

Student Athletic Handbook



Libertas Christian School
5181 - 64th Avenue
Hudsonville, Michigan
616-669-2270

www.libertaschristianschool.org



Libertas Student Athletic Handbook

1. School Mission Statement (p.3)
2. School Athletic Philosophy (pp.3-5)
3. Athletic Participation Requirements (pp.5, 6)
 - 3.1 Eligibility Requirements (p.6)
 - 3.2 Appeal Process (p. 7)
4. Expectations of Student Athletes (p.7)
5. Benefits of the Athletic Program (p.8)
6. General Athletic Policies and Procedures (pp.9-15)
 - 6.1 Injuries (p.9)
 - 6.2 Wednesday Practices (p.9)
 - 6.3 Substance Abuse (p.9)
 - 6.4 Missed Classes (p.9)
 - 6.5 Hazing (p.10)
 - 6.6 Facilities (p.11)
 - 6.7 Quitting (p.11)
 - 6.8 Transportation (p.11)
 - 6.9 Athletic Dress (pp.11, 12)
 - a) Game Day Dress Code (p. 11)
 - b) Practice Dress Code (p. 12)
 - 6.10 Absence from Practices and Games (p.12)
 - 6.11 Participating in Multiple School Activities (p.12)
 - 6.12 School Attendance (p.13)
 - 6.13 Problem Solving (p.13)
 - 6.14 Team Cuts (p.13)
 - 6.15 Game Behavior (p.13)
 - 6.16 Severe Weather (p.14)
 - 6.17 Delays (p.15)
 - 6.18 Available Light (p.15)
7. Awards (pp.16-18)
 - 7.1 Seasonal Awards (p. 16,17)
 - 7.2 Annual Awards (p. 18)
8. Athletic Code (p. 19)

1. School Mission Statement

The Mission of Libertas Christian School is to glorify God by partnering with parents to educate and disciple children consistent with a biblical worldview, teaching them to be lifelong learners able to discern, articulate, and defend truth in a compelling, winsome, Christ-like manner.

2. School Athletic Philosophy

- 2.1 The athletic program shall be centered in the person of Jesus Christ, and shall be a platform by which all of its participants can use their talents and abilities for God's glory.
- 2.2 The athletic program shall operate so as to reflect a Christian world and life view.
- 2.3 The athletic program shall be an integral part of the total educational program of the school and shall function for the development of optimum physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual growth in all of its participants.
- 2.4 The athletic program shall be organized in such a manner that is most consistent with the needs, interest, abilities, and maturity of the student athletes.
- 2.5 The athletic program shall provide well balanced interscholastic activities for as many participants as possible, consistent with available facilities, personnel and financial support.
- 2.6 The athletic program shall be planned so as to present a minimal amount of interference with the academic program.
- 2.7 The athletic program, its goals, standards of conduct and Christian worldview shall function so as to involve not only the participants, but also the student body, parents, staff, and community as spectators and supporters.
- 2.8 The athletic program shall operate under professional leadership, utilizing coaches who share the vision and philosophy of athletics at Libertas Christian School, and shall always strive for excellence in all of its aspects.

Athletics are a very essential aspect of Libertas Christian School. Our overall goal for athletics is to glorify Jesus Christ in every aspect of the student athlete's life. Team sports provide an excellent environment in which to learn about competition, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and how to maintain a Christian testimony under pressure. We believe that through athletics, the student athlete can learn many of the important and valuable lessons of life. We see athletics as an excellent "classroom" to teach those things which might not be learned elsewhere. It also provides an opportunity to apply and practice that which is being taught through Christian education. We desire that involvement in our athletic program will help refine the Christian character of our student athletes and so produce quality citizens of our community and our world. As Matthew 5:16 reminds us, we should "Let your light so shine before men that they may **see** your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Our athletic program has three basic levels: Middle School, Freshman/Junior Varsity, and Varsity. Each level is an integral part of the overall program. The main emphasis and purpose for each is as follows:

Middle School Athletics

This level is for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The overall purpose at this level is fivefold:

- I. **To develop** character, sportsmanship, and testimony in these student athlete's lives, so they might understand that they are learning important lessons on life as well as developing Christ-likeness through athletics. The responsibility lies directly upon the coach of the team to implement this aspect by teaching **and** modeling.
- II. **To introduce** these student athletes to their individual sport so they might consider if they would like to pursue it in high school.
- III. **To teach** these student athletes the necessary and fundamental skills it takes to participate properly in that individual sport.
- IV. **To teach** the value of "team" rather than a group of individuals on the same playing surface. It needs to be shown that a "team" can accomplish much greater goals than can a "group of individuals".
- V. **To implement**, in part, the varsity "system of play" into the individual sport. "All participate, and all play" will be implemented at this level. All student athletes, who have been in attendance at practices in accordance with the attendance policy, will play at least one full quarter (or the equivalent thereof) during each game. This "quarter of play" is a "privilege", not a "right", that is contingent upon meeting the guidelines (attendance, attitude, etc.) of the team. Middle School teams, when competing in end of the season tournaments will be competing to win the tournament. While maximum participation for all is strongly encouraged, it is not required in these events. These teams will compete interscholastically.

Freshman/Junior Varsity Athletics

This level is primarily for freshman and sophomores. The overall purpose for this level is again fivefold:

- I. **To develop** character, sportsmanship, and testimony in these student athlete's lives, so they might understand that they are learning important lessons on life as well as developing Christ-likeness through athletics. The responsibility lies directly upon the coach of the team to implement this aspect by teaching **and** modeling.
- II. **To teach** higher level skills and fundamentals as well as reinforce ones taught at the middle school level.
- III. **To integrate**, at a more advanced level than previously learned, the varsity "system" of play.
- IV. **To teach** the value of "team" rather than a group of individuals on the same playing surface. It needs to be shown that a "team" can accomplish much greater goals than can a "group of individuals".
- V. **To prepare** its players for the varsity level of competition. Total team participation is encouraged, but not required at this level of play. Playing time is under the coach's discretion. These teams will compete interscholastically.

Varsity Athletics

This level is primarily for student athletes who are juniors and seniors, but not limited to juniors and seniors. A freshman or sophomore who could be a contributing member and compete at the varsity level, may compete here. The overall purpose here is fourfold:

- I. **To develop** character, sportsmanship, and testimony in these student athlete's lives, so they might understand that they are learning important lessons on life as well as developing Christ-likeness through athletics. The responsibility lies directly upon the coach of the team to implement this aspect by teaching **and** modeling.
- II. **To teach** the value of commitment, hard work, and discipline to attain our highest potential as a team.
- III. **To hone** the fundamentals and system of play so that strategy of play might be stressed.
- IV. **To compete and reach our highest potential for God's glory.** This will include both winning and losing. Our value as student athletes is not in any way dependent upon scoreboards, but we also strive to win within the context of our responsibilities as a Christian student athlete. Total team participation in athletic contests is not required at this level. These teams will compete interscholastically.

Philosophy Summary

We recognize that all of these levels of play are extremely dependent upon each other. Each will only be strong in its emphasis when all three work as a "team" and play their role. They must work "hand in hand".

As our student athletes move through each level, they are preparing for the next level and ultimately for life, outside of athletics. With each level, the responsibility and expectations become greater, while the standard of conduct as Christians remains constant. We seek to represent Jesus Christ and have our lives on the court, field, classroom, or wherever life takes us, reflect Him alone.

We also see that winners are not dictated by scoreboards, but rather **how** we, as Christians, compete. There certainly is value to winning. If that were not true, we would not have to keep score at games. But this is only true when all of our emphasis is properly focused upon the person of Jesus Christ. If we win a game, but lose our testimony, we are the real loser in the end. The opposite would be true as well. If we lose a game, but have a great testimony in adversity, we are the all winners in the end. Winning is an attitude, not the result of any game we might compete in

3. Athletic Participation Requirements

- I. All student athletes must have a completed, original MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Form on file in the athletic office **before** they may try out for a sport and/or participate in any practice, scrimmage or game. The MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Form includes: the student athlete's medical history, insurance information, emergency information, medical clearance (by MD, DO, PA or NP), participation consent and medical treatment consent.
- II. All student athlete's MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Forms must be available at all athletic events (practices, scrimmages, games, camps, etc.), both home and away. Therefore, coaches must have possession of a copy of all their student athlete's MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Forms at all off-campus-school-athletic events. The copies must be turned into the athletic office at the end of the season.
- III. All student athletes must meet the Eligibility Requirements.
- IV. All student athletes and their parents must sign the Athletic Code at the beginning of the year.

3.1 Eligibility Requirements

- I. Eligibility checks will be made on a quarterly basis. They will consist of a mock check (which will serve as a warning) and an actual/binding eligibility check one week later.

At the actual/binding eligibility check, any student athlete who earns 2 D's (69%-60%) or one E (59% or below) will be ineligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests until the next check, but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday (one week).

If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not eligible (as described above), that student is ineligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests until the next check, but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday (one week). The process repeats a third time.

Any student athlete deemed ineligible more than three times in a given sport's season will be declared ineligible for the remainder of that season.

- II. All ineligible student athletes can practice and travel with the team, but may not participate in the games.
- III. Student athletes who have received an incomplete for a grade will have two weeks to get their work completed. If the work is not completed within that two week period, the student athletes will be deemed ineligible until a grade is issued.
- IV. All student athletes must meet all the standards established by the MHSAA. If a student athlete is academically ineligible by MHSAA policy, he is unable to participate for one full semester.
- V. The parent and student athlete must sign the Athletic Code at the beginning of the year.

3.2 Appeal Process

An appeal on behalf of a student athlete deemed ineligible but doing his very best work will be addressed through the following process:

- I. The appeal must be made ***in writing*** to the athletic director and the school administrator.
- II. The teachers of the student athlete must be in consensus agreement that the student athlete is doing his best work and thus would be recommended exempt from ineligibility.
- III. The athletic director and the school administrator will make a determination based on the appeal and the recommendation from the faculty, with the assumption the student athlete is still eligible under MHSAA guidelines of which Libertas Christian School has no jurisdiction.

4. Expectations of Student Athletes

Coachability:

Student athletes must be coachable, be able to take criticism without looking for an alibi, be looking to improve, and be willing to submit to the leadership of the coach.

Competitiveness:

Student athletes must have a desire to compete to the best of their abilities, be willing to sacrifice their time and energy to see that the task, no matter how big, will get done, and be bothered if knowing they have not done their best, win or lose.

Practice:

Student athletes must have the desire to work hard so their teammates will benefit from their efforts, and be willing to work hard at every phase of their sport so they can be the best that God has given them the potential to be.

Sacrifice:

Student athletes must be willing to make sacrifices, condition to compete even when it is not fun or easy, and assume the heavy responsibility of rigorous training, which though rewarding, is difficult and includes personal denial in order to remain in top condition.

Desire to improve:

Student athletes must have a passionate desire to improve, and be willing to practice the skills they cannot do well, many times more than the skills they can do well.

Poise:

Student athletes must have the ability to think under pressure, be able to concentrate on the work to be accomplished at the moment, be able to shut out of their mind a previous failure, success, rule, infraction, or personal insult to give undivided attention to what has to be done in the here and now, and be willing to allow God's Spirit to control them.

Love:

Student athletes must be willing to love their opponents and teammates and demonstrate it even in the midst of competition, have positive personal feelings towards their opponents and teammates, not be jealous of their teammate's success, respect and appreciate the talents and abilities of their opponents and teammates.

Integrity:

Student athletes must be willing to compete as hard as they can in accordance with the rules to bring out the best in themselves, their opponents and teammates, even when circumstances change, and practice and play as if Jesus Christ is their only audience.

5. Benefits of the Athletic Program

Joining an athletic team can be one of the most rewarding and valuable experiences of a student athlete's life. Joining an athletic team can:

- I. Provide an opportunity to incorporate Christian principles under the leadership of Christian coaches.
- II. Teach winning with humility, losing with dignity and learning from both winning and losing.
- III. Improve self-respect and enhance maturity.
- IV. Provide an opportunity for self-expression to many others in a language everyone can understand... Attitude and Action.
- V. Strengthen faith and increase confidence in the Lord.
- VI. Produce valuable new friendships of lasting quality.
- VII. Teach the value of team work, which can accomplish far greater things than a group of individuals.
- VIII. Teach the value of discipline that will carry over into all areas of life.

NOTE: At times, parents use the potential of withholding athletics as a disciplinary measure. Libertas Athletics would like to discourage this type of discipline once the season has started. Parents should notify the athletic director and/or coach if they intend to use this form of discipline. In reality, it disciplines a whole team, not just the individual involved. Libertas Athletics desires to support parents and therefore encourage that the parents work with the coach before removing their son or daughter from the team once a commitment has been made to the team.

6. General Athletic Policies and Procedures

6.1 Injuries

Coaches should in no way experiment with any severe injury that may occur to one of their student athletes. Injuries of this manner include broken bones, dislocations, neck/back/spinal injuries, etc. In case of neck/back/spinal injuries, the student athlete should never be moved until professionally trained people have arrived. If there is any reasonable doubt, parents should be contacted personally by the coach, and x-rays should be recommended.

If an athletic injury occurs off campus, the coach should attempt to contact the parents immediately. If parents cannot be reached, the best possible care should be sought. Coaches must have a copy of their student athlete's MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Forms at all off-campus-school-athletic events.

If a player must receive immediate medical attention, a coach or parent must accompany the student athlete to the med-center or hospital.

If any medical attention is received, an emergency report needs to be filed with the athletic director within 48 hours of injury.

6.2 Wednesday Practices

Due to our current limited athletic facilities, some sports will need to hold Wednesday practices. When an athlete has church obligations that conflict with practice times, it is their responsibility to communicate with their coach. Coaches may excuse athletes early from practice when this occurs.

6.3 Substance Abuse

Student athletes are to have no association with the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs, or the misuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs while enrolled at Libertas Christian School, **including summers** for returning students. Student athletes found guilty of association with the use/misuse, sale, or transfer of such substances will be suspended from athletic activity (conditioning, practices, scrimmages, games, camps, etc.) for the remainder of the current season (fall, winter or spring) and the entire following season.

6.4 Missed classes

Student athletes are responsible to obtain homework and turn in homework when absent from class due to an athletic contest. No student athlete is excused or permitted special favors because of their participation in athletics.

6.5 Hazing

Hazing is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Hazing is any action, ritual or situation which is expected of a person as a way of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership with or sense of belonging to a group, with or without the person's consent. Hazing carelessly, intentionally or unintentionally, endangers the emotional, mental, physical, and/or academic health and/or safety of a person, through embarrassment, distress, harassment, humiliation, degradation, abuse and/or endangerment, etc.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to any situation which:

- Creates a risk of physical injury to an individual or group.
- Creates a risk of mental or emotional harm to an individual or group.
- Causes discomfort to an individual or group.
- Causes embarrassment to an individual or group.
- Causes compromise of moral or religious values of an individual or group.
- Causes interference with academic endeavors of an individual or group.
- Involves physical injury to an individual or group.
- Involves harassment of an individual or group.
- Involves degradation of an individual or group.
- Involves humiliation of an individual or group.
- Involves ridicule of an individual or group.
- Involves impairment of physical liberties of an individual or group.
- Involves kidnapping, abandonment or imprisonment of an individual or group.
- Involves forced consumption of any liquid or solid by an individual or group.
- Involves the willful destruction or removal of public or private property by an individual or group.

Student athletes found guilty of association with hazing will be suspended from athletic activity (conditioning, practices, scrimmages, games, camps, etc.) for the remainder of the current season (fall, winter or spring) and the entire following season. Further consequences for hazing will be determined by the athletic director and the school administrator on a case-by-case situation, but may include but are not limited to:

- Temporary removal from the classroom.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention.
- Referral to disciplinarian.
- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- Legal action.
- Expulsion or termination

Libertas Christian Schools prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of hazing, cooperates in an investigation or is a witness to hazing. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation will be determined by the the school administrator, and the athletic director if the person is a student athlete, after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act.

6.6 Facilities

All student athletes are asked to be a good steward of the facilities we have. They should make every effort to clean up trash, candy, paper, litter, etc. from our gym, hallways, vehicles, and athletic fields, whether it was theirs or not.

No cleats are allowed to be worn in the building. Cleats are to be put on and taken off outside, and carried in hand into the building.

Facility usage must only be in the presence of an approved adult who is at least 21 years of age. Permission must be granted through the administrative office and athletic director. A facility usage form may be obtained in the administrative office.

6.7 Quitting

A sport is said to “begin” either when the final team selection has been made by the coach, or **before** the first competition or scrimmage. A student athlete who decides to quit a sport after it begins and prior to that sport's completion (post season tournament play) will become ineligible for the next sport he competes in for the first 1/2 (one-half) of that sport's regular season. The 1/2 will be determined by the number of allowable dates determined by the MHSAA. The student is permitted to try out for the next sport, and can practice and travel with the team, but may not participate in the games.

6.8 Transportation

Student athletes are not allowed to ride with other student athletes or students unless written permission is given by the parents of both the driver and the passenger(s). All student athletes are required to ride the school provided transportation to the away games. All student athletes are required to ride the school provided transportation home unless they receive verbal permission from their coach and parents to ride back with their parents only. Other exceptions to this policy must be made, in writing, from the parent to the coach.

In the situation that boys and girls are riding in the same vehicle together, each player is required to sit with their own teammates.

Coaches will ride the team bus and are responsible for their team's behavior.

The vehicle used for school transportation must be as clean as it was when the student athlete(s) first got in it. This means all garbage, food, etc., must be picked up before leaving the vehicle.

Stopping at restaurants after games is a privilege. All behavior is expected to be a positive reflection of Jesus Christ and Libertas Christian School. Any student athlete that displays behavior detrimental to that winsome witness will be subject to a game suspension from the team.

6.9 Athletic Dress

The administration is the final authority in determining compliance with the dress code. Due to the ever changing fashion trends, this dress code is subject to adjustment at any time.

a) Game Day Dress Code:

All student athletes/teams are subject to a dress code their coach may require for game day and/or travel. Student athletes/teams may be required to wear their uniforms to the games. If a coach does not have a travel dress requirement, then all student athletes are required to comply with the school dress code to and from all games.

b) Practice Dress Code:

Shoes: All athletes **must** wear shoes in practice unless otherwise directed by their coach.

Men: Spandex shorts/compression shorts may be worn with other looser shorts over them. A shirt must be worn at all times. Sleeveless shirts are allowed during practice.

Girls: Spandex shorts, compression shorts, yoga pants and leggings may be worn **as long as** a pair of looser shorts are worn over them. Shorts are expected to be modest and athletes should avoid extremely short and/or extremely tight shorts.

Athletes are expected to wear modest shirts. The following types of shirts may not be worn in practice: t-tops or other shirts cut in at the back of the shoulders, shirts that show cleavage, tight tops, shirts that show midriff (front) or the lower back. Sleeveless shirts are allowed.

Any athlete that is not adhering to the athletic dress code will be asked to change into approved attire. If they do not have anything appropriate, they will be dismissed from practice for that day and their absence will be considered unexcused.

Due to the individual needs of different sports, Coaches may ***require*** certain items to be worn specific to that sport (i.e. volleyball - knee pads, soccer - shin guards).

Due to the ever changing nature of fashion, this policy is subject to change at any time.

Coaches are given full authority and discretion in determining whether athletic clothing is appropriate.

6.10 Absence from Practices and Games

Each student athlete will be given an opportunity for two excused absences from a practice or game each season for an approved personal reason. This absence must be a **written request** by the parents to the coach **no less than one day prior to the absence**. Approval will be determined by the coach, athletic director and/or the school administrator. An approved personal reason could be a family trip, family get-together, church retreat, mission trip, etc.

A student athlete's absence may be excused for special, uncontrollable circumstances such as impassible roads, sickness, or the death of a family member/loved one. Approval will be determined by the coach, athletic director and/or the school administrator.

Student athletes who miss a practice or game for an unexcused reason may not compete in the next game or have reduced playing time, at the discretion of the coach. The student/athlete with an unexcused absence should realize that in all fairness, game time participation may and should favor those who have made a full commitment to the team.

6.11 Participating in Multiple School Activities

Even though students are encouraged to become involved in multiple school activities, each student must make the decision as to which will be their primary endeavor when such activities overlap.

Student athletes who desire to be involved in secondary endeavors such as drama, band or another sport, which may conflict with their primary sport, must make every attempt to fulfill their first commitment. The student athlete, along with the involved coaches and/or staff will be encouraged to work together if an accommodation is possible.

The student/athlete should realize that in all fairness, game time participation may and should favor those who have made a full commitment to the team.

6.12 School Attendance

A student athlete must attend school the equivalent of at least two consecutive blocks in order to participate in any practices, games or events that day.

6.13 Problem Solving

Student athletes should attempt to solve problems using the Biblical model of first going to the one with whom they have a problem, if possible, and make an attempt to settle the matter one on one.

If it is not possible or wise for the student athlete to approach the person one on one, such as it causes him discomfort or endangerment, or if the person will not listen, the student athlete should request the company of one or two of his peers whom he trust to help settle the matter together.

If the matter remains unresolved or continues, the student athlete should seek additional help as necessary from his coach, the athletic director, the school administrator, and ultimately the school board.

6.14 Team Cuts

Cutting students from athletic teams is discouraged. In certain sports, however, maximum student participation levels or standards may need to be set. When the number of students trying out for the team exceeds the maximum standard of what would be practical to carry on a team, cuts may be necessary.

No student will be cut who needs to fulfill an Academic P.E. credit. Cuts will not be made without first consulting the athletic director.

Cuts, if necessary, will be made by the coach with input from the coaching staff. No student who tries out for a team will be cut from a team without first meeting with the coach for explanation.

No cuts are allowed at the Middle School level.

6.15 Game Behavior

Competing in a game is a privilege and all behavior is expected to be a positive reflection of Jesus Christ and Libertas Christian School.

Any student athlete that displays behavior detrimental to that winsome witness, such as attitudes resulting in technical fouls, red cards, etc., will be subject to being pulled out for a period of time or the remainder of the game at the coach's discretion, in addition to the time dictated by the rules of the game.

6.16 Severe Weather

Snow

If school is canceled before the start of a school day:

- All middle school practices and events will be canceled for the day.
- High school events will be held if conditions permit.
- High school practices will be permitted at the discretion of the coach and the athletic director, but will not start before noon.

If school is canceled after noon:

- All middle school practices and events for that day will be canceled.
- All high school practices and events for that day will be canceled.

If the field is determined to be unplayable at the discretion of the officials, coaches or the athletic director:

- Affected outdoor practices and events will be canceled.

Rain

If the field is determined to be unplayable at the discretion of the officials, coaches or the athletic director:

- Affected outdoor practices and events will be canceled.

Lightning

If lightning is observed or thunder is heard within 30 minutes prior to the start of or during any outdoor athletic event:

- That event will be postponed or suspended at first sighting.
- All student athletes will be moved to designated cover areas.
- Student athletes will not be allowed to return to the field and the event will not start or resume until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes, and agreed upon by all officials, the athletic director and all coaches.

Tornado Watch

If the area of the event is under a tornado watch:

- All middle school practices and events will be canceled.
- High school indoor and outdoor practices and events will continue as scheduled with the weather being closely monitored.

Tornado Warning

If the area of the event is under a tornado warning before scheduled practices and events:

- All practices and events will be canceled until the warning is canceled.

If the area of the event falls under a tornado warning during scheduled practices and events:

- All activities will stop and all student athletes will be moved to designated cover areas.

6.17 Delays

Delays for events scheduled prior to 3 p.m. will not exceed three hours.

Delays for events scheduled for 3 p.m. or later will not exceed one and one half hour.

Delays on nights not followed by a school day, for all the competing teams, may be longer by mutual agreement of participating schools.

If the visiting team fails to arrive at the time scheduled start time, the athletic director will delay the event, declare the event forfeited, reschedule the event, or declare the event a no contest.

If the visiting team notifies the athletic director of the reason for the delay and projected arrival, the officials must stand by for 60 minutes beyond the scheduled start time. When the team arrives, a reasonable amount of time must be provided to conduct a pregame warm-up, which shall not be less than 15 minutes.

If the visiting team does not notify the athletic director that there is a delay and the reason for it, the officials have permission to leave the site 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.

6.18 Available Light

If the field is determined to be unsafe at the discretion of the officials, coaches or the athletic director due to diminishing sunlight, no lighting or insufficient lighting:

- Affected outdoor practices and events will be canceled.

7. Awards

7.1 Seasonal Awards

A sports award event will be held at the end of each fall, winter and spring season, at which time varsity letters and several team awards will be presented to the players. The following describes how each award will be determined.

I. Varsity Letter Program

The head coach reserves the right to establish sport specific qualifications as approved by the athletic director and presented in writing to the student athlete at the start of the season.

Varsity student athletes who satisfy the following qualifications will earn a Libertas Christian School Varsity Letter:

- They have met the requirements and expectations established in the Athletic Handbook.
- They have completed the entire season.
- They have remained in good standing with the coach and the school throughout the entire season.
- They conduct themselves with integrity both on and off the field.
- They are gracious winners and good losers.
- They attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach.
- They attend the awards banquet unless excused by the coach.
- They have met the sport specific qualifications established by the head coach.

The head coach reserves the right to make exceptions to these requirements if there is just cause:

- They would have qualified for a letter had it not been for an injury.
- They would have qualified for a letter had it not been for lack of play time unrelated to consequences due to not meeting the Athletic Handbook requirements and expectations.
- They have moved up to the varsity level and made significant contributions to the program.
- They have moved up to the varsity level during state competition and played in half of the event or scored team points.
- They were a team manager or assistant who met the qualifications and were actively involved though the whole season.

At the end of the season for each sport, qualifying varsity student athletes will be presented with:

- A Chenille letter and a sport specific pin for the 1st year. A student athlete will only receive one Chenille letter during his high school career, regardless of how many sports he lettered in.
- A sport specific pin.

I. Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award

The MVP award will be presented to the varsity student athlete who has received the majority vote from his team members. The coach is responsible to provide and conduct a confidential ballot vote of all team members. The vote must be done without notice, with the team members separated and not allowed to talk to each other beforehand. The recipient must be elected for the following qualifications:

- They contributed the most to the overall success of the team.
- They conducted themselves as one to emulate both in play and character.
- The athlete that the team could not do without.

At the end of the season for each sport, the elected varsity student athletes will be presented with:

- A sport specific medal.

II. Coach's Award

The Coach's Award is a coach's choice award presented at the Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity level. The recipient will be chosen for the following qualifications:

- They impressed the coach through their testimony, character, coachability, leadership or some significant act throughout the season.

At the end of the season for each sport, the chosen student athletes will be presented with:

- A sport specific medal.

III. Most Improved Award

The Most Improved Award is also a coach's choice award presented at the Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity level. The recipient will be chosen for the following qualification:

- They have increased their specific sport abilities the most throughout the season. Though often a younger and less experienced player's improvement is more noticeable, due consideration should be given to older players who don't have as much room for improvement.

At the end of the season for each sport, the chosen student athletes will be presented with:

- A sport specific medal.

7.2 Annual Awards

A school award assembly will be held at the end of each school year, at which time the following two awards will be presented to the elected players. The following describes how each award will be determined.

Both of the following two awards may encompass one or more years of varsity sports (depending on the award) and will be presented to the varsity student athletes, one male and one female for each award, who have received the majority vote of all the high school coaches, the athletic director and the school administrator. The athletic director is responsible to hold a meeting with all the high school coaches and the school administrator to discuss the nominees and to conduct a confidential ballot vote.

Note: When qualified candidates do not exist for one or both of the following awards, that award will not be given that year.

I. Libertas "Mighty in Spirit" Award

The Libertas "Mighty in Spirit" Award will be presented to the elected male varsity student athlete and the elected female varsity student athlete, who will be elected for the following qualifications:

- They impressed the coaches through their testimony, Christ like character, good sportsmanship, concern for team before self, energy, hard work, dedication, motivation, leadership, dependability or some other significant intangible throughout the year which cannot be fully described or measured.

At the end of the school year award assembly, the elected varsity student athletes will be presented with:

- A plaque and certificate.

II. Senior Student "Athlete of the Year Award"

The Senior Student athlete of the Year Award will be presented to the elected male senior student athlete and the elected female senior student athlete, who will be elected for the following qualifications:

- Their Christ like character.
- Their grade point average.
- Their accomplishments during their high school career.
- Their total list of sports participated in and the quality of participation.

At the end of the school year award assembly, the elected senior student athletes will be presented with:

- A plaque and certificate.



Athletic Code

- I. I understand that I am a representative of my Lord and my school. Therefore, I will conduct myself in a manner as to always be a credit to our Lord and Libertas Christian School, on the athletic field and in the community.
- II. I understand that athletics is only a part of the total educational and spiritual program offered at Libertas Christian School.
- III. I will recognize and abide by the authority of my coach at all times. If I have concerns, I will commit to personally communicate with my coach.
- IV. I have fulfilled all of the requirements that have been established by the athletic department regarding trying out for a sport. This includes having a completed, original MHSAA Physical Card/Medical History Form on file in the athletic office.
- V. I have read the specific rules and procedures given to me by my coach.
- VI. I will care for the equipment and uniform which is issued to me. I will comply with the instructions given me as how equipment should be cleaned and stored. I promise to only wear issued athletic equipment on the field and not in the school and community unless special permission is granted. I agree to pay for any equipment or uniform issued to me which is lost, stolen, or maliciously damaged.
- VII. I promise to care for our athletic facility as though it were my own.
- VIII. I promise to never wear outside practice footwear in any part of the school facility.
- IX. I will not participate in any athletic practice or event if I have not attended at least a half day of school.
- X. I will strive to place the welfare of my team above myself at all times.
- XI. I agree to abide by the rules of conduct in our Libertas Athletic and Student Handbook.
- XII. I will support the athletic program at Libertas Christian School.

I have read the Athletic Handbook and I have read and understand the above Athletic Code, and I pledge to fulfill these expectations to the best of my ability.

STUDENT ATHLETE SIGNATURE

DATE

I have read the Athletic Handbook and I have read, understand, and agree with the above Athletic Code, and my son/daughter has my permission to participate for this season.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE