



**WALNUT GROVE**  

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**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

# Parent/Student Athletic Handbook

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## Philosophy of Athletics

***The goal of WGCS Athletics is to encourage students to grow spiritually and develop athletically as they learn life lessons through WGCS sports.***

### Junior Varsity School Athletics

1. To develop the character of Junior Varsity athletes through team sports.
2. Several sports will be offered each year that do not necessitate tryouts. All athletes will be able to make the team.
3. Tryouts will be announced to students and parents at least two weeks in advance.
4. Teams that require tryouts will be chosen by the coach and assistant coach, if applicable, in consultation with the High School Athletic Director. Team selection will be based on an athlete's skill and teach-ability.
5. Team focus will be on presenting Christ through each event and on teaching concepts of team play and the fundamentals of each sport.
6. Although coaches will try to allow game participation for all athletes, equal playing time for middle school participants cannot be guaranteed.
7. All student athletes, grades 7–10 will be permitted to participate on the Junior Varsity teams. In rare cases, a sixth-grade athlete may be moved to Junior Varsity or Varsity level play.

### Varsity School Athletics

1. To develop the character of high school athletes through team sports.
2. Several sports will be offered each year that do not necessitate tryouts. All athletes will be able to make the team.
3. Tryouts will be announced to students and parents at least two weeks in advance.
4. Teams that require tryouts will be chosen by the coach and assistant coach, if applicable, in consultation with the High School Athletic Director. Team selection will be based on an athlete's skill and teach-ability.
5. Team focus will be on presenting Christ through each event and on advanced concepts of team play.
6. Coaches will determine playing time for individual athletes.

## Athletic Eligibility, Qualifications, and Guidelines

### Academic Qualifications

In order to be eligible to participate in athletic activities, a student should have an overall GPA of 2.0 or better and sustain an overall average of 80%. In addition to the previous grade standards, a student athlete will not be allowed to participate if he/she is failing Bible. The end-of-year GPA will determine fall and winter sports eligibility. The first semester's GPA of the current school year will determine eligibility for spring sports.

*The school does not hold openings on teams for athletes who are academically ineligible at tryouts.*

Although a student athlete with an end-of-year GPA below 2.0 is ineligible to participate in fall sports, a special exemption may be granted by the Headmaster and Athletic Director *if the student does not have a failing yearly average for the previous year.* This exemption request must be in writing to the Headmaster at least two weeks before the fall sports tryout dates. *If a special exemption is granted, the student athlete must maintain a minimal GPA of 2.0 for the first progress report, first marking period grade, and second progress report.*

In order to become eligible for fall sports, a student athlete who has an end-of-year GPA below 2.0 and *who has a failing yearly average for the previous year* must make up the failed course in an approved summer school program and must earn a grade that will bring his/her GPA to the required 2.0 standard. If the summer school grade is not available by the tryout dates for fall sports, the student may try out but will not be eligible to participate in practices or games until the Headmaster receives official notification of summer school grade. Student athletes whose previous year's GPA falls below 2.0 will be re-evaluated for winter-sports eligibility based on their report card for first marking period (minimum of 2.0 for GPA).

Once the student has made the team, if he/she falls below the GPA requirement or is failing Bible at the end of a marking period, he/she will have two weeks in which to bring his/her GPA to a 2.0 and an overall average of 80% or better. During these two weeks the student will not be allowed to practice with his/her team, but is required to attend all games, dressed in proper school dress code for that particular day. Any student not able to meet this standard will be ineligible to practice or play for the duration of that particular sport season.

### **Attendance Qualifications**

A regular pattern of school absenteeism may negate eligibility to try out for or participate in WGCS athletic activities.

### **Conduct Qualifications**

As stated in the discipline policy of WGCS, a student who receives a detention will not be eligible for the following game. If, on the day the detention is given, there is a game, the student will be able to play in that game, but has to miss the next scheduled game. If a student athlete receives a suspension, during the particular sports season, he/she may not be allowed to participate in that sport for the remainder of the season. Students who demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after a game may be dismissed from the team and may be subject to other disciplinary action. Unsportsmanlike conduct at athletic events by a parent or student may result in being denied the privilege of attendance at athletic functions.

### **Physicals**

All athletes who are trying out for a sport must have a current physical on file in the Athletic Director's office. Failure to have this physical on file will cause the student to be denied the opportunity to try-out for the sport.

### **Team Drug Testing**

In an effort to promote and encourage wellness and good health practices, WGCS will conduct random drug testing for all students who participate in interscholastic sports. Coaches will provide student athletes with Consent to Test forms that must be signed by the student and their legal guardian. The form must be returned by the designated deadline or the student will not be allowed to participate until the form is returned.

### **Attendance at Events**

When a student commits to a team, he/she is expected to attend all practices and games and all awards programs of that team. Absences can make a student ineligible to participate in the given sport.

### **Team Commitment**

Participating in two team sports in the same season can be very demanding for some athletes. If an athlete chooses to play on two teams (WGCS/Club), the athlete, parents, and WGCS coach should meet to discuss the commitment that is expected for the WGCS team.

### **Attendance at School**

Any student who is not in school by 12:30pm is ineligible to play or practice sports for the day.

### **Dress Code Guidelines**

1. Athletes are required to be in school dress code at all times. Refer to student handbook.
2. Chapel dress is required on chapel days.
3. Athletic Director must approve of all team apparel before it can be purchased and worn to school or any school-sponsored activity.

### **Team Discipline Guideline**

At no time will a team have a disciplinary practice or work out following a game.

## Administrative Organization


Walnut Grove Christian School believes that following the chain of command is imperative for a successful program. Conflict resolution should follow the principle of Matthew 18:15 of going to the person directly first. If no resolution is achieved, the conflict should be taken to the next level by both parties. WGCS is organized as follows:

- A. Board of Directors
- B. Headmaster of School
- C. Asst. Principal/ Dean of Academics
- D. Athletic Director
- E. Head Coach
- F. Assistant Coach

## Affiliation

A. SCACS – Walnut Grove Christian School is a member of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools Athletic Association which oversees interscholastic athletics between private schools in South Carolina. Walnut Grove Christian School abides by the by-laws, rules, and regulations set by the SCACS Athletic Association.



B.  - Walnut Grove Christian School has been cleared by the NCAA Eligibility Center to be able to provide the proper core classes to allow its student athletes to participate in NCAA Division I athletics once he/she matriculate to college.

## Interscholastic Athletics

### Fall Sports

- 1. Cross Country Co-Ed Varsity (Grades 7–12)
- 2. Volleyball Girls Varsity (Grades 7–12)

### Winter Sports

- 1. Basketball – Girls Varsity (Grades 7–12)
- 2. Basketball - Boys Varsity (Grades 7–12)
- 3. Basketball - Boys Junior Varsity (Grades 6–10)

### Spring Sports

- 1. Golf Co-Ed Varsity (Grades 7–12)
- 2. Baseball – Boys Varsity (Grades 7-12)
- 3. Tennis Co-Ed Varsity (Grades 7-12)

# Walnut Grove Christian School STUDENT ATHLETE/PARENT COVENANT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of the Walnut Grove Christian School Athletic Program, agree to abide by the following:

A. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations established by the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools Athletic Association, Walnut Grove Christian School, Athletic Director, and coaching staff at all practices and events. I am aware that if I fail to abide by any rules or fail to live up to my responsibility as a student athlete of Walnut Grove Christian School, I am liable to be dropped from the team immediately, sent home from whatever event in which I am involved, and may not be considered for future participation.

B. I will present the proper appearance, both in and out of uniform, when I represent Walnut Grove Christian School. When in uniform, I will wear the Walnut Grove Christian School name with pride and perform to honor Christ in all my actions. I understand that it is my responsibility to have my uniform at all contests, clean and neat, and present a good appearance to my opponent.

C. I will conduct myself at all times on and off the field with respect and dignity. I will treat my opponent and officials with the same respect and dignity that I demand of myself. I will not use obscene language, engage in any physical confrontations, or participate in any drugs including alcohol and tobacco while participating as a member of the Walnut Grove Christian School Athletic Program.

D. I agree to attend all practices, scrimmages, games, tournaments, and award ceremonies scheduled by Walnut Grove Christian School. In the event that I cannot attend the contest, I will notify my coach as early as possible and secure an excused absence from the activity. I understand that unexcused absences from games or practices may result in disciplinary action and even dismissal from the team.

**Player's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as parent(s) of  
\_\_\_\_\_ agree to abide by the following:

A. I will resolve concerns with the appropriate coach before taking any other action.

B. I will expect and instruct my student athlete to respect the coach and his/her authority. I will support the decisions that the coaches make.

C. I will treat officials with respect and understand that their decisions will be questioned only by the coaches.

D. When possible, I will help assume team responsibilities (transportation, gate, concessions).

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Athletic Director's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_