	Co-Ed	Fall
Basketball	Boys and Girls	Winter
Cheer (Spirit) Basketball	Girls	Winter
Swimming	Co-Ed	Winter
Wrestling	Boys	Winter
Baseball	Boys	Spring
Soccer	Boys and Girls	Spring
Tennis	Boys and Girls	Spring
Golf	Boys and Girls	Spring
Track	Co-Ed	Spring

### Athletic Affiliation

Loganville Christian Academy is a member of the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA) in all varsity sports with the exception of rodeo/equestrian. The GIAA is an ancillary division of the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA).



### Participation Requirements - Eligibility - GIAA

Student-athletes competing in varsity sports must comply with the GIAA Rules and Regulations.

### Participation Requirements - Academic Eligibility - LCA

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must meet or surpass academic standards throughout the semester.

- Grades will be pulled at the 9 week, 13 ½ week, and semester points.
- Athletes with two or more failing grades on these dates will be required to get communication from their teachers regarding performance, zeros, and attendance on a school form.
- Weekly communication between the athlete and the athletic office will happen until at least one of the grades is up to passing.
- The athlete is not allowed to participate in practices, team meetings, or competition until cleared by the athletic office and the Upper School administration.
- In addition, he or she may not ride on the team bus, sit on the bench, or be in uniform for any contest until cleared.
- An athlete who has been removed from the team because of grades will forfeit his or her letter and/or awards and will not be recognized with his or her team at the awards program.

### Participation Requirements - Forms

#### Required Online Forms

All forms found in your student's FACTS account under Magnus Health must be complete in order to participate in athletics.

#### Magnus

All athletes must be entered into the Magnus Health system by his/her parent. This allows for tracking of injuries and provides real-time access when needed.

- To access your Magnus Health account login to your FACTS account.
- Click on "Student Information" and then click on "Medical"
- Find the link to "Magnus Health SMR Portal"
- Magnus will direct you in how to get started and give you the needed requirements to complete for your child



### Physicals

All athletes must have a valid sports physical form on file prior to any tryout, practice, or contest. This form must be completed, signed, and entered into Magnus.

- Students may have this form completed by a private physician or participate in LCA's on-campus physical night.
- Blank sports physical forms may be found on the LCA Athletics website under the resource link at the bottom of the home page at [www.LCALionsAthletics.com](http://www.LCALionsAthletics.com).

### Impact Testing

Impact testing is mandatory for all student-athletes in grades 7th-12th every two years. These may be performed in conjunction with the annual physical or taken separately.

### Insurance

If injury occurs, the student-athlete's insurance carrier is considered to be primary.





## Participation Requirements - Financial

### **Athletic Fee**

An *athletic fee* will be required to participate in their associated sport. Athletic fees will vary by sport and must be paid PRIOR to the opening contest of each sport. These fees help offset operational costs such as officials, transportation, field or gym equipment, uniform rental, field or gym rentals, coaching stipends, awards, and technology.

This athletic fee will be placed on your FACTS account after tryouts if the athlete makes the team.

### **Athletic Fee Refunds**

Once the first practice begins (after tryouts), athletic fees will not be refunded unless outlined below:

- A student-athlete is injured before the midpoint of the season, a refund may be requested to the athletic department..
  - The athletic fee will be prorated based on the number of remaining games.

If a student-athlete is unable to participate in practice or contests due to not meeting academic or behavioral criteria, the athletic fee will not be refunded.

### **Mandatory Additional Costs for the Student-Athlete**

The head coach will establish these costs. There are no refunds once ordered.

- Player Packs
  - Player packs are the necessary practice apparel and other spirit wear that the head coach assigns. The student-athletes are responsible for all player pack costs.
- Uniform Fee
  - A uniform fee may be applied when the uniform or part of the uniform will be owned and kept by the student-athlete. In specific sports, this uniform fee will be applied and the student-athlete will be responsible for this cost.

### **Other Costs for the Student-Athlete**

The coaches and/or team parent will establish these costs. Once the order has been placed, it is final.

- Meals (pre-game or post-game)
- Banquet costs
- Team outings
- Senior Banner
- All-Star or All-State contests

\*\*\*Ejection Fines\*\*\* - The student-athletes or parents will be responsible for any ejection fine that may incur if you are ejected.



## Communication

### Expected communication from the Head Coach to your child

- The head coach's philosophy
- Team members expectations
- Practice or Game Day attire
- Locations and times of all practices and contests / schedule change
- Travel plans
- Procedures if an athlete is injured during practice/contest
- Discipline that would affect playing time
- Policies and procedures found in this handbook

### Expected communication from parents to the Head Coach

- Concerns expressed directly to the Head Coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance - per the head coach's discretion, absences from practice may impact playing time
- Specific concern in regards to the Head Coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Notification of an injury

### Appropriate concerns to address with the Head Coach

- The treatment of your child, physically, and/or emotionally
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

### Inappropriate concerns to address with any coach

- Playing time
- Team strategy and/or play calling
- Other student-athletes

If these concerns are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment applying the "24 hour rule" after the event or conflict while using the "Chain of Command".

### Chain of Command

- Athlete and Head Coach
- Athlete, Parent, and Head Coach
- Parent, Head Coach and Athletic Director

At all times, the LCA Way- Parent Code of Conduct will be in effect. Please schedule an appointment by text, email, or phone call. If the head coach does not respond in an appropriate amount of time, please contact the Athletic Department.

### The Varsity Head Coach of that sport is responsible to oversee all teams in his/her sport

- MS assistants report to MS Head Coach
- MS Head Coach reports to Varsity Head Coach
- Varsity(JV) assistant coaches report to the Varsity Head Coach
- JV Head Coaches report to the Varsity Head Coaches
- Varsity Head Coaches report to the Athletic Director



### Athletic Department Calendars

Each student-athlete and parent of a student-athlete should subscribe to their respective sport calendar in order to have live updates to changes or cancellations of practices or games. It is the head coach's responsibility to communicate these changes to the student-athletes. The calendar is another tool for the school and the athletic department to be consistent. Other information you may find on the calendar ([www.lcalionsathletics.com](http://www.lcalionsathletics.com)):

- Game information/ locations/practices (may vary depending on availability)
- Early release times
- Transportation info

### Social Media

The creation of social media accounts for athletic teams of LCA is not permitted by students or families.

### Parent Pre-Season Meeting

Each team's head coach will conduct a pre-season parent/team meeting where one parent from every athlete's family is required to attend. Information to expect from your head coach:

Head Coach philosophy and vision for the program, general athletic policies, program calendar (including practices and games), specific team policies, any applicable fees, contents of the player packs, the proper dress for practice and games, and the chain of command. Also included will be any possible fundraising opportunities, eligibility requirements, contact info, and team rules and expectations.

### Tryouts / Practice / Contest

#### **Tryouts**

Student-athletes may choose to try-out for the team they will be eligible for. Note: Per GIAA rules, student-athletes below the eighth grade (from any association) are not allowed to compete in any varsity events with GIAA members. LCA must abide by the crossover play rule: eighth-grade students are not allowed to compete in a varsity contest against a GHSA team.

Varsity / Junior Varsity Level: 8th grade-12th grade

Middle School: 8th grade and below (Athletic Director's discretion)

Tryouts will have an advanced, published tryout date. The student-athlete must be enrolled at LCA for the school year in which tryouts are being conducted. The student-athlete must also meet academic eligibility requirements and all required forms must be submitted before trying out. Any enrolled student-athlete wanting to be part of the team, must try out on the specific tryout date unless there are extenuating circumstances. Tryouts can be open or closed to the parents based on the head coach's discretion. Student-athletes that transfer after the original tryout date(s) must have a formal tryout before being considered for that team's roster. Should limitations in rosters become necessary, coaches will have the discretion to cut depending on skill level.



## **The Classroom**

### Attendance

Student-athletes are required to be in attendance in school for four (4) full class periods in order to participate in tryouts, practices, or contests with the exception of a family emergency. Athletes who are ill should remain home.

### Early Release

Should the student-athlete be dismissed early for travel to a game, he or she is responsible for all work missed and homework assignments issued. Students are to have all work ready to turn in at their next scheduled class meeting.

### Student-Discipline

Unless otherwise stipulated, any student-athlete suspended from school may not participate in or attend an athletic event without permission from the Upper School Principal and the Athletic Director.

## **Expectations for Dress at Practice or at Games for Student-Athletes**

### Practice & Gameday Attire at a Contest/Game

The head coach will determine the proper attire for participating student-athletes in practice or any team workout. This rule takes place from the moment practice begins to when practice ends. Anything outside of those guidelines, the dress code of the school will be followed. On game days outside of school hours, the head coach will determine the proper attire for the student-athlete. On travel dates, the head coach will determine the dress code for the team.

For in-school game day attire, see the LCA Family handbook guidelines.

### Uniforms

In most cases, the LCA game uniforms are property of LCA and will be issued in good condition. Student-athletes will be responsible for proper upkeep of their uniforms and will be responsible for any lost or damaged uniforms. All items that are property of LCA must be returned to the Head Coach within one week of the final game of the season. Garments that are lost, stolen, damaged, or have unusual wear are expected to be replaced by the student-athlete. The cost will be determined by the athletic department.

### Equipment / Facilities / Locker Rooms / Field Care

All equipment should be limited to the use for which it was intended, handled with proper respect, and returned to the proper storage area after each use. Any damage to the equipment should be reported to the athletic director as soon as possible.

Student-athletes are responsible for ensuring the appropriate care of their respective field/court. Following practice or competition, student-athletes are expected to help coaches and managers prepare the field/court for the next event.

Student-athletes are responsible for the cleanliness of their locker room. At no time will it be acceptable to have trash on the ground. The student-athlete's equipment must be properly stored in its proper location



at all times. The locker room will be consistently monitored by the head coach. Parents, fans, or friends are not allowed to enter the locker room, team bus, dug out, or team bench area.

Any student-athlete damage to the facility will be the parent's responsibility.

## **Commitment**

### Practice & Game Attendance

Student-athletes and parents are expected to be loyal and committed to their team for an entire season. This includes consistent attendance at practice as well as scheduled in-season/out-of season conditioning sessions and / or out-of-season camps. Varsity teams may practice or schedule games during "school breaks" and attendance will be expected. The calendar will be communicated in advance. Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. When an absence is anticipated, it should be communicated with the coach early.

Unexcused absences from a practice or game are subject to athletic suspension and/or the head coach reserves the right to bench.

LCA Athletics will look to stay away from scheduling games on Wednesdays. There may be exceptions where a game may be scheduled due to a re-schedule or the opponent's free date. Teams may practice on Wednesdays with the goal of the practice dismissal at 5:00 pm. Sunday practices are permitted for all divisions under extenuating circumstances only.

### Non-School teams

Student-athletes playing on the varsity level may not participate in outside or non-school teams that coincide with the existing school sports season.

### Multi-Sport Participation

Student-Athletes may participate in more than one LCA sport as a "Dual Athlete". A "Dual Sport" agreement will be required to be signed by the athlete, the parent/guardian, and both sports head coaches. The student-athlete will declare a "primary sport". The agreement will clearly define which two sports the athlete will be the primary sport and which sport will be the secondary sport.

### Multiple School Activities

The Athletic Department will always encourage the student-athlete to be a well-rounded student. In the case of coinciding co-curricular activities, the head coach will work with the other department leaders, and will grant flexibility where possible. In some cases, the student-athlete will have to make a choice.



## **Playing Time**

### Middle School Programs

Our desire is to involve as many of our student-athletes as possible with the primary goal of creating the best possible experience for them by inspiring learning, teaching critical fundamentals while placing a major focus on development. Student-athletes can anticipate playing time, but the exact amount may vary from player to player.

Limitations in rosters are confined to the ability to instruct with an adequate number of coaching staff as well as enough other schools/teams to compete against.

### Varsity and Junior Varsity

Our goal is to have the best program that we can possibly have. Playing time, regardless of school class, is not guaranteed. The Varsity or Junior Varsity Head Coach will make the decisions on players that play.

## **Quitting or Dismissal from a Team**

Quitting a team after the head coach has established an official roster with the Athletic Department will result in a forfeiture of the student-athlete's athletic fee, player pack fees, uniform fees, and any other fee that was paid for additional items. The student-athlete will not be allowed to join another team for that season until that sport's season is completed AND the check out process with their head coach is complete. This rule will also be applied to any student-athlete that is dismissed from a team due to a poor attitude or disciplinary action. The Athletic Director may use discretion in special circumstances.

For example, if a fall sport student-athlete quits a fall team, that student-athlete will not be eligible to try-out or play a winter sport until the fall season is complete, AND the student-athlete has completed their checkout process with their head coach.

## **Travel**

Student-Athletes are under the authority of Loganville Christian Academy and should conduct themselves accordingly.

- Student-athletes are to travel on school provided transportation to all away contests
  - Special circumstances will require advanced approval by the Athletic Department
  - If a student-athlete has to drive to an away contest, the necessary driving form must be completed before approval.
  - Student-athletes are expected to ensure that all school vehicles are left clean upon arrival back at school with all trash being removed and windows closed.
  - Only authorized personnel are allowed on the bus.
    - There may be times when an adult chaperone is necessary
- Student-athletes may only ride home with a parent/approved adult if prior parent communication is made with the Head Coach
- Only transportation to or away for contests/games will be provided. Practice is the parent/guardian responsibility.

The Athletic Department will work with the coaching staff in the event that a state tournament requires any overnight accommodations.



## Lettering / Awards (Banquet)

### Lettering

- Lettering will be determined by the Head Coach
- Only varsity student-athletes are eligible for lettering.
- A varsity athlete who letters for the first time in a varsity sport will receive the LCA letter with the appropriate sport pin.
- Lettering in subsequent years will result in the athlete receiving the letter, sport pins, and/or service bars.
- Only one LCA letter is awarded to an athlete regardless of the number of sports or years he/she letters.

### **Awards**

At the end of the season/year, each sport with twenty or more players will recognize their outstanding athletes with five special awards - one of which must be the Christian Character award. Teams with less than twenty players will recognize their outstanding athletes with three special awards - one of which must be the Christian Character Award. The following is a list of other typical awards (voted on by the Head Coach or teammates) given with a brief description of each one:

- The Leadership Award
  - This award winner has all-around character and consistently demonstrates strong character and work ethic while also inspiring his/her teammates to perform at a high level
- The Player of the Year Award
  - This award winner stands out in performances during the course of the year. We would consider them a true difference maker.
- The Grit Award
  - This award winner displays determination, courage, and confidence to keep grinding on their game. Their passion and self-motivation is always on display at every opportunity to get better or to perform.
- Culture Champion
  - This award winner is a student-athlete that every coach looks forward to coaching. The team's standard is well-represented by putting in extra time and work. This student-athlete is always accountable and dependable.
- The Christian Character Award
  - This award is given to the athlete who exemplifies a strong spiritual walk and lives out his/her faith in addition to being an encouragement to others on the team.

### Team Championship Patches

The Athletic Department will purchase a patch for each student-athlete that participates in a Final Four appearance and/or a state championship or wins a region championship. Any student-athlete that has an **individual** accomplishment, such as All-State or All-Region, would be financially responsible for their patch.

### Senior Night

The LCA Athletic Department honors all in-season seniors on one evening in the fall, winter, and spring. This date will be planned by the Athletic Department and will be placed on the athletic calendar.



### Banquet / End of Season Gathering

The banquet/end of season gathering date(s) will be placed on the athletic calendar. The optional, financial responsibility of the parent/guardian will be detailed at the beginning of the year.

### NCAA Clearinghouse

Any athlete who is seriously considering participation at the college level should review the guidelines on the NCAA website: [ncaastudent.org](http://ncaastudent.org). Registration with the NCAA clearinghouse is required.

### National Signing Day

The Athletic Department will organize signing ceremonies for all LCA student-athletes that participated on a LCA sports team. Date and times are selected in accordance with NCAA rules.

### Facility Rentals

LCA does offer facility rentals. In order to use our athletic facilities, proper paperwork must be submitted, and guidelines must be followed. Please contact the Athletic Department for more information. If the paperwork is not submitted, it will be considered improper use of LCA facilities.

\*\*\*\*This handbook is subject to change. It contains living document terminology that changes to meet the needs of the current situation/climate.\*\*\*\*