

2010 WESTBROOK SOCCER GUIDELINES

The goal of the Westbrook Christian School Soccer Program is to provide students an opportunity to **glorify God** through the development and exercise of personal character, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and athletic ability. The players 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.

In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to lay out a framework of guidelines which serve to direct both coaches and players toward this goal. An **agreement on the part of student athletes, coaches, and parents to honor these guidelines is a prerequisite to participation in the soccer program.**

Sportsmanship and Respect for Others

Good sportsmanship is expected of **everyone** involved in athletics at Westbrook Christian School. Coaches, players and **fans** are to consistently demonstrate a commitment to fair play, respect for opponents and **officials**, and are to approach athletics with integrity and a concern for our witness, as well as a concern for the reputation of WCS. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of our coaches, players, and fans is not to be part of the athletics experience at WCS. We ask that everyone refrain from making derogatory comments directed toward any participants at athletic contest, including officials. **We expect everyone representing WCS in any way to treat other players, coaches, officials, and visiting fans with respect showing courtesy and hospitality at all times.**

Commitment To Team

Student athletes are **expected to make a commitment to the team, their teammates, and coaches** when they elect to participate in a WCS interscholastic sports program. Their obligation and commitment to the team and coaches shall be carried on in the following manner:

- a) Practice and game schedules shall be met faithfully and punctually. (There will be consequences for unexcused absences from practice, including additional conditioning upon return and loss of playing time.)
- b) Student athletes should not ask or expect special consideration. Their obligation is to the team, and no team will ever be stronger than the attitude of its weakest member.
- c) Student athletes are expected to report any injury immediately to their coach.
- d) Student athletes are expected to take personal responsibility for their own fitness, skills development, nutrition, and rest/recovery.

Academic Responsibility

The primary high school experience is academic while participation on the soccer team is an extracurricular activity. In order to participate in an extra curricular activity the student athlete must demonstrate an ability to balance both responsibilities. The measure of this ability shall be the **student's current grades**. Arrangements will be made to help students who are having academic difficulty and participation in practice and games will be evaluated. Students are asked to maintain

academics as a top priority during the off-season as well. Teachers will be encouraged to contact the coach should any of our student athletes be in academic jeopardy.

Playing Time

Playing time, although based primarily on **performance and skill** in both practice and in games, is also determined by two essential factors: **work ethic and attitude**. Playing time is determined **solely by the coaching staff**. We cannot allow the opinion of players or parents to influence the amount of playing time a player will get. The four factors mentioned above shall be considered on a daily basis.

Transportation to Away Games

Student athletes will ride the bus to and from games with the team. (There may be exceptions for local away games) If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to ride home with your parents, a parent signed permission slip is required. Players are not permitted to ride home with anyone other than their own parent unless a permission slip is given to the head coach prior to the day of the trip. The team will clean up the trash on the bus before unloading. The coach, and/or the bus driver, will also be asked to verify that the van is clean.

Parent Involvement

We feel that the parent involvement and support of the WCS Soccer Program will be fundamental to the success of our program. The interest that parents show in their daughters can help them to develop a positive self esteem and inspire them to reach their highest goals. Please remember to praise and encourage your daughters as they meet the many challenges of competition. We ask you to consider the

impact your presence may have on your daughter or other daughters if you attend the competitive practice sessions during pre-season. The players are struggling to get in shape and experimenting with new skills. This is their time to make mistakes and find their way. Please feel free to set up a time to talk with coaches about any concerns you might have anytime other than after a game or during a practice session. **Also, gossip, grumbling, and negativity are like cancers in a team setting.** If there are issues, please deal with them in an open and honest way. (see Code of Ethics below)

It is also important for the parents to understand that no instruction should be given during the game. **Players play, coaches coach, and parents cheer.** (The excerpt below is borrowed in part from Bruce Brownlee of Atlanta.)

There are three things your child needs to hear before they play:

1. I love you.
2. I can't wait to see you play.
3. Have fun.

There are several things you can say during the game:

1. Way to go!
2. Nice pass/shot/dribbling/goal!
3. Don't give up!
4. Good work!

And finally there are three things you can tell your child after the game:

1. I love you!
2. It was great to see you play!
3. Where do you want to eat?

Coaches Code of Ethics

- Coaches will at all time conduct themselves in a Christian manner. Their conduct, language, and handling of athletes, treatment of officials, and relationships with staff and administration should at all times reflect the mind of Christ and

the high ideals of Westbrook Christian School. Special Point: A Coach who coaches players of the opposite sex should avoid even the appearance of impropriety by limiting physical contact with players. No coach will engage in any unethical treatment of his or her players.

- No favoritism shall be present in selection of players and/or the determination of playing time.
- Coaches shall instill in their players graciousness in both winning and losing, and insist on the highest standards of conduct and attitude among players both on and off the playing field.
- Misunderstanding and problems among or between coaches, players, fans, or parents shall be handled with utmost care, tact, and a spirit of love and forgiveness. Irreconcilable differences shall be brought at once to the attention of the Athletic Director.
- Coaches shall always be mindful that the student-athlete's primary responsibility is in the classroom. Coaches shall encourage study habits and set high standards of academic expectancy and performance.
- Coaches shall maintain constant and evident concern for the spiritual growth and development of the student-athlete.
 - Coaches should know and follow AHSAA policies.

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