

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY  
**EAGLES**



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**  
**2020-2021**

***FBA Mission: Educate students for time and eternity by presenting God's truth in all areas of education and character development.***

## **PHILOSOPHY**

An athletic program in a Christian school exists to guide the young people involved to a better understanding of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many circumstances arise in preparation for and during athletic competition that offer opportunities for God's principles to be applied in the lives of the athletes. A goal of the Christian school athletic program is to seize these opportunities. Dedicated coaches help young people relate the victories and defeats, the hard work and teamwork to their daily walk with the Lord.

*Col. 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Jesus Christ.*

This verse states the philosophy of athletics for First Baptist Academy, in that everything we do within the athletic department will be done unto our Lord Jesus Christ. Our staff, athletes, fans, and parents are to glorify the name of Jesus Christ by their works, attitudes, and actions, both on and off the field or court. We must provide opportunities of Christian encouragement and discipline for our students through our athletic programs. All policies and procedures that are brought out by the athletic department are done so with the intent of teaching and instilling Christ-like qualities in the students for them to put into use in their daily lives.

The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the rules and policies of the athletic program of First Baptist Academy Universal City. Athletes, parents, and coaches are responsible to read, know, and understand the complete contents of this handbook. The handbook cannot cover all situations, but it is used as a guideline for our policies.

## **OFFERED SPORTS**

The school will provide the following sports when athletes, coaches, and facilities are available:

Cross Country  
Fall Soccer (co-ed)  
Volleyball (girls)  
Basketball  
Track and Field  
Golf  
Cheer

## **ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Our middle school teams participate in the Christian Athletic League of San Antonio, or CALSA. This league governs and regulates our team sports for our middle school program.

Our high school is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, or TAPPS. This organization sets the rules and regulations for our high school program.

## **ATHLETIC MEETING**

At the beginning of the school year (August) there will be an athletic meeting. If you are going to play any sport, the athlete and at least one parent must be in attendance. You must sign in prior to the meeting. Information at this meeting is an important time of going over the handbook and making sure all understand how we can work together to have a successful year.

## **TEAM SELECTION**

Our desire is for the middle school students who wish to try out for a team to have that opportunity. However, after evaluating skill level and physical development, coaches may make what is commonly known as “cuts”. Many factors go into the selection of a team and each coach weighs every possibility very heavily before making any decision. Any cuts made by a coach must first be shown to the athletic director before any announcement can be made.

High school teams are obviously more competitive, and thus much more selective than that of middle school teams. Each varsity coach at the high school level is allowed to set their team roster at whatever size they wish to keep. Again, many factors go into the selection process and no decision is made without prayerful consideration. All decisions are discussed with the athletic director before any announcements are made.

## QUITTING A TEAM

First Baptist Academy's goal is to teach all students Christ-like attributes in everything that we do. Responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and honoring commitments are all attributes that FBA wishes to instill in our athletes. We also believe that students and parents need to realize that participating on an athletic team, whether in middle school or in high school, is going to require effort and sacrifice of time and resources. When students decide that they want to play on a team and begin a season they are making a commitment to that team. If after the season begins the athlete decides that they wish to quit the team, they need to realize that they are hurting the team by not honoring the commitment they made when the season began. Students need to take seriously the decision to play for a team, and if they make that choice then they need to do everything in their power to honor that decision. **If an athlete decides to quit a team he or she must talk to the Athletic Director before leaving the team. If he/she quits after speaking with the Athletic Director, they will no longer be eligible to participate in any other sporting event during the said school year.**

## PLAYING TIME

All coaches understand that it is in their own best interest to get each player as much game time experience as possible. However, if a coach keeps a large number of players or has a team with a wide range of skill level, then promising playing time to every athlete in every game may not be in the best interest of the team. Playing time is determined by the coach and is based on many factors. **Participating on a team, and more specifically playing in games, should never be viewed as a right, but rather a privilege.**

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON GAME DAYS

Athletes must be in school for at least half of the school day (arrive by the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> period 11:46) in order to be eligible to participate in athletic competition that same day. Missing more than half a day for doctor's appointments, family days, or any other non-school sponsored event without prior approval is not considered excused and will cause the athlete to miss any athletic event that same day.

## CONDUCT

### STUDENTS

As an athlete at First Baptist Academy students must realize that they are continually representing their team, their school, and most importantly their Savior, Jesus Christ. If a coach, teacher, or administrator notices an athlete acting in a way that is not a positive example to others, then that person will report the act to the coach and/or the Athletic Director for whatever disciplinary actions are warranted. This, of course, will be in addition to whatever is required of the teacher in accordance with the FBA parent-student handbook. Consequences may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team, depending on the severity of the action. If any kind of suspension or expulsion from the team is viewed as being needed, then the Administrator will be notified before any action is announced.

**If a student receives a conduct notice, ISS, or OSS, it will result in a one game suspension. Detention halls will result in reduced playing time the next game.**

We expect our student-athletes to be positive examples of proper conduct, attitude, and responsibility in the classroom. **If an athlete is benched for any disciplinary reason, he/she must sit with the team dressed in chapel uniform.**

### PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Competitiveness is a gift from God. Self-control is also a gift. As athletes, parents, spectators, and coaches we must seek balance our competitiveness with self-control. We will show respect for opponents, their coaches, their fans, and for officials. Remember that one of our goals for athletics is to help athletes learn to handle adversity in a Godly manner. The expectation of a fan is to cheer and support our players as well as good effort and play from the opponent. For this reason, public comments should remain positive and encouraging. Any negative comments about any team, coach, official, or fan will not be tolerated. Part of the responsibility of the athletic director is to refuse admission, as well as ask spectators to leave an athletic contest, if they have shown lack of sportsmanship and respect.

## ELIGIBILITY

As an athletic department, we understand that athletics serves as a vital role in the education process only when it is kept in the proper perspective of the school's overall objectives. Athletic success is meaningless if it is not paired with academic success. FBA follows a strict eligibility policy to ensure a strong academic base for all athletes. All athletes (including managers) grades will be checked on the Monday of week five of each quarter and every week thereafter for any class average below 70. Any athlete with an average of 69 or below in any class will be academically ineligible for one week. During the period of ineligibility, the athlete may not participate in any games or competitions.

**Ineligible athletes and managers are required to sit with the team dressed in their chapel uniforms for all games that do not require missing class.**

Grades will be checked again on the Monday of the next week. If the student/athlete has brought their average back up to 70 or above in all classes they will be allowed to play with the team. If the athlete still has any grade in any class below a 70, they will remain on academic probation for the next week. If any athlete remains on academic probation for three *consecutive* weeks a conversation between the athletic director, coach and athlete will take place to determine if the athlete will remain on the team.

**An athlete must have passing averages (70 or above) for all 9-week grades. If a student fails the nine weeks in any subject, he/she will be ineligible for the next two weeks.**

## PRACTICE/GAME PARTICIPATION

Practice times are very valuable learning sessions that prepare athletes for competition; therefore, participation in all practices and competitions is expected and required from all athletes. Frequent absences (excused and unexcused) or being late to practice can result in dismissal from the team. Athletes must notify their coach **BEFORE** missing a practice, if they do not contact their coach it is considered an unexcused absence. If an athlete consistently misses practice or is consistently late the coach will meet with the athletic director to discuss what, if any, punishment needs to be enforced. **If you miss a practice and it is unexcused, you will not play in the next game. An unexcused absence from a game may result in removal from the team.**

## **HANDLING DISPUTES**

If any parent or athlete has a concern over an issue, they have a Biblical responsibility (Mt. 18:15-17) to go the person(s) that they have the concern about or with. It is our desire that any problems can then be cleared up and those involved can move on. If however, this does not resolve the issue, then and only then, should the issue be brought to the attention of another individual according to the following level of authority at First Baptist Academy.

The level of authority at First Baptist Academy is as follows:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Administrator
4. School Committee

Do not discuss frustrations/concerns with coaches on the day of a game; emotions are generally high on both ends and should be dealt with in a better frame of mind. If you are frustrated/concerned please email or call to set up a meeting with the coach.

Practices are times when coaches are working with athletes and managers and their time is limited and valuable. Please do not interrupt a practice before, during, or after the session. It is advisable to set up a separate time to voice concerns.

## **LETTERING/INDIVIDUAL HONORS (HS ONLY)**

To “letter” in a sport means to have participated at a significant level on the varsity team. Simply being on a varsity team does not assure an athlete of lettering in that sport. A Varsity Letter reflects a student-athletes **commitment** to the team, academics, citizenship, and overall participation in the sport. A letter is earned and not given. Each player that earns a letter has joined a group of athletes who has sacrificed many hours in practice, preparation, conditioning, and games. Lettering requirements are determined differently from sport to sport and are set by the coach and athletic director.

## **UNIFORMS**

All athletes will be issued a uniform (this does not apply to cheerleading). This uniform is property of FBA. It should not be worn at any time other than the games/competitions for which it was issued. PLEASE WASH UNIFORMS IN COLD WATER AND AIR DRY (the heat from the dryer can damage the numbers or lettering). Uniforms are to be turned into the coach, not the athletic director or school offices. All uniforms must be returned within one week of the last game on the day designated by the coach. Uniforms turned in late will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. If the uniform is lost, returned in bad repair or just never turned in, you will be charged the full cost of the uniform.

All athletes will **wear their PE uniform to every practice**. If you are not in proper PE uniform (shirt and shorts) you will not practice which is an unexcused practice. As stated earlier, will result in a one game suspension.

## **TRAVEL**

When playing at the high school level, travel will be required. There will be games that require one to two nights away from home. The athletic director will make all travel arrangements and inform athletes of extra fees involved (hotel charges, meals, etc.)

Parents may be asked to help with transportation to and from games and practices. Any parent/coach that will be using their personal vehicle to transport students either to games, scrimmages, or tournaments, must have a signed liability release form filed in the FBA office. The form can be picked up from the office. Once completed the form remains in effect for the entire school year.



## **ATHLETIC FEES**

Athletic fees are required to help pay a portion of the cost of equipment, uniforms, referees, and other expenses of the athletic department.

Middle School sports	\$100 per sport
Varsity sports	\$125 per sport
Cheer	\$50 + uniform per season

All fees must be paid each season prior to first game or competition unless other arrangements have been made with the bookkeeper.

## **REQUIRED FORMS**

**All parents must set up an account at Rank One Sport to fill out the required forms for participation. Please use the link below for a tutorial on how to set up the account.**

<https://testdistrict.rankonesport.com/images/logos/TAPPSParentAccountTutorial.pdf>

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN**

### **MITIGATING RISKS**

We are convinced that a Christian education delivered on campus and in person is best for our families and is the preferred mode of instruction for our teachers and students. At the same time, we do not take lightly the health risks and, consequently, are making extensive efforts to mitigate them. Some of these efforts include:

- Thoroughly training all faculty and staff on safety protocols prior to the start of school
- Spending the first several days of school training students on—and practicing and reinforcing—new safety protocols
- Providing teachers with the necessary PPE
- All parents and visitors will undergo a verbal screening questionnaire, to include a temperature screening, during their check-in process when visiting the school. We are limiting visitors on campus by appointment only. Any visitors to campus will be required to complete the COVID-19 release form, and they will be required to wear a mask.
- Classroom doors, as well as non-fire hallway doors, will be kept open as much as possible to allow ventilation and airflow.
- Students must bring their own water bottles labeled with their name. If a student does not bring a water bottle, a disposable water bottle will be provided, and the student's

account will be charged accordingly.

## **SCREENING AND MONITORING OF ILLNESS**

We must all commit to supporting our community's health and wellness and agree to keep our children, and ourselves, at home when we are not feeling well, have COVID-19 symptoms, or have potentially been directly exposed. Students, faculty, and visitors should not come to school if they are exhibiting any signs of illness. COVID-19 related absences are not counted against students; however, assignments must still be turned in.

Temperature checks of all persons (students, faculty, and visitors) will be completed once arriving to school. If a person has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they are considered infectious and they will not be allowed on campus.

### Illness Presented

- If a student or faculty member becomes sick at home with any symptoms, cough, fever, muscle aches, generally not feeling well, we ask that you notify us, and the student or faculty member must stay at home. Follow our current illness policy to understand the return to school policy. If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, a pediatrician or doctor must be called for guidance. Please phone us and share that guidance so that FBA will know how to proceed with our next steps of notifying the proper and required people, and/or authorities.
- If a COVID-19 test will not be administered to determine if you are still contagious, children and faculty can return to FBA after these three things have happened:
  - No fever for at least 24 hours (or current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, whichever is greater) without the use of medicine that reduces fevers
  - Other symptoms have ceased (cough, shortness of breath, etc.)
  - At least 24 hours (or current CDC guidelines, whichever is greater) have passed since symptoms first appeared
- If a COVID-19 test is required to determine if person is still contagious, children or faculty can return to FBA after these three things have happened:
  - No fever for at least 24 hours (without the use medicine that reduces fevers) AND
  - Other symptoms have ceased (cough or shortness of breath) AND
  - Received a negative test

### Confirmed COVID-19

- For a student/faculty member who tested positive for COVID-19 or has a member in their household that tested positive, the following must happen to be allowed to return to campus:
  - It must be 10 days since the confirmed positive test or current CDC recommended time frame
  - It has been at least 24 hours (or current CDC guidelines, whichever is greater) since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and/or shortness of breath
  - At least 24 hours (or current CDC guidelines, whichever is greater) have passed since symptoms first appeared

- Parents, to include faculty, will be notified by email if a person has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been in close contact with their child/other faculty within two days prior to symptom onset or two days prior to being diagnosed with COVID-19. Those exposed must self-monitor for symptoms and follow our current return to school policy.

For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield)
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Cognizant of guidelines and recommendations, we will conduct educational activities that allow for as much physical distancing as possible, especially when indoors and/or students are stationary. Faculty will configure their classrooms to maximize spacing between desks.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

Government and health authorities, including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the TEA, have advocated the effectiveness of face coverings in minimizing the transmission of the coronavirus. Consistent with their recommendations, we will require, until further notice, the use of face coverings by all adults and students 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up when physical distancing is not possible and/or people are in a common area or during a transition. A note from a medical doctor must be provided for a mask not to be required. PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade are highly encouraged to wear face masks, though they may do so at the discretion of their parents. Our teachers are permitted to remove their masks when speaking at the front of the classroom. When moving about the class, teachers will put their masks up. If anyone forgets a mask, one will be provided for them.

<b>MASK UP</b>	<b>MASK DOWN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upon Arrival</li><li>• At Dismissal</li><li>• In common areas and transition times, including but not limited to hallways, lockers, bathrooms, stairwells, the elevator, and specific classroom situations where physical distancing is not possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seated at a desk or properly physically distanced</li><li>• Outdoors, except at specific times of day including morning arrival and afternoon departure</li><li>• Eating</li></ul>

## **SIGNAGE**

Signs will be placed throughout the campus to remind our community of the need to physically distance and wear face coverings where appropriate. Signage will also be placed in all restrooms emphasizing proper handwashing techniques. Additional signage will be posted demonstrating the proper techniques for coughing and sneezing.

## **HANDWASHING AND HAND SANITIZER STATIONS**

Hand sanitizer will be in each classroom, with additional hand sanitizer stations placed at numerous locations around campus. Handwashing will be incorporated throughout the day.

## **CLEANING AND SANITIZING**

Our team will spray CDC-/EPA-approved products on surfaces daily. Frequently touched surfaces will be wiped daily during our campus clean-up time built into our bell schedule and again during evening cleaning.

Students and faculty will be trained to wipe down their work areas before sitting down and before departing each class period.

Students will use their own supplies whenever possible and will wipe down any shared supplies before and after each use.

Evening janitorial staff will clean and disinfect all school used facilities.

## **CAFETERIA**

The delivery of hot lunches and milk will be postponed for the first nine weeks, at which time we will reassess. The students will need to bring their own packed lunch. Vending machines will remain accessible for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Elementary students will be sitting with their class and positioned every other chair and diagonally from one another. They will also be distanced from other grades in the lunch room.

Middle School and High School students' lunch times will be staggered and they will be divided from one another. Each student will be positioned every other chair and diagonally from one another.

We will not be allowing lunch visitors for the first nine weeks. Once the nine weeks has been completed, we will revisit this area.

## **RECESS**

Unstructured, outdoor time is essential for the physical health of our students. Therefore, recess will continue. Students will not be expected to wear masks, but they will be expected to social distance as much as possible.

## **ELECTIVES, FINE ARTS, AND ATHLETICS**

Students will continue to participate in our extracurricular activities using the same safety protocols we will have in school as these are integral parts of our curriculum.

Athletics will follow the guidelines of Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). Indoor Games: Temperatures will be taken before entering the building.

Masks are required. Outdoor Games: Social distancing is recommended. Masks are not required outdoors.

## **FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY STATEMENT**

First Baptist Academy of Universal City (FBA) will monitor guidelines for coronavirus

health and safety plans provided by the Texas Department of Health and Human Service as well as local city and county authorities. We exercise our right to change this document exercising appropriate care as we continue to work with our governing bodies. Parents and employees must read and sign a waiver at the beginning of the school year releasing FBA and First Baptist Church of Universal City (FBCUC) of any liability regarding COVID-19.

Our thanks go out to the Texas Private Schools Association for their continued guidance and counsel, as well as their sharing of other Christian schools' reopening plan documents.