

# **WLCA Athletic Handbook**



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## Mission Statement

Our Athletic Department is committed to fostering the physical and mental development of all students through comprehensive athletic programs that promote academic excellence in a Christian environment. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in their education. We aspire to maintain an athletic program that is an effective learning environment guided by Christian principles where student-athletes can strive for success and excellence in both their schoolwork and their chosen sport. Our goal is to develop well-rounded individuals who are not only committed to sportsmanship and fair play but also to being good citizens and strong leaders in their communities.

## Philosophy

Our Athletic Department's philosophy is rooted in the belief that athletics is an integral part of the overall educational experience. We strive to provide opportunities that promote physical fitness, personal growth, character development, and leadership qualities in a Christian environment. We believe that participation in athletics not only enhances physical abilities but also instills essential life values such as teamwork, discipline, respect, and commitment to excellence.

We are dedicated to creating an environment where student-athletes can thrive academically and athletically. We encourage our student-athletes to strive for excellence in their sports while maintaining academic priorities. We believe that the lessons learned on the field, court, or track are invaluable and transferable to all areas of life.

In line with our Christian values, we emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, respect for one another, and integrity in all our athletic endeavors. We aim to foster a culture where every student-athlete can reach their full potential, not only in their chosen sport but also in their academic and spiritual life.

## Core Values

Our Athletic Department is guided by the following core values:

1. **Christian Principles:** We are guided by Christian principles in all our endeavors. We believe in fostering a Christian environment that promotes respect, integrity, and sportsmanship.
2. **Academic Excellence:** We prioritize academic excellence and believe that athletics should complement, not compromise, a student's academic pursuits.
3. **Personal Growth:** We believe in the power of athletics to promote personal growth, character development, and leadership qualities.

4. **Teamwork:** We value the spirit of teamwork and believe that the lessons learned through sports are invaluable and transferable to all areas of life.
5. **Respect:** We emphasize the importance of mutual respect, fair play, and good sportsmanship.
6. **Commitment to Excellence:** We are committed to excellence in both academics and athletics, and we encourage our student-athletes to strive for the same.

### Code of Ethics

Our Athletic Department is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards. Our Code of Ethics, which aligns with our mission, philosophy, core values, and vision, includes the following:

1. **Respect:** Treat everyone with respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of their background, abilities, or beliefs.
2. **Integrity:** Uphold the highest standards of integrity both on and off the field. Be honest, trustworthy, and accountable in all interactions.
3. **Sportsmanship:** Always demonstrate good sportsmanship. Celebrate victories with humility, accept defeats with grace, and always respect officials, opponents, and the rules of the game.
4. **Excellence:** Strive for excellence in all endeavors. Seek continuous improvement and never settle for mediocrity.
5. **Teamwork:** Value the power of teamwork. Recognize that success is achieved through the collective effort of all team members.
6. **Discipline:** Show discipline in training, competition, and behavior. Understand that success requires commitment, perseverance, and sacrifice.
7. **Academic Priority:** Maintain academic priorities. Recognize that being a student comes before being an athlete.
8. **Leadership:** Exhibit leadership qualities. Be a positive role model, inspire others, and are effective in your community.
9. **Health and Safety:** Prioritize the health and safety of all participants. Follow all safety guidelines and report any concerns immediately.
10. **Christian Principles:** Live by Christian principles. Show kindness, compassion, and love in all interactions.

This Code of Ethics serves as a guide for our student-athletes, coaches, and all members of our Athletic Department. We expect everyone to adhere to these principles and uphold the reputation

of our department and institution. Violations of this code may result in disciplinary action. We believe that adhering to this Code of Ethics will help us achieve our vision of developing well-rounded individuals who excel in their chosen sports, academics, and spiritual lives.

### **Vision Statement**

Our vision is to be a leading Athletic Department that excels in nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only successful in their chosen sports but also in their academic and spiritual lives. We aspire to create an environment where every student-athlete can reach their full potential, guided by Christian principles, and become not simply great athletes, but also good citizens and strong leaders in their communities. We envision our student-athletes to carry the values of teamwork, discipline, respect, and commitment to excellence beyond the field, court, or track, applying these principles in all areas of life. We aim to foster a culture of respect and sportsmanship, where success is measured not just by victories, but by the growth and development of our student athletes.

### **Squad Selection**

The selection of athletes for our squads is a comprehensive process that aligns with our mission, philosophy, core values, and vision. We aim to create squads that not only excel in their chosen sports but also uphold our commitment to academic excellence, personal growth, and Christian principles.

1. **Playing Criteria:** Sporting activities are open to all students of WLCA and/or students who are enrolled in at least a Bible class at WLCA, being that the school they currently attend does not have the sport of their choice.
2. **Registration:** All athletes interested in participating in our athletic programs must be registered through “Register My Athlete.” This is a mandatory step to ensure that all necessary paperwork, including physical examinations and consent forms, is completed, and submitted prior to participation.
3. **Clearance:** Following registration, athletes must be cleared by our Athletic Department. This clearance process includes verifying the athlete’s eligibility in terms of academic standing, adherence to our Code of Ethics, and completion of all registration requirements.
4. **Selection Criteria:** Our squad selection is not solely based on athletic skill. While skill is a significant factor, we also place a high value on attitude and coachability. We believe that an athlete’s attitude towards their teammates, coaches, and the sport itself, as well as their willingness to learn and improve, are just as important as their athletic abilities. Therefore, our final selections are based on the following three criteria:

- **Attitude:** We look for athletes who demonstrate a cheerful outlook, show respect for others, and embody our Christian principles.
  - **Coachability:** We value athletes who are receptive to feedback, eager to learn, and committed to improving their skills and understanding of the sport.
  - **Skill:** We consider the athlete's skill level in their chosen sport. However, skill is not the sole determinant of selection.
5. **Commitment:** Once selected, athletes are expected to commit to their squad, which includes attending all practices, games, and team events, keeping their GPA at playing average, and adhering to our Code of Ethics.

We believe that this selection process allows us to create squads that are not only competitive but also embody our department's core values. We are excited to see our athletes grow, compete, and succeed in their chosen sports while also excelling in their academic and spiritual lives.

### Eligibility

Our Athletic Department is committed to fostering academic excellence alongside athletic achievement. We believe that our student-athletes should excel not only on the field, but also in the classroom. Therefore, we have set the following eligibility criteria:

1. **Grade Point Average:** In accordance with the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) standards, all student-athletes must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5. This requirement ensures that our student-athletes are performing well academically and are on track for future success.
2. **Course Performance:** As per WLCA standards, student-athletes may not have any failing grades in any classes. If a student-athlete receives a failing grade, they will be benched from games until their grades improve. This policy underscores our belief that academic success is paramount and should not be compromised for athletic participation.
3. **Weekly Grade Checks:** To ensure our student-athletes are meeting these academic standards, the Athletic Director will conduct weekly grade checks. These checks serve as a tool for early intervention if a student-athlete's grades begin to slip, allowing us to provide necessary support and resources.
4. **Commitment to Excellence:** As academic excellence is one of our core values, we do not take eligibility lightly. We expect our student-athletes to demonstrate a strong commitment to their academic responsibilities. We believe that the discipline, dedication, and perseverance required in athletics can also be applied to academic pursuits.
5. **Good Standing:** Student-athletes must also be in good standing with the school community. This includes adhering to all school rules and policies, demonstrating respect for peers, staff, and the school community, and embodying our Christian principles.

By adhering to these eligibility criteria, we ensure that our athletic program aligns with our mission, philosophy, and core values. We believe that these standards will help our student-athletes to become well-rounded individuals who excel in both their academic and athletic pursuits. We are committed to supporting our student-athletes in achieving these standards and look forward to celebrating their successes in the classroom and in their chosen sports.

### Equipment and Uniforms

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we take pride in our athletic equipment and uniforms. We believe that if you look good, you feel good, and if you feel good, you play well. These equipment and uniform items are issued to team members at the start of each season and are intended for use exclusively by Word of Life Christian Academy athletic teams. They should only be used during in-season scheduled contests and practice sessions.

If any equipment or uniforms become damaged, they should be returned to the head coach immediately for replacement or repair. We want to ensure that our athletes always have the best possible equipment.

At the end of each season, all equipment and uniforms will be checked in. This helps us maintain our inventory and ensure that everything is ready for the next season.

We hold our athletes financially responsible for any lost equipment and uniforms, as well as items showing excessive wear. This policy encourages our athletes to take diligent care of the items entrusted to them.

Coaches and/or supervisors are responsible for keeping records of their equipment. If an athlete violates this policy, their name will be reported to the athletic director. This ensures that we maintain our community standards and uphold the values of our academy.

We believe that this policy not only helps us maintain our equipment and uniforms but also instills a sense of responsibility and pride in our athletes. We thank you for your cooperation and commitment to upholding these standards.

### Coaching Requirements

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe in the importance of well-trained and qualified coaches for our athletic programs. Therefore, all coaches - Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Volunteer Coaches - are required to complete the following certification requirements:

1. **Registration:** Follow the registration process provided by Final Forms. This will create a coach's page that will track your certifications. Be sure to e-sign the required sections.
2. **Background Check:** This is conducted at the district office. Please set up an appointment with the district to complete this requirement.
3. **First Aid Training:** This is an online training through NFHS.

4. **CPR Training:** This is an online training through NFHS.
5. **Yearly Concussion Training:** This training can be completed online at the NFHS Learning Center.
6. **Yearly Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training:** This is part of the Safe Schools training required by the school district.
7. **Yearly Bullying, Hazing, Harassment, and Retaliation Training:** This training will be provided by the Athletic Director in correspondence to LTC 508.
8. **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching/Phys ED/Dance/Coaching Major/Minor:** This training can be completed online at the NFHS Learning Center. If you are a PE/Dance/Coaching Major or Minor, please provide a copy of your certificate or upload the certificate to your coach's page.

We believe these requirements ensure that our coaches are well-equipped to guide our student-athletes in their athletic pursuits. We thank you for your commitment to upholding these standards and for your dedication to our student-athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy.

## Travel

Travel is an integral part of our athletic program at Word of Life Christian Academy, and we have established the following guidelines to ensure safe and efficient transportation for our student-athletes:

1. **Vehicles:** Our sports program has priority access to two 15-passenger vans owned by the academy. These vans are used primarily for transporting our student-athletes to and from games and practices.
2. **Parent Volunteers:** We are usually fortunate to have a community of parents on respective teams who generously volunteer their time to assist with transportation of their immediate athlete as well as teammates. This collaborative effort contributes to the smooth operation of our athletic program.
3. **Coach Transportation:** To ensure the comfort and safety of our student-athletes, we allow female student-athletes to ride with female coaches and male student-athletes to ride with male coaches to and from games. This policy helps to foster a secure and supportive environment for our student-athletes.
4. **Communication:** All travel plans, including departure times, pick-up locations, and any changes or updates, are communicated to parents and student-athletes through the "Band App." We encourage all parents to download this app to stay informed about their child's athletic schedule.

5. **Responsibility:** While traveling, all student-athletes are expected to behave in a manner that reflects the values of Word of Life Christian Academy. This includes respecting property, maintaining cleanliness, and adhering to all school rules and policies.

We believe these travel guidelines support our commitment to providing a safe, organized, and positive experience for all members of our athletic program. We thank our coaches, parent volunteers, and student-athletes for their cooperation and commitment to upholding these standards.

### **Game Sportsmanship/Code of Conduct**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe that sportsmanship is a cornerstone of athletics and an essential part of the educational experience. Athletics serve as an extension of the classroom, teaching valuable life lessons and skills. We remind our community that being a good sport is the mark of a true winner.

As such, we encourage everyone to remember the following:

- A ticket to a game is a privilege that allows you to observe and enjoy the contest. It is not a license to verbally assault others or behave inappropriately.
- Spectators represent Word of Life Christian Academy just as much as our athletes and coaches do.
- We encourage everyone to respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders' calls for support, especially when our team is facing challenges.
- Understanding the rules of various athletic games allows for intelligent and respectful spectating and critiquing.
- Expressing disapproval of rough play or poor sportsmanship by our players is encouraged, as it helps maintain our ambitious standards.
- Recognizing and applauding good sportsmanship and fine play by visiting teams is a mark of our own sportsmanship.
- Being considerate of any injured athlete, regardless of which team they belong to, is paramount.
- Always remember to keep interscholastic athletics in their proper educational perspective.
- Exercise self-control and fair play at all athletic contests.
- Any spectator who continually exhibits poor sportsmanship may be prohibited from attending future contests.

- Remember, a successful program focuses on character development and instills values necessary for success in life's challenges.
- Be a fan. Support your team and enjoy the game!

### **Code of Conduct**

Our Code of Conduct at Word of Life Christian Academy is designed to uphold the dignity, honor, and integrity of our school. It includes the following principles:

- Develop positive relationships for our athletes, emphasizing the importance of academic and co-curricular activities.
- Encourage and promote sportsmanship among the visiting team and spectators.
- Take an active role in preventing the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Prioritize safety before success.
- Work with and respect officials both in and out of the athletic arena.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct and promoting Good Sportsmanship, we strive to create an environment that fosters growth, camaraderie, and excellence. We thank our athletes, coaches, and spectators for upholding these standards.

### **Coaches/Parents Communication**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe that clear and open communication between coaches and parents is crucial for the success of our athletic programs. Here is what you can expect:

#### **Communication from Your Child's Coach**

- Explanation of the coach's and program's philosophy.
- Clear expectations for both the team as a whole and individual athletes.
- Information about the location and times of all practices, meetings, games, and van departures via Band app/email.
- Details about team requirements.
- Procedures to follow if your child is injured during a practice or game.
- Any disciplinary actions that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

#### **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

- Direct expression of concern to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- Support for the program. Dedication, commitment, and responsibility are essential ingredients for success and excellence. Encourage your child to excel.

### **Discussions with Coaches**

There may be situations that require a conference between the coach and the parents. These are encouraged as it is important for both parties to have a clear understanding of each other's position.

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director.
- 24-hour rule. Please refrain from confronting a coach before, after, or during a practice or game. Parents may address a situation if deemed appropriate to address the next day.
- If a meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call, and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- Ways to help your child improve and develop.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is important to remember that coaches are professionals who make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all athletes involved.

### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

- Playing time
- Play calling
- Team strategy
- Other student-athletes

We believe that adhering to these guidelines will help foster a positive and supportive environment for our student-athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy. We thank our coaches, parents, and athletes for their cooperation and commitment to upholding these standards.

### **Role of Parents & Student-Athletes/Parent Checklist**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we understand that both parenting and coaching are challenging roles. By fostering open communication and understanding, we can work together to provide the greatest benefit to our student athletes. When your children participate in our athletic

programs, it is important to understand the expectations placed on them. Success in this endeavor requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment from parents, student athletes, and coaches.

### **Expectations for Student Athletes**

Student athletes are expected to display appropriate behavior in school and the community, contribute to school spirit by participating in various events, and foster a spirit of cooperation with teachers, coaches, teammates, and opponents.

### **The Role of Parents**

Parents play a crucial role in the success of our athletic programs. We encourage parents to:

- Be a positive influence.
- Encourage your child to succeed.
- Maintain a cheerful outlook, even during challenging times.
- Provide unwavering support.
- Give credit to the team.
- Show respect for the coaches.
- Exhibit respect for the officials.
- Demonstrate respect for opponents.
- Provide a model of behavior that an athlete can always be proud of.

### **Parent's Checklist in Sports**

As parents, we encourage you to:

- Maintain a fun attitude.
- Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Praise athletes for participating, regardless of their athletic skills.
- Look for positives in athletes; avoid ridicule and sarcasm.
- Remain calm when mistakes are made, and help athletes learn from these mistakes.
- Help athletes avoid getting down on themselves when things do not go well.
- Remember that there is life after sports. Do not be obsessed with your involvement in sports.
- Emphasize teamwork in team sports; teach them to think “WE” instead of “ME.”
- Lead by setting a good example in sportsmanship.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can work together to create a positive and enriching environment for our student athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy. We thank our parents, student athletes, and coaches for their cooperation and commitment to upholding these standards.

### **Head Coaches – Job Description**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, our head coaches play a pivotal role in the success of our athletic programs. Their major responsibilities are outlined below:

#### **Program Responsibilities:**

- Head coaches have full responsibility for the overall supervision and assignment of duties to assistant coaches within their program.
- They are responsible for maintaining appropriate practice lengths, keeping accurate records, and informing the Athletic Director of practice schedules and travel arrangements, especially during holiday periods.
- They are tasked with the general upkeep and protection of equipment under their authority and are expected to complete an inventory of the equipment used for their sport at the end of each season.
- Head coaches provide evaluations of the team's record, facility and equipment needs, and assistant coaches after each season.
- They strive to build good sportsmanship and foster positive public relations within the school and community.
- They maintain positive communications with participants, parents, and media representatives. It is recommended that at least one meeting with parents and participants be held prior to the beginning of the sports season.
- They are aware of all departure and return times for their program and inform all players and parents of these times.

#### **Personnel Responsibilities:**

- Head coaches keep abreast of new developments, innovative ideas, techniques, and rules and regulations by attending clinics, workshops, reading professional materials, and staying updated with State Association regulations.
- They ensure that each participant has had a physical exam and that the proper State Association forms are submitted to the Athletic Director's office.
- They are responsible for the general health and welfare of students in their care and provide appropriate attention to athletes who are injured, ill, or otherwise incapacitated.

- They are accountable for the actions, conduct, appearance, and behavior of their team and assistant coaches whenever they are under their authority.
- They notify the athletic administration, staff, and parents of early departures (during school time), late returns, and approximate return and departure times that are normal.
- They inform participants of the letter/award policy and present them at the end of the season.
- They provide locker room supervision to ensure the safety of participants.
- They explain all district policies, including the participation agreement, athletic and academic requirements, special team rules, and lettering criteria to participants, assistant coaches, and parents.
- They complete a post-season evaluation provided by the Athletic Director.

By adhering to these responsibilities, our head coaches help create a positive and enriching environment for our student-athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy. We thank our coaches for their dedication and commitment to upholding these standards.

### **Assistant Coaches – Job Description**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, our assistant coaches play a vital role in supporting our athletic programs and working alongside our head coaches. Their major responsibilities are outlined below:

#### **Program Responsibilities:**

- Assistant coaches are expected to have an understanding and working knowledge of the rules and regulations of their sport according to the National Federation and State Association rules.
- They should keep abreast of new techniques, rule changes, developments, and changes regarding their sport or related areas. This can be accomplished through attending clinics, workshops, and staying updated with current research.
- They assist the head coach in conducting assigned responsibilities. This includes eligibility data, issuance of equipment, attendance of athletics, care of equipment and facilities, statistics, and other assignments given by the head coach.
- They assist in informing participants of the rules and regulations in school policies and athletic codes.
- They assist in supervising students at practices, before, during, and after games, and in the locker room.
- They are expected to attend all practices and contests.

- They assist in maintaining a safe environment for participants and should be aware of emergency treatment and preventative treatment.
- They assist in discipline when needed.
- They assist in the instruction of game skills, rules, strategies, and regulations.
- They are expected to maintain sportsmanlike conduct at all practices and games.
- They assist in the distribution and collection of all equipment.
- They assist in recommending awards.
- They complete postseason reports such as needed improvements in facilities and equipment, inventory, and those reports requested by the head coach.
- They complete a post-season evaluation provided by the head coach.

By adhering to these responsibilities, our assistant coaches help create a positive and enriching environment for our student-athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy. We thank our coaches for their dedication and commitment to upholding these standards.

### **Coach's Guidelines for a Preseason Parent's Meeting**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe in the importance of clear communication and setting expectations right from the start. Therefore, all coaches are required to address the following points, either in a preseason meeting or through a letter:

1. **Athletic Requirements:** Outline the specific requirements for participation in your athletic program.
2. **Team and School Rules:** Discuss the rules regarding athletics at both the team and school level.
3. **Participation:** Explain what amount of play time athletes can expect.
4. **Sportsmanship:** Highlight the expectations for sportsmanship from both players and parents.
5. **NFHS Sportsmanship Videos:** Show one of the NFHS Sportsmanship Videos to visually emphasize the importance of good sportsmanship.
6. **Fees:** Provide a breakdown of the costs associated with participation in the program.
7. **Team Supervision:** Discuss the roles of coaches and parents in supervising the team.
8. **Communication Updates:** Request the email addresses of parents to facilitate communication updates.

In addition to these points, coaches may also want to address the following topics:

- **Coaching Philosophy:** Share your personal coaching philosophy.
- **Practice Sessions:** Explain how practice sessions are conducted.
- **Practice Times and Systems:** Discuss the length of practice times and the systems used during practice.
- **Attendance Expectations:** Clarify the expectation of attending practices and the consequences of missing practices.
- **Academic Requirements:** Outline the academic requirements for eligibility.
- **Medical Information:** Provide information on what happens in case of an injury.

Lastly, always leave time to answer any questions parents may have. This open dialogue fosters a positive relationship between coaches, athletes, and parents, setting the stage for a successful season.

## Chain of Command

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe in clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Here is the chain of command within our athletic department:

### 1. Extracurricular Coach/Advisor

- *Role:* Program teacher coaches and teacher supervisors are responsible to the Athletic Director.
- *Responsibilities:* Program teacher coaches and teacher supervisors oversee their program, ensuring all their coaches understand the responsibilities and job description of their sport.

### 2. Athletic Director

- *Role:* The Athletic Director is responsible to the Principal.
- *Responsibilities:* The Athletic Director oversees high school athletic/activities programs.

### 3. Principal

- *Role:* The Principal is responsible to the Pastor.
- *Responsibilities:* The Principal oversees the functions and activities of the high school.

### 4. Pastor

- *Role:* The Pastor is responsible to the Superintendent.
- *Responsibilities:* The Pastor provides spiritual guidance and leadership for the school community.

## 5. Superintendent

- *Role:* The Superintendent should be considered the chief executive officer of the Board of Education.
- *Responsibilities:* All individuals employed by the district are responsible, directly, or indirectly, to the Superintendent of Schools.

This chain of command ensures a smooth operation of our athletic programs and promotes a positive and enriching environment for our student-athletes at Word of Life Christian Academy. We thank our coaches, athletic director, principal, pastor, and superintendent for their dedication and commitment to upholding these standards.

## Social Media

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we understand that our student-athletes represent our school throughout the year, not just during the sports season. As such, we strongly advocate for safe and responsible behavior regarding internet and social media use.

We highly recommend our students to exercise caution and avoid inappropriate use of public websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Snapchat, and others. It is important to remember that once something is shared online, it can be seen and shared by others, and may not be fully erasable.

Any identifiable image, photo, video, or online conversation discovered which implicates a student-athlete to have been in violation of our Alcohol and Drug Policy or Athletic Code of Ethics may be subject to investigation. Actions may be taken by the administration based on the findings of these investigations.

We also encourage our student-athletes to:

- **Think before they post:** Consider the content carefully. If it is not something they would say or show in person, it is best not to share it online.
- **Respect others:** Treat others as they would like to be treated. Avoid posting content that could harm others or damage relationships.
- **Protect their privacy:** Be aware of the information they share online and who can see it. Adjust privacy settings accordingly on social media platforms.
- **Report concerns:** If they come across inappropriate content or behavior, they should report it to a trusted adult or through the platform's reporting tools.

Remember, being a part of Word of Life Christian Academy's athletic program is a privilege. It is essential that our student-athletes uphold our school's values, both in person and online. Let us work together to create a positive and respectful online environment.

### **Banquet and Awards**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe in recognizing and celebrating the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our student-athletes. Here is how we honor our athletes:

1. **Academic All-Region and State:** These awards will be completed and submitted by the Athletic Director.
2. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for an award, participants must compete in a sponsored State Association activity. Participants must also be registered through our designated registration process (RMA).
3. **All Region Awards:** These awards are voted upon by the coaches in the Region. The names of the All Region Teams must be submitted to the Athletic Director so the certificates can be printed.
4. **Sports Letter Awards:** Head Coaches will submit the list of sports letter awards to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will print the letter certificates and provide the letter pins.
5. **Sports Pin:** Athletes will receive a sports pin for their first year of participation in a sport.
6. **Bar Pin:** Athletes will receive a bar pin for every subsequent year of participation in a sport after the first year.
7. **Distribution of Awards:** Coaches will hand out the awards to the students in a reasonable amount of time after the end of the season.
8. **End of Season Banquet:** Each sport will have an end-of-season banquet where team and individual awards are issued. This is a time to celebrate the achievements of the season, recognize the growth of our athletes, and come together as a community.

We believe these awards and recognitions not only celebrate our student-athletes' achievements but also inspire them to continue striving for excellence. We thank our athletes, coaches, and parents for their commitment to upholding the standards of Word of Life Christian Academy.

### **Gender Policy**

At Word of Life Christian Academy, we believe in honoring the distinctiveness of each individual as part of God's creation. We recognize that boys and girls each bring unique

strengths to our athletic programs, and we are committed to providing opportunities that allow them to grow, compete, and excel in a manner that aligns with their identity.

In line with this commitment, we have established the following policy:

- Boys will participate on boys' teams, and girls will participate on girls' teams. This policy allows each student-athlete to compete in an environment that is supportive, respectful, and appropriate to their identity.
- While we have previously offered coed basketball and flag football, we will no longer adhere to this practice. This decision has been made in light of the changing cultural landscape and our desire to align our practices with biblical principles.
- We believe that this policy respects the unique qualities of boys and girls, and upholds our commitment to providing a positive and enriching athletic experience for all our student-athletes.

We understand that this is a sensitive and important topic, and we are committed to navigating it with grace, respect, and understanding. We thank our student-athletes, parents, and coaches for their support and cooperation in upholding this policy.