

# Tipton Christian Academy



2022-2023

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## **Introduction**

On behalf of Tipton Christian Academy, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our Athletic Program. This handbook is provided as a reference guide concerning the policies that govern interscholastic athletics at Tipton Christian Academy.

The policies, rules, and regulations presented hereafter have been condensed to address general situations. Students and parents should contact the individual coaches or the Athletic Director for clarification or further information.

Thank you for your participation in our athletic program. May God bless you as you use your God-given athletic abilities and desire to serve Him in this integral part of school life.

## **Tipton Christian Academy Mission Statement**

The mission of Tipton Christian Academy’s athletic department is to produce positive Christian student athletes who honor and serve the Lord, by exemplifying character and integrity on and off the field. It is our goal, through athletics to equip athletes with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful models of Christ in our community.

## **Philosophy of Athletics**

At Tipton Christian Academy, our athletes and coaches will compete at their highest levels to glorify God. Athletics offer us the opportunity to minister to others around us while also fostering the concepts of putting others before ourselves, and using our God given talents to achieve great things.

Tipton Christian Academy believes that participation in athletics both as a player and a student spectator, is an important part of the student’s educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibility to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and the student himself. In both play and conduct, the student is representing all these groups. Such experiences enhance the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns possessed by

students, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Tipton Christian Academy Athletics should provide an opportunity for others outside the TCA community to visualize actions and principals found in God’s word. Tipton Christian Academy’s athletic program will be used as an opportunity to minister to the non-Christian community through exemplary actions, Christ-like attitudes, and a high level of athletic skills. The challenge for our athletes, parents, and coaches is to adhere to the Colossians 3:17 mandate. “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”.

## **Athletic Department Core Values**

1. **God** – Use our God given abilities to glorify Him in all aspects of athletics
2. **Family** – Build a family culture within our athletics
3. **Academics** – Exemplify the concept of the student athlete
4. **Community** – Use our platform to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community
5. **Athlete** – Compete at our highest levels while modeling Christ

## **Our Coaches**

The coach is the “living curriculum” for the student athlete. Coaches at Tipton Christian Academy are the most significant components of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes at all times. To be an effective coach and role model, TCA coaches must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, be able to make adjustments during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the athletic director and school administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they have to mold young lives for Christ.

## **Our Parents**

Parents of student athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve his/her greatest potential and/or the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and always encourage coaches and teammates. Parents are not coaching and learning to trust coaches is a key step to learning the value of the life lesson experiences athletics provides. It is also important that parents honor the Lord when attending athletic events. For TCA’s athletic program to be successful, coaches, student athletes, and parents must make a firm commitment to always glorify God.

## **Our Athletes**

Tipton Christian Academy athletes should be diligent in preparation, always give 100%, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, show humility, and aggressively pursue excellence regardless of the score, opponent, time, referee, or situation. The ultimate and final responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the student athlete, for it is the student athlete who is accountable to his/her parents, coach, and the Lord.

## **Our Athletic Department**

Is committed to:

1. Discipleship of our coaches and student athletes.
2. Outreach to opposing teams and fans and to the larger community outside of TCA.
3. Preparation of student athletes for both competition and life with Christ as our model.
4. Stewardship of our resources.
5. Pursuit of athletic excellence

## **Athletic Department Expectations, Practices & Policies**

### **Eligibility for Interscholastic Participation**

All student athletes at Tipton Christian Academy must be exemplary members of the student body. Therefore, standards of academic achievement have been adopted for student athletes to establish and maintain eligibility.

1. Academics –The academic standards at Tipton Christian Academy are high; therefore, these standards acknowledge that academic achievement takes precedence over athletic participation. These standards, as well as specific eligibility/ineligibility information, are as follows:
  - a. All student athletes must be enrolled in and receive grades at the quarter and semester in at least six classes (Teacher Assistant, Study Hall and Directed Studies are not to be included in the total of six classes).
  - b. Grades in all classes will count and will be weighted equally.
  - c. Each student athlete is assumed to be eligible for athletic participation until a declaration of ineligibility is made by the principal or the athletic director.
  - d. For ineligibility declaration, a student’s 9-week grades will be the sole basis of

consideration. Progress reports can help a student regain eligibility but may not be used to declare ineligibility.

- e. Any failing grade (“F”) (at quarter or semester), a quarterly composite grade point average of less than 2.0 or an incomplete (INC) will render a student athlete ineligible.
  - f. Once a student athlete is declared ineligible due to academic shortcomings, the period of ineligibility will last until the next formal, written student academic evaluation (i.e., the progress update) occurs. Then, the entire academic record of the ineligible athlete will be re-evaluated. The academic criteria applicable for the quarterly grading periods (no “F’s” and a minimum grade point average of 2.0) will also be the standard of re-evaluation at the time of the progress report update. After the grades have been re-computed for the progress report update, any ineligible student regaining eligibility status (no “F’s”, a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and no incompletes) will be immediately allowed to compete as a team member. If, however, an ineligible student athlete does not re-establish eligibility at the time of the progress report update, that student athlete will be dropped from the team. Furthermore, if a student athlete is declared ineligible at a quarterly grading period, regains eligibility at the time of the progress report update, and subsequently is declared ineligible at the next quarterly grading period, that student athlete will be dropped from the team. In other words, any time a student athlete is ineligible twice during the same athletic season (defined as the time tryouts are held until the last interscholastic contest is completed), that student athlete will be dropped from the team.
  - g. In the event a student athlete has met all academic standards but drops significantly in academic performance during a period when he/she is in no immediate danger of being declared ineligible, the coach has the authority to institute measures of accountability to help the student athlete get back on track.
2. Conduct—Each student athlete is expected to conduct his/her life in accordance with the standards and principles set forth in God’s Word. This includes adhering to all appropriate TCA standards of student conduct. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will affect participation in athletic activities.
  3. Trying Out for a Team if Ineligible –A student athlete who is ineligible for athletic participation at the time team tryouts are held will be allowed to try out for the team. It should be clearly understood, however, that the possibility of that student athlete not regaining eligibility status at the time of the progress report update and the probability that the student athlete will miss some interscholastic competition and therefore, perhaps adversely affect team performance and team accomplishment, will be a major consideration on behalf of the coaching staff when selecting team members.
  4. Remaining on a Team After Being Declared Ineligible –It is entirely possible that a student athlete will be eligible when trying out for a team, will make the team, and will become ineligible after making the team, either before or after the season has started. If this occurs, the student athlete will, of course, be ineligible for the prescribed period. If this student athlete

fails to re-establish eligibility at the completion of the first period of ineligibility (progress report update), the student athlete will be dropped from the team.

5. Practicing with the Team if Ineligible –Generally speaking, ineligible student athletes should be spending time correcting situations that rendered them ineligible. Therefore, it would be advised for student athletes not to be practicing with the team on a regular basis and they cannot accompany the teams to interscholastic contests. There are times, however, when coaches need these student athletes at practice for the sake of team continuity. The discretion of the coach, with the concurrence of the Athletic Director, will dictate the necessity and frequency of the attendance of a student athlete at practice. At no time will an ineligible student athlete be permitted to miss school to practice or accompany his/her team on an athletic trip.
6. Participating in summer workouts, practices, and camps while ineligible will be at the coach's discretion with the approval of the Athletic Director.
7. Suspension from School –A disciplinary action severe enough to warrant student suspension will eliminate the student athlete from all participation in interscholastic sports for the duration of the suspension. Therefore, any suspension, whether in-school or out-of-school will render a student athlete ineligible to attend practice or any interscholastic contest. After serving the suspension, further disciplinary action will be assessed according to the Student Athlete code of conduct.

## **Participation Fee**

Participation fees are essential to help fund the cost of interscholastic athletics, game officials, tournament entry fees and supplementary equipment and supplies. Participation Fees are not a guarantee of playing time on a team. This fee is not assessed if an athlete does not make the team. All of the conditions of being a team member apply as if the fee did not exist -and that includes playing time based on the coaches' determination of a student athlete's ability. Additional sport specific fees may be incurred based upon individual sports requirements (i.e., warmup shirts, golf green fees, required safety equipment, etc....).

General Participation Fee:

- **TCA Student (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) - \$200 per for 1st sport, \$100 for the 2nd sport & \$75 for any thereafter and these will be billed via FACTS upon making the team**
- **Non-TCA students will pay \$250 athletic fee per sport**

## **Concussion Reference Guide & Fact Sheet**

Tennessee state law requires annual training on concussions for all youth sports coaches. A concussion fact sheet for parents can be found at <https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/health-safety-information/Concussion-Policy-updated-12.2019.pdf>. Questions regarding head or other serious injuries should be addressed to the athletic department or a licensed physician.

## Physical Form and Parental Consent Form

1. For a student to be allowed to try out for a team or practice with a team, he/she must have a current Physical Form on file in the Athletic office. Physicals are good for one year after the day it was completed. Physicals dated after April 15<sup>th</sup> will be good for the next school year. These forms are available in the athletic office or on the TCA athletics website.
2. For a student to be allowed to participate on any team, he/she and their parent/guardian must have signed and returned the athletic handbook compliance form, all physical paperwork, and sudden cardiac arrest/concussion forms. These can be turned into the athlete's coach or the athletic director.

## Attendance at Practices and Games

Each member of a Tipton Christian Academy athletic team must assume the responsibilities associated with such a position. The athlete has an ethical obligation to the team and the school. This obligation includes regular attendance at practices and athletic contests. Commitment to TCA teams should come before any club or outside team.

It is possible that emergency situations may arise (e.g., illness, death in a family, etc.) that render it impossible for an athlete to attend a practice session or an athletic contest. Absences should be few and far between and arranged with the coach as early as possible. If a conflict arises and the athlete may have to miss a practice, it is of utmost importance that the athlete communicates this with the coach immediately knowing that consequences may follow.

Absences from practice sessions or athletic contests will be handled in the following manner:

ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE	
Excused absence	No action
Unexcused absence – 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Conference with coach and discipline of athlete
Unexcused absence – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Suspension from the next interscholastic contest
Unexcused absence – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	Dismissal from team (Athlete forfeits all awards)

ABSENCE FROM ATHLETIC CONTEST	
Excused absence	No action
Unexcused absence – 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Suspension from next two interscholastic contests
Unexcused absence – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Dismissal from team (Athlete forfeits all awards)

## Attendance at School

A student athlete must attend school on the days of an athletic practice and contest in order to participate in that practice or contest. Some specific circumstances are as follows:



1. Students who are absent from part of the school day and are granted a non-illness related excused absence (e.g., a dental appointment) will be allowed to participate in the practice or contest that day.
2. Student athletes must attend at least five class periods of the day unless it is due to an excused absence. A student athlete may not participate in a particular practice or game if they do not attend the five periods.
3. Any Unexcused Absence from school, regardless if it is only for a partial day, will render an athlete unable to participate in the day's events. This would include in-school suspension or skipping class

## **Handling Problems and Solving Disputes**

At Tipton Christian Academy, we follow the Matthew 18 Principle:

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over; if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:15-16

Parents, if you have a dispute or disagreement with a coach, we ask that you go to him/her with an attitude of appeal. Be respectful and understanding of his/her response. Most situations are misunderstandings and can easily be resolved. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, please contact that athletic director to schedule a meeting with all parties involved.

We also ask that you follow the **24-hour rule**:

Parents should not contact and express negative comments or complaints to a coach on the day of a game or event. Never approach a coach with an issue right before a game or practice.

## **Playing Time Policy**

While it is true that our coaches and administrative personnel believe it to be important to broaden the experience of Tipton Christian Academy athletes, and playing time enhances that broadening, it is also an important goal of the TCA athletic program to strive toward excellence. Therefore, no minimum per game playing time provisions or minimum numbers of athletic meets in which athletes must compete are established at the Middle and Upper School. Playing time decisions are left up to the individual coaches.

## Parent Meetings

Parent Pre-Season Meetings –All parents of student athletes are **required** to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff of that sport. The meeting shall be held before the first contest. Parents will be informed of all rules for their sport as well as the rules of Tipton Christian Academy.

## Parent Expectations

Our goal is for all athletes to have the most positive athletic experience possible. This goal cannot be accomplished without the positive effort of parents. Playing sports takes a huge commitment on the part of parents and athletes. Commitment can be defined as a promise to be loyal to someone or something or the attitude of someone who works very hard to do or support something.

To have successful, committed athletes, we must have a commitment from parents. It requires a great deal to participate in sports. It takes time, money, energy and copious amounts of practice and patience on everyone's part.

As 1 Peter 3:8 states' "We should be of one mind. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude."

Parents should always:

- Encourage all players in a positive manner
- Support umpires, referees, officials, judges, coaches, and players on our teams and opposing teams
- Use appropriate language and keep a positive attitude
- Use the proper chain of command (coach/sponsor first, then Athletic Director) if a parent has a concern regarding any decision made by the coach
- Adhere to the 24-Hour Rule – Do not contact a coach/sponsor to express negative comments or complaints until 24 hours after the game or event
- Discuss playing time with the coach or sponsor and do not include evaluations of another athlete
- Understand that being a member of TCA athletics is a privilege and a full-time commitment and participation in all practices and games or events is required unless an absence has been discussed and approved well in advance with the head coach or sponsor
- Expect to volunteer in areas to help with the sport
- Refrain from coaching their athlete during practices and games allowing the coaches to coach
- Encourage their athletes to follow the Athletic Code of Conduct
- Monitor their athletes' grades making sure they are maintaining a "C" average (2.0 GPA) in their academics

Parents and spectators deemed not following proper spectator etiquette will be asked to leave the sporting event. Further action will be taken if more than one occurrence takes place.

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

All student athletes shall adhere to the Athletic Code of Conduct. Any violation or misconduct shall be subject to the disciplinary measures contained herein, above and beyond those rendered by the appropriate authority. It should be noted that the Athletic Code of Conduct both includes and is in addition to the Tipton Christian Academy Code of Conduct.

The student athletes conduct at Tipton Christian Academy in or out of school shall be as follows:

1. Not to reflect discredit upon our school, teammates, coaches, or Jesus Christ
2. Not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, moral, or educational environment in our school

Any such misconduct violating these principals shall be subject to the disciplinary measures about and beyond the Tipton Christian Academy Code of Conduct. The Athletic Director and coach of each sport shall enforce all rules and regulations as described the Code of Conduct for athletes.

## **Athletic Conduct**

Student athletes are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors and characteristics:

### **1. Respect for myself, teammates, coaches, game officials/umpires, opponents, and equipment**

- ❖ “Show proper respect to everyone.” 1 Peter 2:17
  - Never underestimate your opponent
  - Listen to and obey those God has placed above you
  - Take care of equipment and return all TCA issued equipment at the completion of each season

### **2. Always maintain a positive attitude**

- ❖ “Be made new in the attitude of your minds.” Ephesians 4:23
  - Remember that a great effort is usually the result of a great attitude
  - Talent is overvalued; character wins out

### **3. Always give my best effort**

- ❖ “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.” Colossians 3:23
  - Always play the game hard regardless of the score
  - Don’t worry when we are down, and don’t relax when we are ahead

#### **4. Support and encourage your teammates**

- ❖ “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11
  - Never use negative words towards your teammates
  - Never demean another teammate

#### **5. Never use inappropriate language**

- ❖ “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.” Ephesians 4:29

#### **6. Play without fear of failure**

- ❖ “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power.” 2 Timothy 1:7

#### **7. Never give up in any sport**

- ❖ “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”  
2 Timothy 4:7
  - Give 100% each practice and game and you will have done your best and will be a winner regardless

Student-Athletes are expected to refrain from the following behavior and characteristics:

- Tardiness to practices or competitions
- Careless and/or reckless behavior
- Inappropriate use of cellular phones, cameras, and other electronic devices while in the locker room areas
- Inappropriate public displays of romantic affection (i.e., holding hands, kissing, excessive hugging)
- Profanity and vulgar or offensive speech and/or gestures
- Inappropriate use of social networks or media outlets (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.)
- Dishonesty in any form including lying, theft, or cheating
- Gambling
- Rebellious or disrespectful attitude
- Flagrant disrespect and disobedience
- Possession and/or distribution of pornographic materials and information, including the distribution of sexual suggestive material via cell phones, cameras, computers, or “sexting” of any kind
- Harassment in any form, both physical and/or sexual in nature.
- Hazing in any form
- Use and/or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and abuse of prescription medication
- Immoral sexual conduct
- Use or possession of weapons and/or dangerous items on school premises or at any athletic event



## Athletic Disciplinary Actions

Please note that the athletic disciplinary actions below are in addition to the Tipton  
Christian Academy Code of Conduct

Types of Violations	Occurrence	Disciplinary Action
<b>TYPE "A1" OFFENSES</b>		
<b>Possession, distribution, use or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs and the abuse of prescription medications</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	33-50% of the contests for that season, carried over to the next sports season if necessary
<b>Immoral sexual conduct</b>		
<b>Possession/distribution of pornographic materials, sexting</b>		
<b>Inappropriate use of cell phones, cameras or other devices resulting in invasion of privacy or sharing sexually explicit materials</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Suspended from athletics for 365 days
<b>Felonies, Misdemeanors, Thefts</b>		
Lower percentage not to go below 33% without approved service project Carryover will be determined by the Athletic Director		
<b>TYPE "A2" OFFENSES</b>		
<b>Harassment or bullying in any form, physically, mentally and/or sexual</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	25-50% of the contests for that season, carried over to the next sport season if necessary
<b>Hazing in any form</b>		
<b>Careless or reckless behavior resulting in property or physical damage</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Suspended from athletics for 365 days
Lower percentage not to go below 33% without approved service project Carryover will be determined by the Athletic Director		
<b>TYPE "B" OFFENSES</b>		
<b>Profane or vulgar speech/gestures</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	25-50% of the contests for that season, carried over to the next sport season if necessary
<b>Dishonesty in any form</b>		
<b>Use and/or possession of tobacco including ecigarettes</b>		Lower percentage not to go below 10% without approved project
<b>Inappropriate displays of affections</b>		
<b>Careless/reckless behavior</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Minimum 25% of contests service project not an option
<b>School suspensions not addressed in specific categories</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Suspend from athletics for 365 days
Carryover will be determined by the Athletic Director		
<b>TYPE "C" OFFENSES</b>		
<b>Disruptive classroom behavior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Discipline action TBD by coach
<b>Disrespectful words or behavior</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Loss of 50% of one contest
<b>All other minor offenses</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Suspend for on 10-25% of contests for that season
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Suspended for remainder of season

## Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing in any form is neither tolerated nor consistent with any spiritual, educational, or athletic goal at Tipton Christian Academy. “Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a student organization that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate. Hazing activities generally considered: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. The specific behaviors or activities within these categories vary widely among participants, groups, and settings. Typical hazing practices would include personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling; swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such substances on one’s skin; brandings; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or TCA policies, or regulations is considered hazing. Hazing in any form will not be tolerated at Tipton Christian Academy and will result in disciplinary actions.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Tipton Christian Academy will not tolerate any behavior that is considered bullying, intimidation, or harassment of another student(s). Such behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- **Physical** – direct physical contact including pushing, hitting, shoving, biting, hair-pulling, scratching, spitting, tripping, damaging, or stealing victim’s property, locking person in room, mean faces, rude gestures, initiating or forcing inappropriate touching
- **Verbal** – name calling, put downs, racist remarks, teasing, threats, spreading rumors, sending inappropriate (violent, sexual, malicious, etc.) notes or pictures in any medium, (cell phone, internet, etc.)
- **Social** – ostracism, exclusion, ignoring, being unfriendly, alienating, social isolation, rumor spreading, damaging someone’s reputation
- **Psychological** – acts that instill a sense of fear or anxiety, aggressive or menacing gesture

Students who choose to initiate and/or participate in bullying activities of any kind will be subject to intervention and/or disciplinary action. Consequences can include loss of designated school privileges and opportunities, suspension, expulsion, or legal action by the police and/or courts.

## Appeals Process

Appeals will be handled through the athletic director. A meeting will be setup between the athlete, the athlete’s parent/guardian, the athletic director, and the coach. At the conclusion of the meeting, the athletic director will determine the outcome of the appeal process and determine if another alternative outcome is necessary.

**Tipton Christian Academy**  
Student Athletics Handbook Compliance Form  
2021-2022

I have read and understand the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I agree to abide by these rules, regulations, and guidelines, and I will faithfully support the coaches, athletic director, and administration of Tipton Christian Academy. I also understand that if I fail to comply with these guidelines then I will accept the consequences.

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Athlete's Print Name

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Athlete's Signature

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Date

By signing this form, we/I as parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student athlete acknowledge that my/our child has read the handbook and understands the guidelines and the consequences for not following them. We also agree to hold our student athlete accountable as well as ourselves.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date



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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date