

BCA



ATHLETICS

High School Athletic Handbook

Updated info is in purple

***“...that in all things, Christ might be pre-eminent.”
Colossians 1:17***

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To comply with the rules of the Rhode Island Independent School Association (RIISA) Barrington Christian Academy must ensure that every parent and each student athlete is aware of the inherent risk of participating in sports activities at BCA as stated in the Warning of Inherent Risk statement below.

Warning of Inherent Risk

Participation in athletic competition includes the inherent risk of injury, which may range in severity from minor injury, to disabling injury, even to death. Although serious injuries are uncommon in structured, supervised athletic programs, it is virtually impossible to eliminate all risk. Participants can and do have the responsibility in helping reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules of each sporting activity, reporting all physical problems to coaches, following proper guidelines for safe play in athletic competition, and inspecting the integrity of their own equipment. Barrington Christian Academy takes all necessary precautions to provide student athletes a proper and safe environment for competing athletically.

BARRINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS

PHILOSOPHY

The Christian approach to athletics at Barrington Christian Academy High School flows naturally from the school's philosophy of Christian education. The purpose and intent of our athletic program at BCA is to bring glory to God and honor to Barrington Christian Academy through our participation and involvement in athletic activities and to develop within those who participate in athletics the character traits of Jesus Christ. We desire for our athletes to grow spiritually by teaching them to think and act like Christ in the competitive arena and to model godly character through their words, their attitudes and their participation.

Developing each student athlete spiritually, so that his or her desire to honor God controls and directs his or her mind and body in every athletic endeavor, is a key objective of the BCA athletic program. Within that philosophical framework, all of our coaches desire to train and encourage student athletes to perform athletically to the maximum of his or her potential in order to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Athletic competition often can serve as a microcosm of life, providing perfect learning situations for teaching God's principles. Using the many kinds of problems and different situations that occur in athletic competition, coaches attempt to build within each student athlete eternal biblical principles and values, so that he or she might conform to Christ's image and demonstrate His character.

The primary goal of the athletic program at the high school level is to use athletic competition as a positive tool in the lives of our student athletes to bring glory to God through our participation and to develop within those who participate in athletics the character traits of Christ.

PURPOSE

This athletic handbook outlines for administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents important information concerning the athletic programs at Barrington Christian Academy. It is comprehensive, yet not exhaustive and is therefore subject to change. Any comments or additions should be directed to the Athletic Director or Head of School.

Through the high school level athletic program at BCA, we aim to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1. To develop within each student athlete the positive character qualities of Jesus Christ, conforming ourselves to His image, and openly expressing those characteristics to others through athletic competition.**

2. To learn to give maximum effort for the glory of God in every aspect of the athletic program.
3. To glorify God in word and deed by presenting a positive witness and testimony for Jesus Christ to the lost.
4. To teach the biblical principle of respect for authority; players respect for coaches; coaches, players and fans respect for officials; and all a respect and reverence for God.
5. To instill within every player the principle of setting aside our individual desires and goals for the good of the team.
6. To provide opportunities within athletic competition to learn self-discipline and self-control, because true individual character traits are often revealed in the heat of competition.
7. To encourage and provide opportunities for student athletes to produce a healthy body ('temple of the Holy Spirit').
8. To do everything with a 'total release' of all mental and physical ability, and all emotional energy (100% effort), in order to play with complete concentration, and then releasing the results to God.
9. To live in word and deed as ambassadors for Jesus Christ, for His glory.

SPORTS OFFERED

Barrington Christian Academy currently offers five sports in which to participate. These sports run during three distinct seasons; fall, winter and spring.

Fall - Boys' and girls' Soccer - Fall

Winter - Boys' and Girls' basketball - Winter

Spring - Boys' and Girls' Track and Field, Softball, Baseball*

(*Baseball will be offered if there is enough interest)

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in sports during all three seasons.

.COMMUNICATIONS—Further confirmation and athletic information, such as changes in a calendar schedule, practice schedules, game times, etc., can be obtained through *The Communicator* and on the *BCA website* - <http://www.bcacademy.org/>. Practice and game schedules will be provided that will include individual coaches' work phone and email addresses.

The BCA Athletic Department depends on the support and involvement of parents in its goal to develop student athletes into the image and likeness of Christ through athletic competition. To build those desired character qualities into our student athletes, parents must agree with the school's philosophy of Christian education and the school's athletic philosophy. Parents should also be supportive of the decisions of the Athletic Director and the coaches and always use the Matthew 18 principle in any conflict or misunderstanding.

Both winning and losing in athletic competition provide valuable biblical and life lessons for our students that might not ever be learned anywhere else.

SPORTSMANSHIP—Parents and fans should model biblical behavior while watching our student athletes in fierce athletic competition, because that modeled behavior is just as important as the behavior of the athletes on the field. Dr. Paul Kienel, founder and President Emeritus of ACSI, outlined six important principles concerning good sportsmanship and positive Christian testimony, which all BCA parents and fans should observe during athletic competition. These principles should guide us as Christian parents and fans of our student athletes, and will serve as **BCA’s Code of Conduct**.

Parent/Athlete Code of Conduct:

- 1. Show proper RESPECT to the players of both teams, remembering that each one is someone’s son or daughter. Likewise, respect the visiting crowd, treating them just as you would like to be treated in their gym or at their field.**
- 2. Show proper respect for the officials and for their legitimate POSITION OF AUTHORITY over the game.**
- 3. Remember that the other team’s players, coaches, and fans are not our enemies, JUST OUR OPPONENTS in a game.**
- 4. Please DO NOT “BOO” or otherwise show a negative reaction or behavior toward an official’s decision or a player’s performance.**
- 5. Remember that the Lord sees our actions and He knows our THOUGHTS and the INTENT OF OUR HEARTS.**

BCA requires that all parents and student athletes must read the Parent/Athlete Code of Conduct guidelines and sign the Code of Conduct form before athletes are allowed to compete in athletic programs.

STUDENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Even though every coach in each individual sport may have specific rules and guidelines for that sport, the following rules are in effect for all athletes at BCA:

- 1. Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is strictly forbidden at any time throughout the year. Proven use constitutes disciplinary actions. During the season this includes suspension and possible expulsion from a team. (1 Thessalonians 5:15, Proverbs 15:1).**

2. **Attendance at all practices and games is a requirement of team success. Individuals are required to attend all scheduled practices.**
3. **Any improper language will not be tolerated. Disciplinary measures will be taken for the first offense and suspension from the team for repeated offenses. Let your performance do your talking for you. Improper language includes: swearing, ‘in your face’ boasting, and disrespectful actions or words to officials, players, or coaches. Lead a spirit-controlled life and the Holy Spirit will control your tongue! (James 1)**
4. **Maintain school dress at all times, plus any other dress specifications outlined by coaches. Team unity and school and representation are the focus for dress and will be standardized by each coach. Unnecessary accessories that are worn to draw attention to the individual *reflect a defiance of the team concept*. When we submit to one another, by complying with the team dress or hair code for the accomplishment of a goal beyond ourselves, we glorify Christ, not ourselves! In all areas dealing with attire or appearance, the goal is always modesty!**
5. **Athletic competition is a great source of fun; however, using equipment or playing in an unsafe or inappropriate manner is to be avoided.**
6. **Athletes should maintain proper rest and nutrition. Avoid junk food or eating food with ‘empty calories’. Remember, to compete with total commitment, your body must be fueled properly to perform at its full potential!**
7. **Because we are a Christian school, people watch us for consistency in our testimony; therefore, in addition to watching what we say, we must be aware of our actions. Any display of affection between boys and girls will not be permitted. Concentration upon the game and upon our witness for Christ is of utmost importance!**

ACADEMICS

Even though the athletic program is an important part of the overall Barrington Christian Academy experience, the mission of the school remains academic education. In light of our Christian educational philosophy and the school’s mission, the BCA high school athletic department endeavors to monitor the academic progress and to encourage the academic achievement of each student athlete. To accomplish this, there must be continuous, clear and frequent

communication between the athletic department, coaches, teachers, parents, and student athletes. In the athletic program, we teach our athletes the concept of “giving 100% effort” and we expect them to give their maximum effort in all academic endeavors as well.

We continuously monitor the academic eligibility of student athletes, in order to comply with BCA eligibility rules. To monitor student academic progress the athletic office and coaches review all interim and quarterly grade reports. **It is the student athlete’s responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility.** If a student is placed on academic probation for receiving two grades below a 70, academic probation status will remain in effect until at least the next review of grades. Grades are reviewed at the mid-point of the grading period and when report cards are released*. Students on academic probation will not be allowed to participate in any scheduled interscholastic contests during that period except scheduled practices. All other reasons for being placed on academic probation will be subject for review by the administration to determine the appropriate restrictions to be placed upon the athlete. Students who are placed on academic probation will not be considered for post-season awards.

For some athletic events, athletes may be dismissed early from school and likely will miss some academic work. Early dismissal for away games or practices is never an excuse for failure to fulfill academic responsibilities. Each student athlete is responsible for contacting teachers before early dismissal regarding work or assignments that might be missed or assignments that are due that day. Student athletes must coordinate with the teacher to make up all missed work, including written assignments, quizzes, and tests. All assignments not completed will result in failure for that work and will jeopardize the athlete’s academic eligibility.

(*During the first grading period of the year, grades will be reviewed at the mid-point and then again two weeks after progress reports are sent home.)

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the athletic program at Barrington Christian Academy, a student must enroll as a full-time student at BCA or be in an approved home Education Program. The Head of School, Athletic Director and the specified Sport’s coach must approve home Educated Students.

To participate in the BCA athletic program, a student athlete must have a signed BCA Agreement for Participation form. Additionally, students must obtain a physical exam, performed and signed by a Medical Doctor using a Pre-Participation Health Assessment form and Medical Examination form. Students must also read the Concussion Pamphlet required by state law, ‘Concussion Act 16-90-1. These signed forms for each student athlete will be kept on file in the main office. For each home and away sports activity, the coach for each individual sport must have in his or her possession copies of the forms mentioned above for every member on that team.

For a student athlete to compete in an athletic game or contest, he or she must be in attendance for the entire school day, on the day of the game and attend all scheduled classes.

POTENTIAL AWARDS AND LETTERS

At the end of each season, the Barrington Athletic Department will hold a sports banquet to recognize outstanding achievement according to the guiding principles and goals established by our athletic philosophy. Our goal is not only to recognize in each sport the obvious outward athletic abilities, talents, and achievements of the past year, but just as important, we desire to recognize those inward Christ-like qualities that have been formed and displayed in Athletes during the season. Therefore, the description of the athletic awards and the giving of those awards are necessarily correlated and intertwined with the character qualities our coaches emphasize during the season.

Following a season review, potential awards to be given may include:

1. **Christian Character**—the Christian Character award is given to the athlete who best demonstrates spiritual leadership, Christ-like character, and spiritual insight. This athlete consistently shows Christian maturity in his or her relationship with Christ and reflects the following characteristics: boldness, enthusiasm, faith, humility, loyalty, virtue, meekness, discernment, sensitivity, courage, and wisdom.
2. **Outstanding Team Player** —the Outstanding team player award is given to the athlete who consistently shows the greatest intensity in his or her performance. This athlete makes the most of his or her ability by continuously giving 100% effort in all aspects of the sport, whether in practice or in athletic competition. He or she best reflects Colossians 3:17 and 3:23. Character traits for this award include: intensity, determination, availability, obedience, diligence, enthusiasm, endurance, dependability and self-control.
3. **Most Improved**—the Most Improved award is presented to the athlete who demonstrates the most improvement in ability and character judged either from the beginning of the season to the end, or from one season to the next. Character traits for this award include: determination, diligence, contentment, dependability, enthusiasm, humility, attentiveness, flexibility, and intensity.
4. **For each individual sport, with approval of the Athletic Director, a head coach may use discretion in presenting additional awards.**

Barrington Christian Academy gives recognition to each team member who meets certain criteria. Awards include certificates, pins, numerals and letters.

Criteria for these awards will be adjusted as the size of the high school increases.

Team managers and statisticians will also be eligible for awards.

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FACILITIES

The Lord has blessed Barrington Christian Academy with outstanding facilities including a gym, rest rooms, fields and transportation vehicles. Student athletes must learn to be good stewards of what we have and use these facilities wisely. You should always leave an area cleaner than the way you found it! Do not tolerate destructiveness or misuse of property at any time (including balls, bats, PE equipment, etc.).

All articles left in the locker room area will be taken to the ‘lost and found’ for a short period of time, then, if not recovered, given to charity.

Students must be out of the building twenty minutes after the scheduled completion of practice. Coaches will be the last ones out to ensure the doors are locked. Athletes must make sure your ride is on time or you should have another place to go (another athlete’s house). During practices, you should not be in any other area of the school building other than the designated practice area.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Athletic Director will issue uniforms before the first game. At the time of issue, please note the condition of the uniform, because it is your responsibility to keep it clean and in good shape. **Uniforms are not to be worn for practices.** Lost or damaged uniforms must be paid for in full. Check with your coach for the type of practice uniforms he or she desires you to wear. Although practice uniforms are not standardized, athletes must use modesty in practice attire.

Athletic game uniforms are very costly, so please be good stewards of the uniforms we have. They should be cleaned and washed regularly. You should treat all school athletic equipment with care. If your coach gives you the responsibility for the team’s equipment, see that you carry out your job responsibly. That student who is deemed irresponsible will repay any loss of or damage to school equipment or uniforms due to negligence or carelessness by a student athlete in full.

INJURIES AND PHYSICALS

Injuries—It is very important that you report all injuries to your coach so that proper aid may be given. This includes injuries or problems that occur outside the sport you are participating in. Be sure to let your coach know of any allergies, medicines, problems, or other ailments that might require special attention. Students must read the Concussion Pamphlet and sign the “School & Youth Programs Concussion Act – Title 16-90-1

Conditioning—Conditioning is your responsibility prior to the start of every season. Prepare yourself so that you can stand the physical stress that practice in that sport will put on your body. Begin gradually and easy, working

up to a high level of conditioning, so that you will be ready for the start of the season.

Physicals—To participate in the BCA athletic program, each athlete must have a signed Agreement for Participation form and a completed physical exam, performed and signed by a Medical Doctor before the season begins.

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TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from athletic contests will be by BCA school vehicles, unless otherwise specified by your coach. You must ride on the school vehicle to and from the athletic contest destination. The only exception is when parents request and complete a trip waiver for the return trip from a game. The waiver must be turned into the school office no later than noon on the day of the contest.

All school vehicles must remain clean! Your stewardship responsibility is to ensure that the BCA vehicles remain clean to and from each athletic event. Riding home with parents does not relieve you of that responsibility.

When riding to a game or meet in a school vehicle, athlete's behavior should not include loud "talking" and or 'rough housing. There should be absolutely no standing or walking around on the bus while it is moving. Instead, you should try to prepare yourself mentally and spiritually for the upcoming game or meet. **Students must wear a seatbelt at all times when riding in a vehicle where seatbelts are provided.**

For all practices that are not held on the BCA campus, students must ride in the vehicles provided by BCA, unless the practice is not being held directly after school. To ride home from a practice/game with another parent or student, you must have written permission from your parent beforehand. Permission slips should be on file in the school office.

NCAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

General Requirements

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman during the next academic year and you wish to be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition at an NCAA Division I college, you must be certified by the Clearinghouse, therefore the following requirements must be met:

1. Graduate from high school:

You should apply for certification before graduation. If you appear to meet NCAA requirements, the Clearinghouse will issue a preliminary certification report. After you graduate, the Clearinghouse will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision.

2. Present a minimum combined test score on the SAT verbal and math sections or a minimum composite score on the ACT as indicated on the index scale below.

Below 2.0 not eligible

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3. Present a minimum grade point average (on a 4.00 scale) in at least 13 core courses taken during grades 9-12, in the following areas:

- * 4 years (3 years in Division II) of English
- *2 years (1 yr Algebra, 1 yr Geometry) of Mathematics
- * 2 years (including at least one lab course) of Natural or Physical Science
- *1 year (2 years in Division II) of additional courses in English, Mathematics, Natural or Physical Science
- * 2 years of a Social Science
- *2 years (in any of the above areas, or foreign language, computer science, philosophy or non-doctrinal religion) of an additional academic course

To be eligible at a Division II institution, you must:

1. Graduate from high school.
2. Present a minimum grade point average of 2.000 in at least 13 core courses in the same areas noted above.
3. Present a minimum 700 combined score on the SAT verbal and math sections or a minimum composite score on the ACT of 17.

It is your responsibility to make sure the Clearinghouse has the documents it needs to certify you. These documents are:

- * your completed and signed Student Release Form and fee
- * your official high school transcript
- * Your SAT or ACT test scores
- * Your high school form 48H which your guidance office must submit to the Clearinghouse. This will be kept in the Clearinghouse Library

TO OBTAIN AND USE THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE STUDENT RELEASE FORM, complete the following steps.

Step 1 Get a Student Release Form from your school counselor.

Step 2 Fill out the form in black ink to include:

Part I student and high school information

Part 2 Student and parents signatures requires

Part 3 Permission to release to colleges

Part 4 \$18.00 payment

Part 5 Password for your records

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Step 3 Submit a completed original (white copy) of the Student Release Form to the clearinghouse:
NCAA Clearinghouse-Forms Processing
2510 North Dodge, P.P. Box 4043
Iowa City, IA 52244-4043

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Step 4 Give the yellow and pink copies of Student Release Form to your high school guidance counselor. The counselor sends the yellow form along with a copy of your transcript to the Clearinghouse. The pink copy is for the school files.

If you attended more than one high school, make copies of your yellow and pink forms and send them to your former school. Their guidance office should then send your other transcript(s) to the Clearinghouse.

Important Phone Numbers

NCAA Clearinghouse..... (319) 337-1492
NCAA Clearinghouse FAX..... (319) 339-6988

Detailed information regarding NCAA Academic Eligibility, Financial Aid and Recruiting is available in the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.

CLOSING

The BCA Athletic Department would like to encourage each student athlete by wishing you the very best in all your athletic endeavors. If we can help you in any way, please let us know. It is our heart's desire to help each student athlete grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that the sports program at BCA will truly encourage you to develop and mature in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Our hope is that, through the athletic program at Barrington Christian Academy you will strive to do your absolute best by using your God-given talents and abilities in athletic competition so that you will bring glory to Him!