

Faith Academy Mindanao



**Athletic Handbook
2010-2011**

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Faith Academy Mindanao Athletic Handbook is to provide an understanding and appreciation of the athletic programs, and to enhance communication among the coaches, athletes, and parents. This handbook contains most of the practices, policies, and regulations that govern extracurricular athletics at Faith Academy Mindanao. The policies in this handbook are reviewed and revised annually by the principle and the athletic director.

In order for a student to participate in any sport at Faith Academy Mindanao, both the student and the parents or guardians must sign the **Statement of Commitment**. Signing this form indicates an agreement that all the policies, procedures, and regulations in this Athletic Handbook are understood and will be followed. The Statement of Commitment must be turned into the coach, signed by both the student and a parent or guardian, by the end of the 2nd week of practice for the 1st sport the student participates in. The statement only needs to be signed once in a school year

Participation in sports can be an integral part of a student's educational experience, and Faith Academy Mindanao attempts to provide extracurricular sports opportunities for all students who wish to participate.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Faith Academy Mindanao Athletics is to provide a competitive and developmental athletic program, while promoting and embodying the ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work, and self-discipline. Developing the student-athlete's character through a positive and supportive environment increases self-confidence and therefore is essential to personal success.

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Colossians 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*
I Thessalonians 5:15 *...but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.*

Our goal is to provide an Athletic Program, which honors our Lord Jesus Christ with excellence in every regard. We recognize that our talents come from Him and that it is our spiritual stewardship to develop and use them for His glory alone. Acknowledging that we practice, play, and live before God and as an example before others, we must always strive to walk worthy of our calling, regardless of the situation or outcome.

We seek to encourage maximum participation in the program. It is also our belief that athletics is only a part of a student's overall development. We will seek to encourage students to develop their gifts outside of sports and to honor the Lord in every area of their lives. We seek to develop character traits such as leadership, teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship realizing their importance in athletics and in all of life.

Faith Academy Mindanao offers a program of interscholastic sports designed to:

- Glorify God with the physical talents and abilities with which He has blessed us.

- Provide a unifying activity open to the entire school and community through participation as team members or as spectators.
- Assist in the development of relationships with other schools and communities.
- Provide a vehicle for personal growth and development among students.
- Contribute to the development of school spirit.

At Faith Academy Mindanao, athletic excellence shall include the following personal benefits:

- Provide personal enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment.
- Develop the concept of teamwork and an understanding of subordinating personal desires in the interest of a productive cooperative effort.
- Test capabilities and help determine limits of physical ability and endurance.
- Develop self-esteem and the ability to deal with adversity.
- Develop control of emotions in tense situations.
- Develop the ability to handle success and cope with failure.
- Provide an understanding of the importance of thorough knowledge of fundamentals in any endeavor and the value of thorough preparation for effective performance.
- Develop an understanding of the lessons that can be learned from mistakes while striving for excellence.

Knowledge and skills gained in classes should be applied and developed through participation in the athletic program. Coaches should teach specific skills necessary for improvement in athletics and provide guidance in the development of good sportsmanship, cooperation, leadership, ethical behavior, and an appreciation for the importance of practice.

Middle School

At the middle school level, our desire is to provide quality instruction in beginning the development of the athletes' talents. This instruction is fulfilled through teaching fundamental skills, developing character traits such as persistence, dependability, dedication, self-control, teamwork, and emphasizing the ***active participation of each athlete***.

Middle school students may be invited to try out and/or participate in a varsity team. The Athletic Director will determine if middle school students will be invited to participate in any varsity sport in consultation with the effected varsity and middle school coaches. Middle School students are eligible to participate in ISAC tournaments.

For the 2010-11 school year we plan to have middle school teams for both boys and girls basketball. For both the boys and girls soccer teams, middle schoolers are invited to try out for the team. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer middle school volleyball teams. However, the volleyball coaches may decide to invite selected middle school students to try out for the varsity teams.

High School/Varsity

On the varsity level, we desire to develop stronger character, athletic skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship as we strive to field high quality competitive teams in all sports that we offer.

The goal this year is to send each varsity team to the ISAC tournament. However ISAC participation is not guaranteed. During each season the team coaches and the Athletic Director will consult and decide whether or not competing in the tournament will best meet the goals of the Athletic Program. The timing of this decision will depend on the tournament registration deadline.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Faith Academy Mindanao Athletic Eligibility policy states that a student-athlete must maintain a 2.0 minimum GPA **AND** not be failing or have an incomplete in any course in order to continue full participation in sports. The Athletic Director will submit a list to the Head Teachers of the Middle and High Schools of all students participating sports from their division by the end of the first week of practice. By the end the 2nd week of practice the head teachers will notify the Athletic Director of any student who is academically ineligible. If a Head Teachers determines that a student is ineligible at any subsequent time during the season, he/she will notify the Athletic Director and the student will be not be allowed to participate in any team activities (including practices and games) until the Head Teacher determines that the student has met academic standards.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic Department of Faith Academy Mindanao recognizes that student-athletes often hold a unique place in society and that they are under considerable pressure not only to perform in athletics, but in the classroom as well. Student athletes are often looked upon as public role models. They must develop and maintain outstanding levels of achievements and athletic endeavors and adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior and sportsmanship. The way a student-athlete conducts himself/herself is a direct reflection, not only of themselves, but also of Faith Academy Mindanao, and more importantly, Jesus Christ.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The athlete should:

- Be well-mannered to visiting teams and officials.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials, and accept their decisions without question.
- Respect the facilities of the host school and the trust extended in being a host.
- Play hard and to the limit of potential and ability regardless of discouragement. Each athlete should realize that the true athlete does not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, or grandstand (showboat).
- Encourage their teammates and not speak poorly of them to others.
- Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.

The coach should:

- Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and be a credit to the Christian teaching profession.
- Demonstrate the highest ideals, desirable attitudes in personal behavior, and good habits of courtesy and demand the same standards of the players.
- Recognize that the process is as important as the product and, in fact, has a major bearing on the outcome of the product God wants to produce.
- Remember that the most important values are derived from playing the game fairly, and teach players that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
- Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without loss of emotional control. Demonstrate to players how to work with officials to improve performance without humiliating them or being disrespectful.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

The spectators should:

- Realize that they represent the school just as distinctly as the players on a team do. Therefore, he/she has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through personal example the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- Understand that good sportsmanship involves applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
- Treat visiting teams and officials as our guests, seeing this as an opportunity to be a witness for Christ to unbelievers and so extending to them every courtesy.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Respect the judgment of officials, realizing that their decisions are based on fast moving game conditions as they observe them from their vantage point.
- Sit in designated areas – not on the team bench which is reserved for the team & coaches.

SAFETY

The Athletic Department strives to provide students a safe and enjoyable environment in which to participate. Consequently, all coaches and administrative personnel have a responsibility to reduce and/or eliminate all potential safety hazards. **It is vital to understand that participation in athletics involves inherent risks.** Coaches and administrative personnel are obligated to act in a prudent manner in order to prevent foreseeable accidents and injuries. They should respond to unexpected circumstances according to guidelines set forth in this handbook.

INSURANCE

Adequate insurance coverage for an athlete is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

CANCELLATION OF PRACTICES/GAMES

Cancellations of games and or practices due to inclement weather or other circumstances will normally be made after 1:00 pm. Rescheduled dates, if known, will be available from the Athletic Director's office. Athletes should always come to school prepared to play or practice that afternoon. It is better to be prepared than not. Do not assume a cancellation based on the weather in the morning. Decisions about cancellations after 2:40 pm will be made at the game/practice site.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Practices

It is the parents' responsibility to arrange for transportation after practices or games from our home fields. Athletes will need to be picked up immediately after a practice session or game. This may require parents to wait for 10-15 minutes from time-to-time. Coaches are required to supervise athletes until they have left the school or athletic field premises. We ask that you understand that coaches should not be asked to wait for an extended period of time on a regular basis. They devote many hours to our students and do have other personal responsibilities.

2. Away Games

The coach, along with student athletes' parents, will arrange for transportation to and from games that are played away from Faith Academy Mindanao. Parents need to inform the coach if they plan to take their child home after a game.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

School Board

Superintendent

Principal

Athletic Director

Varsity Head Coach (per sport)

Middle School Head Coach (per sport)

Qualifications of Coaches:

- One who desires to see Faith Academy Mindanao students grow not only in their athletic ability but also in their walk with the Lord
- One with knowledge of and experience in playing and/or coaching the sport
- One who shows Christ-like attitude and response in tough situations
- One who supports the Faith Academy Mindanao Sports Handbook

Selection of Coaches:

- Anyone in the community may recommend a coach to the Faith Academy Mindanao administration

- The Faith Academy Mindanao administration may talk to other coaches and the athletic director for further input
- The final decision and appointment of a head coach is to be made by the Faith Academy Mindanao Administration
- Assistant coaches may be chosen by the head coach and presented to the Faith Academy Mindanao administration for approval

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Team Selection

The makeup of each individual team is at the discretion of the head coach.

2. Dealing with players who are cut from a team

a. Middle School—For middle school teams, **we encourage a no cut policy**. However, when numbers exceed the allotted amount for a particular team, cuts will be made. For sports that have a large number of students participating, coaches will hold an evaluation period. Students who are advanced in their performance and fundamental aspects, but are not quite ready for the Varsity level will comprise the Middle School team to ensure proper teaching and playing time.

b. Varsity—Coaches determine which players will make up a particular team. There will be a maximum number of players for each team at each level of play. “Cuts” will occur when more players than the maximum number try out for a team.

3. Parent Information

After a team has been determined, the coach may call a parent meeting to go over logistical matters (transportation, phone tree, etc.) and expectations and requirements of the athletes and parents concerning the season at hand. Parents will be given an opportunity to ask questions of the coach, and may be asked to sign a form of agreement covering such things as sportsmanship, and commitment to the program.

4. Playing Time

Determining how much playing time each player earns is at the discretion of the Head Coach. Playing time is a privilege and should be earned. The coach should be notified in advance, when a student will miss practice. Below are some general goals for which we strive.

a. Middle School- Instruction and active participation is our primary concern and it is our goal that every athlete participates in every contest as long as they are regularly attending practice and abiding by team rules. Coaches are expected to play all eligible players in each game. However, this does not state that every player will receive an identical amount of playing time.

b. Varsity—Coaches should play as many players as feasible. Playing time on this level is based on coaching decisions made during practices and games.

5. Tryouts

Tryouts will be held during the first official week of practice in each sport. Any student who meets the eligibility requirements may try out. Announcements and letters indicating the starting dates for each sport will be given.

6. Practices

All athletes are expected to be present and on time at all practices called by the coach during the season of a particular sport. They are expected to attend practices and stay for the duration until dismissed by the coach, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. This does not warrant an athlete to leave practice on a regular basis to attend an outside activity, unless the head coach agrees to the situation. (Examples: missionary conferences, student council meetings, etc.) It is the sole discretion of the Head Coach to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Other school activities such as band, chorus, drama, etc. will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. It is the students' responsibility to inform the coach and activity director what their major and minor activity will be and the correct concessions will be made. This should be done before tryouts are to take place for any activity. Unexcused absences will be dealt with on an individual basis and some form of discipline will be taken. Faith Academy Mindanao athletics are to be first priority during the season. The opportunity to participate in FA Mindanao athletics is a privilege and not a right and should be treated this way.

Our goal this year is for all varsity teams to have three, two hour long, practices a week. Our goal for the middle school teams will continue to be two one and a half hour practices. Practice schedules will be announced at the beginning of each season.

7. Athletic Uniforms

School owned athletic uniforms may be worn only at FA Mindanao games or at times approved by Administration (such as to classes on a game day). Uniforms must be returned in satisfactory condition no later than one week after the final athletic contest for the season. Parents of athletes will be responsible for uniforms not returned after the one week following the close of the athletic season. Any charges for uniforms lost or not returned will be added to the student's account. Report cards will be held until all uniforms are paid for or returned. It causes an undue burden and complications when uniforms are lost or not returned.

8. Class Attendance

In order to participate in an athletic contest, students must be present at school unless they have gained permission from the principal. Circumstances arise where students have doctor's appointments, family emergencies, etc., yet we stress that students cannot be expected to participate physically when they are not well enough to attend classes throughout the day. This policy also applies to practices.

9. Quitting athletic teams

Our athletes take a sense of responsibility when they agree to participate on our athletic teams. Therefore, we hold our athletes accountable for their commitment to their teammates, coaches, and our school. If a student-athlete quits a team, that student may not be allowed to try-out for any sport during the next two sports seasons (even if one or both of those seasons is in the next school year.) They may request a release from the Athletic Director. They may not begin another sport until a release has been granted.

Requirements for the Faith Academy Mindanao Varsity Letter

The Administration believes that, for students at FA Mindanao, earning a varsity letter should require evidence of commitment to team and expertise in sport. Measuring expertise is not a science. Nonetheless, we have developed standards for the sake of standardized decision-making. The policies are intended to encourage students to persevere toward the goal of earning the varsity letter rather than to discourage or belittle anyone who fails to attain the standards.

It is the philosophy of the FA Mindanao Administration that Varsity Letters are to be earned, not simply given out. A Varsity Letter signifies that an athlete was a consistent and solid contributor to the varsity team. Receiving a letter is viewed as a large compliment, and not earning a letter is in no way a slight. There may be athletes who contribute in several invaluable ways who do not receive varsity letters; there are awards at the end of the year awards ceremony to honor those athletes.

I. General Standards

- A. Varsity athletes who remain as members of the team in good standing throughout the full season are eligible to earn a varsity letter, subject to the provisions below.
- B. All candidates must maintain academic eligibility throughout the entire season. (See athletic handbook as to what are the final GPA requirements)
- C. Senior athletes who have participated in a given program (varsity) for at least three years shall receive a varsity letter.
- D. Injured athletes who meet the “playing time” criteria for the contests held up to the time of the injury may receive a letter.
- E. Managers who have held the position for at least three seasons in the same sport may earn a letter. Only those who, in the judgment of the coach, have made a significant commitment of time and effort shall be awarded the letter.
- F. Any student involved in the athletic program who does not receive a letter will receive a certificate of participation.
- G. Any athlete who was a regular starter (and meet all of the other standards) should be awarded a varsity letter unless the coach gives the Athletic Director specific reasons why the athlete should not be awarded a letter.
- H. In cases of extenuating or special circumstances, exceptions to the standards listed above are permitted with the approval of the coach and athletic director.

II. PLAYING TIME CRITERIA FOR EACH SPORT (regular season events)
Participation in at least half of the games, demonstrating varsity level ability.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, _____, as a member of a FA MINDANAO athletic team, do agree to abide by the following rules and standards of conduct. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment.

1. I agree to attend and be on time for all practices, meetings, and games. Though I may have outside activities, I will not allow them to interfere with my commitment.
2. I agree personally to get PRIOR permission from my coach if extenuating circumstances arise where I must be late or miss a team function (i.e. – academic help, family emergency, etc.) This does not excuse vacation or out of school activities.
3. I agree to give 100% effort during practices and in games.
4. I agree to inform my coach of an illness or injury that I feel may affect my playing ability. I recognize that lack of practice due to an injury may limit my playing time and that I am still responsible to attend practices and games when injured unless excused by my coach.
5. I agree to inform my coach of transportation problems as soon as they arise.
6. I agree to keep an attitude of encouragement towards my teammates in every situation.
7. I agree to perform any function that the coach, in his/her best judgment, not my own, determines is best for the team's overall success.
8. I agree to refrain from smoking, drinking, and profanity anytime and anywhere. I agree to avoid situations (parties, informal gatherings, etc.) where alcohol and drugs may be present.
9. I agree to maintain my academic eligibility as outlined in the Student and Athletic Handbooks and to inform my coach of any academic problems that may encounter such as: term paper due or upcoming tests, which may necessitate help in managing my time properly or include tutoring.
10. I agree to take care of any uniforms or equipment that may be issued to me and will return it when I am asked. If any damage occurs during my possession, I agree to pay for repair or replacement costs.
11. I agree to not use any school issued equipment for any outside activities unless approved by my head coach and/or the Athletic Director.
12. I understand that I am representing FA MINDANAO while I am a part of the Athletics Program, and therefore I agree to always act in a manner consistent with standards of FA MINDANAO as outlined in the Athletic Handbook and the Student handbook.
13. I understand if I am not in school attendance four periods on game day, I will not be allowed to participate, unless prior arrangements have been made.
14. I agree that if I break my commitment to my teammates, coaches, and school by quitting the team, I may not be allowed to try-out for any other teams during this school year.

By signing below, I, the student-athlete, and we, the parents/ guardians, agree to the above stated responsibilities.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

TEAM TRANSPORTATION WAIVER

I give my permission for my son/daughter, _____ to ride with the team for transportation either by private automobile or commercial airlines to and from all games and tournaments for the 2009-2010 school year.

In case of an emergency, I give permission for _____ to receive medical treatment. In case of such an emergency, please contact:

Parent/guardian signature

Home phone

Work/cell phone

Parent/guardian signature

Home phone

Work/cell phone

Other contact

Home phone

Work/cell phone