

Athletic Handbook

Lakeland Christian Academy Cougars



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I. Athletic Department Structure

VISION STATEMENT OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

“Lakeland Christian Academy exists to provide a Biblically centered educational environment so its students may be equipped to become Christ-honoring members of their families, churches, and communities.”

MISSION STATEMENT OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

“Lakeland Christian Academy provides students with a Christ-centered foundation to become spiritually mature, academically competent, and socially responsible.”

PHILOSOPHY OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The focus of the athletic program is that students, first and foremost, attend Lakeland Christian Academy (LCA) to receive an education and to grow in their relationship with Christ.

While athletics is a major part of American culture, participation in athletics is only a secondary aspect of the entire LCA experience. Competitive sports can be a valuable tool, which may be used to enrich the lives of LCA students. However, membership on a LCA athletic team is a privilege, not a right.

LCA desires that student athletes possess Christ-like characteristics and are able to express them openly through the medium of sports. Our goal is to build eternal values in the students, while at the same time to be a testimony of the power of Jesus Christ to all of those that we come in contact with during athletic events. Winning is important, but it is secondary to the Godly principles that the program is striving to instill into the student athletes.

The coaching staff of LCA is a caring group of dedicated professionals who strive to exemplify the personal and professional characteristics that we are attempting to teach the student athletes.

FACTS OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Mascot: Cougars

Colors: Navy Blue & Old Gold

**Affiliations: Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
National Christian School Athletic Association (NCSAA)
Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA)**

**Fight Song:
(To the tune of the Notre Dame Fight Song)**

Fight, Cougars, of LCA!

Fight for the vict'ry in every way.

Raise your banner, Gold and Blue.

This is our motto: ever be true.

We are the Cougars - we are the best!

We will come through when put to the test.

Cougars won't give up you'll see,

We'll fight, fight for victory!

The interscholastic sports currently being offered at the High School level at LCA are:

Fall

Girls' Cross Country
Girls' Volleyball
Boys' Soccer

Winter

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball

Spring

Boys' Track/Field
Girls' Track/Field
Boys' Golf
Boys' Baseball

The interscholastic sports currently being offered at the Junior High level at LCA are:

Fall

Girls' Cross Country
Girls' Volleyball
Coed Soccer

Winter

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball

Spring

Boys' Track
Girls' Track

TEAM LEVELS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Junior High Level

The junior high level (7th and 8th grade) is designed to familiarize the student athlete with interscholastic athletics. The main emphasis is skills/fundamental development and gaining playing experience in that particular sport. Junior high athletes should begin to understand what it takes to earn a spot on a roster of a Junior Varsity and Varsity team. While winning is a goal, it is not as important as the development of skills for the promotion to the higher-level squads. The athlete will learn teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Junior Varsity Level

The Junior Varsity level (9th-12th grade) is the last “preparatory” level for the Varsity team in each respective sport. It is designed for students to continue to sharpen their skills and fundamentals, while increasing the emphasis on playing time, as well as winning. Athletic skill, commitment, team chemistry, attitude, and effort are some of the determining factors of playing time for an athlete.

The number of games, practices, and overall time commitment will be more than the amount of commitment at the junior high level. Because of that, it is expected that athletes are learning more responsibility and discipline to cope with this and other academic pressures.

Varsity Level

The Varsity level (9th-12th grade) is the highest level of competition at LCA. It represents the best-skilled athletes of the school in each particular sport. The criteria for selection to a varsity level team are based primarily (but not entirely) on skill. This means that there may be times when a younger athlete will be selected over an older athlete. Playing time will be determined by the head coach and/or coaching staff, and will be based on several factors, some of which are skill, team chemistry, player effort and attitude, and how the coach(es) feels each player will impact the game.

While the goal of winning is at its highest peak at the varsity level, the ultimate goals of the athletic program and Lakeland Christian Academy supercede winning ball games. It is expected that varsity athletes be a positive example in general conduct, court/field attitude and behavior, hustle, discipline in athletics and academics, and spiritual maturity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. To glorify God through the vehicle of athletic competition.
2. To develop and maintain a positive testimony for Jesus Christ, Lakeland Christian Academy, the individual athletes, coaches and spectators, and to those with whom we come in contact.
3. To instill in students an early understanding that participation in athletics is leadership training, which is a privilege that also carries responsibilities. Some of the leadership training includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Excellence with enthusiasm and desire as unto the Lord.
 - b. Goal setting and the achievement of highest potential in both academics and

athletics.

- c. Practice self-discipline for the overall benefit of the team.
 - d. Learn the benefits of following the rules.
 - e. Learn crucial Christ-like character traits such as teamwork, sportsmanship, loyalty, obedience, submission to authority, love, desire, hard work, etc.
4. To teach new skills and offer opportunities to improve those already possessed.
 5. To provide an opportunity for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth and development, while having fun.
 6. To provide opportunities to develop lasting friendships with teammates, coaches, and opponents.

II. Athletic Department Policies

The Parent/Student Handbook clearly states Lakeland Christian Academy's policies, rules, and guidelines. However, the uniqueness of athletics creates the need for the following rules, which apply to all students who are members of any athletic team which represents Lakeland Christian Academy.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

1. A physical examination form, parental consent, and participation fee are required in accordance with IHSAA rules.
2. Every student who participates in interscholastic sports at Lakeland Christian Academy is expected to obey LCA's Standards of Conduct. Any student who fails to do so will be declared ineligible.
3. Lakeland Christian Academy extra-curricular eligibility will be determined by no "F"s and no more than two "D"s at the weekly check.
4. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in practices or games. Athletes who are ineligible will be expected to attend practice to observe, with the coach's approval. Homework/academic help may take place during practice. Ineligible athletes are expected to sit the bench at all home games in street clothes. Traveling with the team is not allowed.
5. Grades of ineligible athletes will be checked on Monday morning of each week to determine if the student has become eligible for the week. Each week starts and ends on Monday. Teachers will be notified of ineligible students and will need to notify the athletic director immediately if the student should remain on the ineligibility list.
6. Any athlete ineligible three times during the same sport season will be removed from the team and forfeits any and all awards.
7. As with any policy, adjustments may become necessary as special situations arise.
8. LCA students must be full time (enrolled in a minimum of six classes) and meet all eligibility requirements to participate in high school athletics. Junior high home schooled students who meet school standards may participate on a junior high school team without being enrolled in classes at LCA. All interested home schooled students must complete an LCA application and pay an additional athletic fee.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY

An athlete who misses 5 consecutive days of school or athletic participation due to illness or injury must obtain written permission from a physician and present this to the Athletic Director or coach before they may again become eligible for participation. Additional practices are required by the IHSAA before regaining eligibility after an extended absence due to illness or injury.

LCA athletic events, which require an early leave from school or an absence from school, are considered excused absences but are not recorded in the student's record as an absence. These absences DO NOT count toward the twelve (12) day absence policy.

Students serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension are ineligible to participate in athletic activities during the day(s) of suspension. Students who have been placed on disciplinary probation may not participate in athletic activities during the period of disciplinary probation.

ACADEMICS

Student athletes should manage their time in such a way as not to have to miss practices, competitions, or school in order to participate in athletics and achieve successfully in academics. If this cannot be done, students should NOT be involved in athletics. Academics must always be a higher priority than athletics.

AGE

A student whose 20th birthday occurs on or prior to the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in a sport shall be ineligible for interschool athletic competition in that sport.

AMATEURISM

Students shall not play under assumed names; accept remuneration directly or indirectly for athletic participation; or participate in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices, and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs or their representatives.

APPEARANCE

Lakeland Christian Academy athletes act as representatives of Jesus Christ and LCA and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. The Principal, Athletic Director, and Coaches will determine Athletic Department guidelines as needed concerning the appropriateness of styles within the context of safety and accepted social norms.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

1. Students should be permitted to freely select the sport in which they wish to participate. A coach should never attempt to influence a student to not go out for and/or drop a sport which is under the direction of another coach. Students should feel assured that their opportunity to participate in one sport will not be hampered because of participation in another sport.
2. A coach will not approach or talk to an athlete regarding participation in his or her sport while that athlete is participating in another sport. An athlete should be free to concentrate on only one sport at a time. He or she should not be torn between the interests of two coaches.
3. A student can practice in only one sport during a season. He cannot practice in another sport even though there is an overlap of seasons of the two sports. The athlete is free to practice and participate in sport (B) only after the sport (A) concludes. Any exceptions must be approved by both coaches involved and the Athletic Director.
4. *A STUDENT THAT DROPS A PARTICULAR SPORT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SECOND SPORT, EITHER THROUGH PRACTICE OR ACTUAL COMPETITION, UNTIL THE SEASON OF THE DROPPED SPORT IS COMPLETED.* An exception to this regulation can be made only through written permission of the Athletic Director. All requests for deviation must be made in written form and include the signature of the student athlete and his parent or legal guardian. The Athletic Director will confer with the affected coaches prior to his decision.

Decisions regarding student eligibility under this policy shall strive to maximize the best interests of the student and programs affected. In general, the longer the particular sport has been in season, the harder it will be to obtain a release until the end of the season.

5. The practice season of each sport at Lakeland Christian Academy shall be kept within the limits of the practice season for that sport as established by the IHSAA. No coach will violate this regulation.

ATTENDANCE IN CLASS

Student athletes are expected to make school attendance a priority. This includes attendance both the day of and the day after athletic contests. Student athletes and student staff are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following any and all evening activities. All efforts are made to avoid late activities on school nights, but sometimes they are necessary. Students must be in attendance at school by 12:00 p.m. to be eligible for extracurricular activities that day. Exceptions would be pre-arranged absence and school-related functions.

It is sometimes necessary to dismiss athletes early from school to attend away games and tournaments. In this event, it is the responsibility of the student/athlete to contact his/her teachers ahead of time to arrange for assignments, quizzes, and tests to be handed in, explained, or completed. Additional time for completion of school work is not granted for athletes attending games or tournaments.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE

Each member of a Lakeland Christian Academy athletic team must assume the responsibilities associated with such a position. One of their obligations to this responsibility is regular attendance at practices. At times there may be situations that prohibit an athlete's attendance at practice. This must be arranged with the coach prior to missing the practice — **NOT** after.

Acceptable reasons to miss practice — family emergency, medical excuse

Unacceptable reasons - work, haircut, participation in other activities (i.e. — music lesson, etc.)

Late to/absent from practice. Consequences for tardiness/absence are left to the discretion of the coach.

A student may be allowed to join a team after practices have begun depending on the circumstances involved. Each situation will be reviewed, and must be approved by the athletic director before the student may become a member of the team.

AWARDS

Ceremonies

Three (3) athletic awards ceremonies will be held to honor Lakeland Christian Academy student athletes. Each ceremony will be scheduled to follow the completion of the particular sports season (fall, winter, & spring). Athletic awards ceremonies provide special forums to present athletes with much-deserved recognition for individual and team accomplishments.

Student athletes are to be dressed neatly when attending an athletic awards night, which honors the sport they have participated in that season. Students are not to wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, jeans, or tennis shoes to the awards night. A student not in attendance at the sports award ceremony will forfeit any award or honor intended for him/her unless the Athletic Director excuses the absence. Quitting a team, or being dismissed from a team, results in forfeiture of any and all awards.

Junior High

Certificate of participation

Junior Varsity

Certificate of participation

1st year — numbers (year of graduation)

Varsity

Certificate of participation

1st year — varsity letter, sport insert chevron

2nd, 3rd, & 4th year – (same sport) chevron

Special Awards

Special awards can be given at the discretion of the coach for outstanding achievement - MVP, Most Improved, Best Defense, Best Offense, Coach's Award, etc.

Senior Athlete Awards

These awards are given to the graduating senior boy and/or graduating senior girl who have been selected as the best examples of Christian athletes from the graduating class. Senior athletes are chosen by using the following criteria:

1. Must be a senior who has at least a "B" (84%) GPA.
2. Must have participated in LCA athletics every year that the student was enrolled at LCA. To be eligible for this award it is required that the athlete has been an LCA student for a minimum of 2 years.
3. It is not required that the athlete plays all sports available for students; however, a student excelling in multiple sports would be considered a greater achiever. Example: An athlete who plays only volleyball is eligible, but an athlete who does well in both volleyball and basketball would probably be considered as a greater achiever.
4. The athlete must display a high level of ability in his/her respective sport(s).
5. The athlete must display high standards of godly and moral character both in and out of the sports arena.

The Senior Athlete(s) receive a plaque and have their names engraved on the Senior Athlete plaque on display at LCA. This award is presented at the Academic Awards assembly in the spring.

ENROLLMENT

After enrollment or classes begin in 9th grade, a student is eligible for no more than 8 consecutive semesters. In order to be eligible for athletic competition during any semester, a student must have enrolled in a high school within the first fifteen school days of the semester in which the contest takes place. For further information, please refer to the IHSAA by-laws available on-line.

EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND RETURN

Lakeland Christian Academy endeavors to provide each team member with the best and safest equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to

be returned in the same condition as when issued (excepting normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic department for the lost or damaged equipment. Failure to return equipment or to compensate the school for lost or damaged equipment may result in forfeiture of awards. Students may borrow athletic uniforms with the athletic director's approval. Students desiring to borrow uniforms for senior pictures or other approved occasions must complete an Athletic Uniform Form and return it, along with a deposit of \$25 per uniform, warm-up suit, etc., to the Athletic Director at least 48 hours in advance.

The borrowed item(s) are to be returned to the athletic department within 48 hours of the time borrowed. The deposit is forfeited if the item(s) are not returned on time. If an item is lost or damaged, the borrower is responsible for the replacement cost as determined by LCA.

If a problem arises with returning borrowed item(s) within 48 hours, the student or parent is to contact the athletic director so that other arrangements can be made for the return of the item(s).

INSURANCE

NEITHER THE IHSAA NOR LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY CARRY ANY KIND OF FIRST DOLLAR MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR ATHLETIC INJURIES.

Due to the nature of athletic activity, accidents and injuries may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for such participation, the parent retains the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for providing medical care and insurance coverage for their son or daughter. Parents are required to sign a release form which indicates they accept the financial responsibility for athletic related accidents and injuries. The IHSAA also carries catastrophic insurance to cover major injuries incurred during participation in approved IHSAA sports programs. More information about the IHSAA plan is available upon request in the athletic office. Parents must agree to hold harmless Lakeland Christian Academy, its affiliated organizations, employees, agents, and representatives, including volunteer and other drivers, from any and all claims arising from their children's participation. Parental assumption of risk does not apply to claims of intentional (criminal) misconduct or gross negligence by the School, its employees or volunteers.

LETTER JACKETS

LCA letter jackets may be purchased through Reneker's Sports Shop. Award letters, numerals, or chevrons, which are placed on the jacket, must be awarded to the student by LCA to ensure that these continue to be a symbol of accomplishment in athletics. Optional emblems that are part of the letter jacket may also be purchased by the athlete. If you have any questions, contact the Athletic Department.

MULTIPLE SPORT PARTICIPATION

The Lakeland Christian Academy Athletic Department encourages the concept of participating in more than one high school sport. High school coaches should not establish expectations "out of season" which would prohibit or restrict a student's participation in another sport which is "in season". A student athlete who wishes to participate in more than one sport in the same season (fall, winter, spring) must have

prior approval of the coaches and Athletic Director. A schedule resolving all practice and competition conflicts must be established prior to the season and the student athlete will be asked to designate a "primary" sport.

PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES AND INJURIES

Any student excused from participating in physical education with a parent's note or doctor's note shall not be allowed to participate in an athletic event or practice that same day.

PARTICIPATION ON TEAMS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Athletes who participate as members of any similar teams in the same sport season, not under the direct supervision and management of their school, shall not be eligible for participation on the school team. Participation in other sports while participating on a school team should only be done with the knowledge of the high school coach.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics must undergo a physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor prior to the first practice or high school team camp of any sport. The physical form, which must be signed by a licensed medical doctor, may be obtained at the Athletic Office or from the coaching staff. The doctor's signature must be dated after May 1 preceding the current school year. The student must complete the medical history and sign it to be eligible for participation.

PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

Coaches, athletic director, and school officials must constantly evaluate and re-evaluate athletic participation philosophy, specifically as it relates to actual playing time for athletes at the various levels of competition.

General guidelines are as follows:

Junior High - coach should endeavor to get every player into every game when possible (except for tournaments)

Junior Varsity — every player on the team should see some playing time throughout the season (except for tournaments)

Varsity — skill is the ultimate divider, but attitude, dedication, and other factors go into the coach's discretion of playing time. This is the highest level of high school sports, playing time is not guaranteed.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Parents of students who wish to participate in athletics at LCA but who did not attend LCA during their intended sport's season the previous school year are required to complete an IHSAA athletic transfer report form. The transfer will be sent to the student's former school and to the IHSAA for approval. The student cannot become eligible for competition until approval has been granted by the IHSAA.

Lakeland Christian Academy will strictly enforce IHSAA by-laws regarding student-athlete transfers. Students who transfer without a corresponding change in residence by the parents or guardians will be recommended for "Limited Eligibility" which allows for participation at

the junior varsity level only for a period of 365 days. If there is reason to believe that the change of schools involves athletics in any way, the recommendation from Lakeland Christian Academy will be "No Eligibility" in athletics for a period of 365 days. Lakeland Christian Academy will consider any hardships relevant to the transfer if necessary. Further information regarding transfers can be obtained through the athletic office.

TRAVEL

LCA athletes are required to travel to and from athletic contests and special events in school-approved vehicles under adult supervision provided by LCA. In the event that a parent wishes to transport their child home from an athletic event, they should seek approval from the coach first. Teams are required to travel together and other students must ride separate from the team (with the exception of siblings).

WEIGHT ROOM

No student shall use the weight room facilities without adult supervision. Students are urged to request assistance from the weight room supervisor or coaches when planning and initiating a workout regimen. Athletes are expected to follow all weight room rules and regulations including care of equipment, proper storage of weights after use, and all spotting regulations.

III. Commitments

COMMITMENTS OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S ATHLETIC PROGRAM

In support of its athletic programs, LCA is committed to providing safe and well-maintained facilities and equipment, recruiting and supervising qualified and motivated Christian role models as coaches, and providing competition uniforms. The student athlete may be required to pay a participation fee and/or purchase shoes, warm-ups, and/or other ancillary team items.

COMMITMENTS OF THE ATHLETE

“The athlete will...

1. Experience and exhibit the love of Christ in his/her attitude and actions toward his/her fellow athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.
2. Represent himself/herself, his/her family, Lakeland Christian Academy, and Jesus Christ faithfully and in a positive manner.
3. Be a positive factor in the classroom — behaviorally and academically (i.e. be on time, be courteous and respectful of teachers and classmates, strive for excellence, etc.).
4. Experience and exhibit sportsmanship through fellowship, competition, teamwork and fair play.
5. Strive to develop himself/herself to maximum potential (academically, spiritually, socially, physically).
6. Exercise his/her leadership qualities (see the objectives of the athletic program).
7. Understand the importance of lessons that will be learned from both victory and defeat.
8. Maintain conduct and attendance guidelines, as well as the academic standards of Lakeland Christian Academy. Serious violations of school rules (such as drugs and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity, etc.), whether on campus or off of campus, will be handled on a case by case basis, and may result in suspension or removal from an athletic team in addition to any punishment administered by LCA administration.
9. Strive to maintain physical health of body and mind during studies and participation in interscholastic athletics.
10. Return all of the LCA uniforms and equipment on time and in good condition.
11. Attend the Sports Award Night at the end of the season.
12. Be responsible for all classroom work/activities (PE classes included), even on game days and as a result of early dismissal for an athletic contest.

COMMITMENTS OF PARENTS

“The parent will...”

1. Pray for the athletic department of Lakeland Christian Academy.
2. Support his/her child(ren)'s team and the rest of the athletic program in whatever way possible.
 - a. Attend as many games as possible
 - b. Volunteer to help at contests

3. Work within the established communication guidelines with coaches and/or athletic department (see section on Parent/Coach Communication).
4. Aid in helping his/her child(ren) attend practices and games, arriving and being picked up from practices and games on time.
5. Encourage his/her child(ren) to be involved in individual and/or off-season workouts/conditioning.
6. Abide by the following guidelines for Parent/Spectator Decorum:

Society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontation and unmanaged anger, often associated with youth sports. Lakeland Christian Academy is committed to keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe. To do this, we must insist on proper behavior, and promote our positive reputation and Christian testimony in regards to sportsmanship.

In as much as our coaches have certain standards of expected behavior, our student athletes are governed by the guidelines in this handbook, and all LCA students are subject to school rules at athletic events, it becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult spectators as well.

Lakeland Christian Academy supports the emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations — athletics are not an exception. High school sports exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion, and as entertainment. Poor behavior on the part of adults will only hinder the goals and objectives of LCA and its athletic department.

Lakeland Christian Academy will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward LCA staff or players, the opposing school and all its representatives, or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the school to suffer sanctions from the IHSAA, cause the school embarrassment, and damage the testimony of Jesus Christ. Actions such as swearing, making derogatory comments about officials, coaches, players and/or spectators from either team, and any other verbal or physical abuse is unacceptable, and may result in disciplinary action such as removal from the premises or suspension of right to attend athletic events.

The following sportsmanship statement is read at LCA home athletic events: “Lakeland Christian Academy is pleased to sponsor the following athletic contest. In keeping with the spirit and intent of Christian athletics, we ask all players, coaches, and spectators to maintain appropriate behavior at all times. Please help make the game enjoyable for all. Thank you.”

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

The athletic department, as part of Lakeland Christian Academy, recognizes its partnership with parents in helping to shape and mold student athletes to be more like Christ. Both parenting and coaching are extremely rewarding, but sometimes difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other’s positions, it is often easier to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to student-athletes. This understanding can only be reached through open lines of communication. The following are guidelines for reaching and maintaining understanding between parents and the athletic department:

I. COMMUNICATION THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED FROM COACHES

- A. Philosophy of the coach
- B. Expectations of the coach for the athlete (i.e. the student's role on the team)
- C. Times and locations of all practices and contests
- D. Team requirements (i.e. fees/costs, special equipment, off-season conditioning, level of skill, etc.)
- E. Procedure in case of student injury during participation

II. COMMUNICATION THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED FROM PARENTS

- A. Any concerns that a parent has about the team, his/her child, etc.

NOTE: These concerns should be expressed directly to the coach. These concerns should not be something that leads to talking about a coach behind his/her back to students (even your own), other coaches, faculty members, and/or other parents.

- Appropriate Concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - 1. The treatment of your student-athlete (mentally and physically)
 - 2. Concerns about your student's behavior and/or attitude.
 - 3. Your student's academic standing.
- Inappropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - 1. Playing time
 - 2. Team strategy
 - 3. Play calling
 - 4. Other student-athletes

NOTE: At times, it may be difficult to understand and accept that your child is not getting as much playing time as you would like. If there is something that you do not understand concerning a playing time situation, you may inquire about what the coach thinks may help your child to get more playing time. But playing time is up to the coach's discretion, and should not be an issue that is regularly discussed.

- B. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

NOTE: At times, there may be excused reasons for a student athlete to miss a game or practice. These must always be communicated to the coach as much in advance as possible.

III. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICT/CONCERNS

As students become involved in the LCA athletic program, they will experience some of the most memorable and rewarding moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the student or the parent wishes or envisions. When concerns or potential problems arise, the athletic department will employ the Biblical model of resolving conflict (Matthew 18:15-17).

- A. Student athlete meets with the coach — The first step in avoiding potential conflicts is for a student athlete to meet with the coach to discuss any concern and resolve the issue. Many times concerns that lead to conflict are the result of miscommunication or misperceptions. These can often be handled through open discussion.
- B. Parent(s) meet with the coach — If the student athlete/coach meeting has not

resolved the issue, or the matter needs adult/parent attention, the parent(s) should contact the coach (either through e-mail or through the office) to set up a time for the two parties to meet. In order to allow all involved to be the most open-minded and assure that adequate time is given to resolve the conflict, it is asked that this procedure for scheduling meetings with coaches is followed:

- Call the office or e-mail the coach to request an appointment.
- NOTE: Do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a practice or game to discuss any issues. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches, and many times will not lead to proper resolution.

C. Parents meet with the Athletic Director — If the previous meeting(s) do not adequately resolve the issue, parents may request a meeting with the Athletic Director and coach to mediate the conflict.

CLOSING COMMENTS TO LCA ATHLETES

The athletic administration and coaching staff at Lakeland Christian Academy want to wish you the very best in your athletic endeavors this year. If we can be of help to you in any way, please let us know. The Lord has put us here to help you grow. We want athletics to be fun and profitable with the goal of building the character of Christ in you.

**THIS IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
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THE COUGARS' ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
IS A MEMBER OF:**

**NORTHERN INDIANA SOCCER CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

