

INTRODUCTION

Administration

It is the responsibility of our Pastor and Administration to establish operating policies for Tabernacle Christian School. Their wisdom and guidance has led the school in a positive direction for many years. The Pastor serves as the Superintendent and an Advisory Board exists to handle appeals.

The Administrator of Tabernacle Christian School is responsible for the overall daily operation of the school including parent problems, personnel supervision, academics, and discipline. This is a heavy load and is worthy of our support and prayers. Teachers or staff members with problems are encouraged to go to the administrator for counsel and guidance.

As a member of the Tabernacle Team, we encourage each member to have a spirit of encouragement, praise, and ready forgiveness towards each other. We all need each other's prayers. We are working for the same goals: to glorify the Lord through our lives, to provide an excellent Christ-centered education to our students and to witness daily.

Mission Statement

The mission of Tabernacle Christian School is to teach Biblical truths, share the plan of salvation, and train students to draw closer to Christ, while providing a Bible-based, academically advanced education with quality programs.

School Verse

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Tabernacle Christian History

Brother Ronny Dabbs and the members of Gardendale Baptist Tabernacle founded Tabernacle Christian School in 1974 as an educational ministry. The school was founded for the purpose of assisting the home in training young lives in accordance with sound Biblical principles that will contribute to the spiritual, academic, and social growth of the students. Year in and year out, the Lord has blessed this Christian school. To God be the glory!

School Profile

Tabernacle Christian operates a complete program for the concerned parent. We serve North Jefferson County with a childcare, kindergarten, elementary and secondary school. Since the first graduating class of 1979, Tabernacle Christian has seen hundreds of graduates go on to further their education at Christian colleges, public universities and community colleges. By emphasizing a Christian education that trains the heart as well as the mind, Tabernacle graduates are providing Christian leadership in a variety of fields across our nation and around the world.

Philosophy of Education

Christian education at Tabernacle Christian School is Bible-based, Christ-centered, and Holy Spirit controlled.

1. Christian education aims at the heart as well as the intellect.
2. The Bible is absolute. It is the ruler by which all things are measured.
3. A Christ-centered education emphasizes the importance of salvation and points the student towards a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by the application of Biblical truths.
4. Holy Spirit controlled education means the Christian teacher yields himself to God's will so that they can be used of God in the lives of children.
5. Christian education should reinforce the Biblical truths being taught in the home.
6. Christian education teaches a Biblical worldview, which leads students to follow God's will for their lives and to make decisions in light of eternal values.

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Athletics is the total release of all the athlete is (mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically) toward becoming like Jesus Christ in every situation. Each athletic situation is a separate opportunity for each participant to strive to be pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ centered his attention on pleasing only His Father. God desires for His followers to fully represent Jesus in every task the believer takes on.

Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men." That is quite a responsibility for each coach and athlete, yet it is that goal that is pleasing to the Lord.

The first goal of the Tabernacle Athletics is to strive for Christ-likeness. Christ possessed three characteristics that His followers should strive to develop in each athletic performance, practice or game. Our Lord was quite intense. He knew exactly where He was going and what His goal was. Christ was very purpose driven, yet flexible. Although He knew what His goal was He was willing to bend and be used by God to reach his goal. Jesus also had divine inspiration. Through prayer, each athlete can ask God for the purpose of each activity and be led by God to please him. Intensity, flexibility, and divine inspiration are some goals beyond points on the scoreboard that Christian coaches and athletes should strive for.

In a world that is saturated with materialism, selfishness, and egotism, Tabernacle Athletics exists to represent Jesus Christ. The purpose of the athletic programs is bigger than any athlete or coach. Desiring to see Jesus magnified through athletics overrides any on field accomplishment or any win / loss record. While a Tabernacle coach will strive to maximize an athlete's potential and strive to win with all passion, never should a coach misplace his priorities, failing to strive for the honoring of Jesus Christ. A Tabernacle athletic practice or game is successful in that excellence was the goal, humility was the attitude, hard work was embraced, selflessness was common, submission to authority was present, and Jesus Christ was represented. The final score (win or lose) does not determine whether the event was a success or failure.

Ephesians 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..."

The Christian athlete can handle any situation if he knows that he is striving to be Christ-like, and therefore, pleasing to God. Coaches, through team prayer and individual counseling, must strive to lead the Tabernacle athletes in a way that will be pleasing to the Lord. Godly character found in the coach will challenge the athletes to live more vibrantly for Christ. Furthermore, each student will eventually face victory and defeat in life. He must learn to accept it and gain from it. In a loss, humility is gained as well as an opportunity to grow. A loss teaches perseverance and passion to overcome. A loss teaches an athlete to be thankful in all circumstances.

Proverbs 24:16, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again..."
Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice."

Winning will often times draw the "spotlight." Teams that win are often scrutinized, presenting opportunities to show Christ-like humility on a "bigger stage." It is an opportunity to show graciousness and sincere friendliness. It is an opportunity to remind others that God is to be praised for abilities and athletic opportunities.

James 1:7, "Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..."

Athletes and coaches should praise the Lord for giving them much, making a concentrated effort to give their collective best for Him. The athletic programs at Tabernacle, as they strive to be humble, hardworking, excellent, teachable, disciplined, and selfless, will be successful on the playing fields.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

Discipline is to be top priority with every coach. A weak discipline structure will lead to a weak program. Every coach is to clearly communicate the rules, regulations, and consequences of broken policy to the athlete and parent at the beginning of the season. These expectations are to be communicated verbally and by way of “handouts” so that a coach’s expectations are understood. When discipline is enforced at the beginning of the season, few problems will arise when the season’s playoffs are approaching.

Good discipline will have a positive approach. Although students do not see discipline as positive, it will go a long way not only for the team, but also the individual. Use these opportunities to give the student Biblical instruction. A coach will often get opportunities to minister to a student that a teacher or parent may not have. Prayerfully embrace these moments. If an apology to the team is warranted, then set up an opportunity for the student to do so. A player should know what consequences would result in future infractions should occur. Communicate continued behavioral problems to the Athletic Director so he will have a working knowledge of the situation. The team needs to understand that no preferential treatment will be given when team rules are broken.

Discipline must be present the first day of practice to the last. Only by running the entire race can victory be gained and only through thoroughness and consistency can a coach have victory in the area of discipline. A coach must not neglect to take necessary action because of lack of time. Again, time invested in thorough discipline at the beginning of the season will pay dividends in time and heartaches saved in days ahead.

Finally, a coach must discipline himself if he expects others to be disciplined. A coach must lead with skilled hands but also a pure heart. Neglecting daily devotional time would demonstrate a glaring weakness in a coach’s discipline. One can not be used by God in the coaching profession if His life is not surrendered daily to His work. The coach is the leader of the team: discipline starts with the coach.

DESIGN OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Every organization that is going to run smoothly must have a design. The design of an organization clearly communicates the procedures that must be used and defines the different roles for the various positions. Each member of a department and administration is a worthy person; however, each person must realize that God has placed everyone in their respective positions.

The design also provides that each person will have the confidence of the other members of the department. Information should flow smoothly within the department; however, each member must remember not to betray confidence or leak any sensitive information. The key to the organization is loyalty and using the design provided to improve the efficiency of the department.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

God -- Advisory Board – Superintendent – Administration -- Athletic Director Coaches

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Tabernacle Christian School has several major objectives it desires to accomplish through the athletic programs.

1. To fulfill the mission statement of Tabernacle Christian School: "...to teach Biblical truth, share the plan of salvation, and train students to draw closer to Christ, while providing a Bible-based, academically advanced education with quality (sports) programs."
2. To demonstrate the Person of Jesus Christ in each endeavor.
3. To give the student athlete the best coaching possible.
4. To give the student athlete the best possible facilities and equipment that the school can provide.
5. To provide our student-athlete with a safe environment in which to improve their skills.
6. To teach the student-athlete to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.
7. To build lasting, constructive relationships between players and coaches.
8. To teach the student-athlete respect for authority through submission to God, coaches, players, and officials.
9. To assist student-athletes who have the ability to play intercollegiate sports with the opportunity of college scholarships.
10. To use the athletic program to further develop our young people to serve the Lord.
11. To teach the student-athlete to give 100% mentally and physically in practice and in games.
12. To teach leadership as defined by Jesus: Taking initiative to serve.
13. To lead the conference as an example of excellence, impeccability, and humility.
14. To represent Tabernacle Christian School with excellence and professionalism.

PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES OF SPORT'S CAMPS

Within the ministry of Tabernacle Christian School, sports have their place. During the school year and summer, certain church functions take priority over school events, sports included. Here are some guidelines for planning a camp and some things to keep in mind:

1. Teen camps, missions' trips and teen activities are scheduled first on the calendar.
2. Due to cost of church camps, cost of summer sports camps is taken into consideration by the administration. Fundraisers will often be necessary.
3. Participation in summer sports camps and workouts, though strongly encouraged, is not mandatory due to family vacations, church functions, etc.
4. Coaches should plan ahead and schedule camps, practices, and tutoring through the Athletic Director.
5. The Athletic Director should be notified of summer sports camps by March 31.
6. No team is guaranteed a summer sports camp each summer.

SPORTS PRACTICE

Practices are to be planned and purposeful. An unprepared coach will waste practice time, give athletes a reason to be unprepared, and will result in poor athletic performance. Included are some guidelines:

1. Coaches are to maximize practice time. Use time to build skill. Use the whole-part-whole method to better instruct young athletes. Teach the athletes the game. Repetition breeds skill and skill breeds success on game day. Use time to prepare the team for the next opponent. End practice in a positive, confident manner.
2. Practices should be reasonable length. Excessively long practices should never be the norm, but only the exception.
3. Practices over school holidays should be conducted on limited basis and should not be required. (Encouraged, but not required. No penalty given if not in attendance).

ACADEMICS, CONDUCT AND ELIGIBILITY

The education of a Tabernacle Christian School athlete has precedence. Extracurricular activities are made available to enhance the students' total learning experience. Tabernacle athletes must maintain solid academic and discipline standing in order to be eligible to compete in interscholastic sports. The following eligibility requirements apply to all those students involved in any sport at Tabernacle Christian School.

1. **ACEA Academic Requirements:** Eligibility for athletic competition during any semester requires each athlete to pass four core classes during the previous semester.

Three of these must be passed on "first impulse." In other words, summer school cannot be used to make up more than one of the four core classes that have to be passed.

2. **School Academic Requirements:** The following academic guidelines have been established by TCS to help monitor the academic progress of Tabernacle athletes. Report cards and progress reports will be checked by the Athletic Director periodically during the season.

- a. Three week progress report: Failing grades will serve as a reminder of future requirements if the grades do not improve.
- b. Six week progress report:
 - i. One failing class- Athlete may continue to participate if parents and administration feel the grade will improve.
 - ii. Two failing classes- Athlete will be ineligible for one week.
 - iii. Three failing classes- Athlete will be ineligible for three weeks.
- c. Nine week report card:
 - i. One failing class- Athlete will be ineligible for one week.
 - ii. Two failing classes- Athlete will be ineligible for two weeks.
 - iii. Three failing classes- Athlete will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

3. **Conduct Eligibility:** An athlete's classroom conduct is of utmost importance. An athlete who demonstrates poor conduct in school will jeopardize his eligibility. Although the following demerit guideline has been established, any serious school misconduct by the athlete is subject to possible game ineligibility.

- a. 50 demerits- 2 game suspension
- b. 75 demerits- Dismissal from team

4. **Attendance Eligibility:** A Tabernacle athlete must be present at least half of the day to be eligible to practice or play on game day. If there are extenuating circumstances, the administration will consider the situation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACH

The coaching staff at Tabernacle Christian School desires to serve the Lord through a structured program of highly skilled, organized athletics. The average team consists of twelve to fifteen students who must all cooperate to achieve maximum performance. It is important that a coach approach a season with priorities in proper order:

1. The Lord – A coach's daily walk with the God will enhance his opportunities to be used by God (James 4:8).
2. His family – God has made it clear that the family is not to be neglected (I Tim. 5:8).
3. The school – The coach is to support and enforce the policies of Tabernacle Christian School (Rom. 13:1).
4. The team- A coach's commitment to the team should never be in question (Mt. 5:37).

Athletic Department Guidelines and Philosophy 2015-2016

A coach should be aware that God has allowed them the opportunity to minister to and teach the student athlete. The coach should treat each student athlete as a unique individual by God and become aware of the special needs of each athlete. The following responsibilities will help the coach accomplish this:

1. Help make sure all physical forms are turned in to the Athletic Director. An athlete is not eligible to participate without a physical on file. This should be done immediately.
2. Get a copy of the team roster to the Athletic Director as soon as possible, allowing him to complete ACEA eligibility forms in timely fashion.
3. Help to ensure that all athletes have paid their athletic fees prior to issuing uniforms. Be conscientious of the total amount that each athlete is paying. An athlete's family will pay money for athletic fees, shoes, meal money on trips, and gate fees. Before insisting on team apparel, consult the Athletic Director for ways to help decrease the financial load on each family.
4. Collect and inventory all uniforms at the end of the season.
5. Be responsible for the equipment used by the team and make sure the Athletic Director is aware of any equipment that needs to be ordered for the program. No athlete is to take equipment, uniforms from a sports closet without a coach's permission.
6. Have in possession the First Aid bag on all trips. Have a working knowledge of general First Aid procedures. Be active in attending training sessions that will increase the First Aid knowledge of coaches.
7. Make sure athletes ride on team bus to and from games unless parents give permission, in person or in writing, to ride with someone else. This applies to going home only.
8. Make sure athletes are supervised at all time. DO NOT leave for home until all athletes have left the campus.
9. Report all game scores to the Athletic Director.
10. Communicate scores and team highlights to local media. Make sure all comments will reflect a professionalism that is expected at Tabernacle Christian.
11. Dress professionally.
12. Make sure that all involved in the program present a neat, well-groomed appearance. Head coaches should communicate to their assistant coaches what is expected apparel on game day.
13. Be on time to games and practices. If tardiness cannot be avoided, make sure that you let one of your assistant coaches know so someone will be there.
14. Be responsible for team discipline (make a few rules and enforce them.)
15. Communicate practice and game schedules with parents.
16. Coaches must approve an athlete's absence (outside of illness and emergencies) from practice or a game. If an unexcused absence takes place, notable discipline should take place.
17. All fundraising is to go through the Athletic Director for approval.
18. Make sure all injuries are reported to the Athletic Director.
19. Coaches are encouraged to improve their understanding of a sport. This can be done through coaching clinics and reading material of esteemed coaches
20. Support all Tabernacle sports. Do not esteem one sport greater than another. Do not encourage students to play just a single sport. The health of Tabernacle Athletics is dependent upon athletes being involved in multiple sports.
21. When traveling with an athletic team from TCS remember the coach is representing the Lord, Tabernacle Christian School, parents, the team and lastly himself. The way the team acts is a reflection of all these. Their testimony, attitudes and actions are under the coach's supervision. Coaches are responsible for their team's behavior, ensuring that it is appropriate and upholds the standards of TCS.
22. Develop cordial relationships with other conference and out-of-conference coaches. When a coach seeks strong relationships with other coaches it opens doors to be a testimony. It shows respect for another coach's ministry. It will also bring about possible ministry opportunities (shared facilities) (missions trips). It may help when scouting opponents.
23. Be sensitive to the needs of other programs. When winning a contest by a large amount of points, do not practice at another team's expense. Use large victories to get experience for younger players.

Athletic Department Guidelines and Philosophy 2015-2016

Finally, a coach is not evaluated by the administration solely on the win / loss record. The coach is evaluated based on faithfulness, consistency, and improvement of players and teams. It is understood that a Christian school will have seasons in which teams will flourish because of great athletes. Other seasons will have less talent. Tabernacle Christian desires first to see coaches challenging their players to take steps spiritually.

BUS / VAN CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES

1. When traveling with mixed groups, boys and girls are not allowed to sit together.
2. The use of Music and media playing devices (i-pods, etc.) will be determined by each coach on a case by case basis for school trips.
3. The athletes should remain seated at all times. If available seat belts are to be fastened at all times
4. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner at all times and in all places.
5. When nearing the school on a return trip, have athletes call their parents to ensure a ride is waiting for them.
6. Make sure the vehicles are clean. Have athletes pick up all trash. Have athletes return equipment to closets.

DRESS CODE

Coaches are encouraged to have teams uniformed (eg. team shirt / sweatshirt) and demonstrating a sharp appearance. Representation of our Lord, school, and team begins with appearance. The following guidelines must be incorporated when setting a team dress code policy:

Girls: Modest (knee-length) walking-style or gym shorts, wind pants, gauchos and loose fitting pants may be worn to extracurricular activities. Sweatpants, jeans, and cotton-knit pants are not acceptable for after school activities. Shirts may not be tight fitting or have worldly advertisements, slogans, pictures or symbols on them. All the same modest issues for shirts and pants/shorts apply for after school dress.

Guys: Boys may wear knee-length shorts or wind pants to extracurricular activities. Boys may wear shirts that do not have collars, however, the following should not be worn: shirts without sleeves or shirts with worldly advertising, slogans, pictures or symbols. Boys may not wear cut off shorts or sweatpants to after school activities. Follow all regulations above regarding pants and jeans. Jewelry, which would include wrist bracelets, necklaces and earrings, should not be worn to after school activities. Hats should not be worn inside the buildings.

CONDUCT FOR OVERNIGHT STAY AT HOTEL

1. Athletes should be respectful of all other guests at the motel. (No yelling, loud talking in rooms and in hallways)
2. A curfew needs to be set for all athletes and make sure they abide by this curfew.
3. Have team devotionals at the hotel.
4. No one of the opposite sex should be in the other sex's room at any time. (There maybe a boyfriend who comes to watch)
5. Be specific about phone use. Do not allow students to use phones after curfew.
6. Students must understand that there is zero tolerance for breaking of curfew and specific coaches rules on the trip. Consequences need to be specified beforehand and followed through with if an infraction occurs. (Example) "If anyone comes out of their room without permission from myself, you will not play in tomorrow's game."
7. Give specific plans: (Example) "We will be getting off the van and going immediately to our rooms. We will meet in room 34 for a team devotional. Lights out is at 11:00"

COACHING ETHICS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Some coaches have a hard time dealing with their emotions. During or after a big game, particularly a loss, some coaches have been known to engage in actions they regret the next morning and maybe for days after. The following are principles a coach is to remember before doing something he may regret later: (Brzozowski-Gardner, 1998.)

1. The coach is to deflect praise and accept blame. Athletes will gain from their coach's example. Never admitting error is a sign of weakness. A coach exulting his decisions or strategy to the player, media, or parent is another sign of weakness.
2. The coach is to understand his leadership role and set a good example.
3. A coach is to teach students to win with dignity and lose with grace.
4. A coach is to maintain his composure whether winning or losing, keeping things in perspective.
5. A coach is to remember his sport is a team game, being careful not to single anyone out. A coach is to praise everyone as a team or admonish everyone as a team.
6. A coach is not to talk to parents after the game about complaints. A coach may schedule an appointment for the next day if needed.
7. A coach should take a one or two day break from coaching each week. Doing so will effectively strengthen a coach for coming practices and games.
8. A coach is to remove wins or losses out of his mind as soon as possible. Great victories or bad losses can ruin a season if they are dwelt on too long.
9. Whatever example a coach displays is going to be reflected by the team.
10. If a coach is so emotionally out of control that the only thing he is going to say is harmful, then he is to wait until the next practice to discuss it.