

# 2016-2017 Athletic Handbook



**BRONCOS**  
BAY AREA CHRISTIAN

**Bay Area Christian School**  
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League City, Texas 77573  
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[www.bacschool.org](http://www.bacschool.org)

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*This handbook is intended to acquaint the parents and students of Bay Area Christian School with the school's current policies and practices. BACS policies may be changed from time to time, as the school, in its sole discretion, may elect. Furthermore, such policies shall be considered in light of the overall policies and proceedings established for the school's students. The policies expressed herein, as they may be amended from time to time, shall supersede and have control over any previously published guidelines and/or policies.*

*The Athletic Handbook is provided as an addendum to the Student Handbook. Nothing in the Athletic Handbook should alter or negate any statement found in the Student Handbook.*

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## **ATHLETIC POLICIES**

### **Bay Area Christian School Mission**

Bay Area Christian School is committed to providing quality Christian education impacting lives for now and eternity.

### **Athletics Mission**

Bay Area Christian School seeks to use the arena of physical training and competition to teach each athlete the disciplines needed to build excellence physically, academically, spiritually and socially.

### **Philosophy**

Our goal is to train and develop students' minds, hearts, souls, and bodies. We are fulfilling that goal by training students to live responsible and successful lives based on the Word of God. BACS believes quality education includes the opportunity to participate in athletic programs. The athletic program is a voluntary privilege that requires an investment of considerable time outside the school day. Students are expected to represent BACS as a part of the Christian community with exemplary behavior wherever they go (Philippians 1:27). It is vital that each student involved with the athletic program realizes that no matter how formidable the opposition, the team competes to win. Every athlete should strive to be first (1 Corinthians 9:24). However, the student must know there is no shame or disgrace to the team that plays its best and is behind at the end of the contest. Winning is not the guiding principle. It is how well the team or individual competes and how they compete.

The strength of athletics lies in its ability to develop character traits such as cooperation, determination, perseverance, self-control, discipline of emotion, sportsmanship, humility, commitment, and maturity. These traits are fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22). Therefore, athletics is valuable to the Christian community and the Christian school. BACS is committed to training and developing our students for Christian service and leadership. Athletics is not the whole answer to character development at our school; it is but one building block of many designed for Christian character development of the student at BACS.

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## Eligibility

Each student participating in the athletic program will be required to meet certain minimum standards in the area of academics. He/she will also be expected to maintain at all times a proper Christian testimony for the Lord.

Eligibility will be checked the ninth week of each quarter. All are eligible for the first nine weeks of the school year. The semester grade will be used to determine eligibility for the second quarter grade check.

The student must not have more than one detention per week (averaged for the period). The student would be out at least one week if ineligible on this point, starting the Monday after report cards go out. The student is not eligible if s/he has overdue detention unserved.

If a student has one failing grade (below 70), that student would be ineligible for at least one week starting Monday after report cards go out. To participate, the student must requalify one day before an event (game or program). After the end of the first semester, the student would be ineligible for the first week starting the second Monday after report cards go out.

If ineligible due to two or more failing grades, the student would be ineligible for at least two weeks starting Monday after report cards go out. The student must have a passing average from the beginning of the semester to seven days before a contest or event.

When a student is ineligible they may participate in regular practices, but cannot dress for games, travel with a team, occupy the sideline or bench during a competition, and is not allowed to represent the school in any school-sponsored, extracurricular activity.

A student suspended from school a full day or more will be ineligible for four weeks. If suspended for ½ day, they will be ineligible for two weeks. Ineligibility starts the day a student is suspended.

The student must follow these guidelines to become eligible to participate in practice or games, as an athlete or student manager/statistician.

## ABSENCE

**Athletic or school activity absence:** To be eligible to play in a game or perform, a student must be at school that day, all day, unless he/she has a valid excuse for being absent or tardy and the principal excuses it.

## Athletic Participation Forms & Physicals

A student must have the required Athletic Participation Forms and Physical (filled out completely and signed) on file with the Athletic Office before clearance is given to participate in any school sport. **THE REQUIRED FORMS ARE DUE EACH YEAR PRIOR TO ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION.**

Athletic Participation Forms are available as follows:

1. BACS Athletic Office
2. You may print them from BACS Athletic Website: [www.bacsathletics.org](http://www.bacsathletics.org)  
Under Broncos HQ and then Forms Tab

Coaches may require additional forms once roster is finalized.

## Athletic Fee Schedule

All BACS student athletes who compete on a junior high or high school team are required to pay an athletic fee. The fee is due when the first scrimmage or regular season match/game has been played. Fees can be found on the school website under the tuition tab. Athletes may be withheld from participation if athletic fees go unpaid.

## Tryouts

All students are given an equal opportunity to make a team. The individual coach, under the supervision of the Athletic Director, will determine the length and format of the tryouts.

## Team Selection

If cutting is necessary in team selection, several areas should be considered such as skill level, attitude, work ethic, playing ability, grades, personality and character qualities. BACS athletes are discouraged from participating in non-school sports teams while competing for the school. If an athlete does compete for the non-school team while competing for a school team, the athlete must put the school team as priority in the case of a conflict.

## Team Practices

Coaches put many hours and time into developing team chemistry and skills. All indoor practices are closed to parents. This allows the student athlete and coach to focus all effort on practice.

## Transfer Students

Students who transfer to BACS should complete and submit TAPPS Previous Athletic Participation for Transfer Students form. This form may be obtained from the Athletic Office or the TAPPS website. Transfer applicants are ineligible for varsity competition until this form is approved by TAPPS. Transfer applicants may participate on sub-varsity teams while the form is being processed. Incoming freshmen are not considered transfers in the fall semester but may be considered transfers in the spring.

## Team Rules of Conduct

The student who chooses to participate in the athletic program is in a unique position. Many public and private schools, media, parents, guests, peers, teachers, and the public at large will observe him/her. It is an opportunity to demonstrate one's desire to be Christ-like in sportsmanship and performance.

Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their teams. The coach shall provide a set of rules explaining conduct and penalties for both minor and major infraction of the rules in the following areas.

A participant must adhere to all of the requirements of the Student Handbook and the Athletic Handbook.

A participant in any sport is required to be neat, clean, well groomed, and in proper attire for games and practice.

The dressing rooms and all team areas will be kept clean. Athletes are expected to maintain a clean positive environment.

A participant will exhibit a Christian lifestyle and represent the school in a Christ-like manner at all times. Failure to commit to this lifestyle may result in the forfeiture of the opportunity to participate in the athletic program.

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A participant must be ready to show effort, cooperation, respect, and support for coaches and other team members.

A participant on academic or conduct probation may be removed from the team.

A participant is expected to attend all scheduled practices, meetings and contests whether or not school is in session. If it is necessary to miss any meeting, practice or game, prior arrangements must be made with the coach. Participants may be dismissed from the team after any unexcused absences. Unexcused absences are those, which are for personal benefit. Injured athletes who are able to attend school are expected to attend practice sessions. Any non-emergency absences from games or practice will be considered unexcused.

For excused absences from classes due to sports, it is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher prior to the absence, if possible, for the assignments.

A participant will know the procedures for being "cut" from the team if cuts are to be made.

All equipment must be turned in from a previous sport to begin practice in the second sport unless the participant is involved in overlapping sports.

Participants must complete the entire season to be eligible for awards and honors.

Participants are expected to commit for the entire season's program in the sport(s) they select, including tournaments and playoffs. They will not be allowed to quit one sport in order to start another sport.

If a student quits a sport once the roster has been finalized and the first game/match is played, they will suffer the consequence of not being allowed to participate in another sport the following season, including possibly the fall sport of the next year. (Ex. A student may not quit football and then play basketball; a student may not quit a winter sport and then expect to play a spring sport). The consequence for quitting a sport early is at the discretion of the Coach/Athletic Director. The student must honor his/her commitment to the team.

In addition, the participants may be required to adhere to any other rules and requirements adopted and enforced by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director and/or Head of School.

If a situation arises that requires a parent discussion, that parent needs to follow the chain of command and see the coach first, followed by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will not meet with any parent regarding issues that have not first been discussed with the coach.

Playing time is at the discretion of the coach. The Athletic Director will not meet with parents regarding playing time.

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In case of minor or major infractions of the above stated rules, the coach of the sport may place the athlete on probation or suspension until the matter is resolved. After a coach has met with the athlete at least one time to explain the disciplinary action, and the student understands the requirement, the matter will be considered resolved. This meeting may involve parents unless exclusion from the sport is the penalty, in which case the parents must be involved. The coach will be responsible for notifying the Athletic Director of any intention to exclude or suspend a student from a sport prior to the meeting with the student athlete and his/her parents.

Any consequence for direct violation of the BACS Student Handbook is at the discretion of the coach with approval from the Athletic Director. Possible sanctions may include but are not limited to immediate removal from a team, suspension from a team, game suspensions, or other sanctions as determined by coach and approved by Athletic Director. School Administrators will also follow up with any additional sanctions if deemed necessary as outlined by the Student Handbook.

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

The decision of your son or daughter to participate in school athletics requires a family commitment. The decision to allow your son or daughter to participate in competitive athletics is a decision to encounter a special set of stresses and should involve a decision on how to handle those stresses in an appropriate Christian way. Prior to participation an athlete must consider the cost and determine if he/she is willing to pay the price, Likewise, the parents must consider the same.

Accept some realities about coaches. They are not infallible evaluators of talent and potential. They do not claim to be. Teams cannot be coached by committee, or by parents. Someone must evaluate and someone must make decisions. Someone must mold the individual personality and emotions into a team. Most often, the coach can make decisions concerning the team with an objectivity that parents do not have. They can do what is best for the team without the emotional bias that parents possess.

This emotional bias and lack of objectivity of parents often times affect the attitudes and behaviors towards officials. Many see the officiating of any game through team colored glasses. Usually there is a second group or team at the same gym or field who see it differently, through their own team colored glasses. When athletes hear their parents ridicule and insult officials, they learn the wrong lessons about courtesy, respect, personal responsibility and self-control.

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The following is a list of dos and don't s for your consideration:

- Do voice your concerns and objections directly and privately to the coach. Do not show disrespect by going to his/her supervisor before discussing it with the coach first.
- Do support the coach in front of your son or daughter.
- If you cannot support the coach after private, calm, and reasonable attempts to solve any problem or concern you have, it is best to remove your son or daughter from the team.
- Do not coach your son or daughter from the stands. It embarrasses your student and it is offensive to others.
- Do not criticize your son/daughter's teammates or the opposing team's players.
- Do not get personal with officials by name-calling and/or insulting them.
- Do remember that it is a game. It can be a good tool to mold character and prepare students for life.
- Do not make disparaging remarks in print or word.
- Do not attempt to speak to a coach directly after a competition. Wait at least 24 hours to contact a coach with your concerns.

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## Travel

All athletes are expected to travel to and from all away contests in transportation provided by or arranged by the school. Boys and girls will not sit together.

In case of personal or family inconvenience, other travel arrangements may be made with the coach. If the parent of the athlete wishes for the athlete to ride home with an adult (other than the parent), they must provide the coach with written notification 24 hours in advance. Athletes will only be released to adults (over the age of 18). Parents/legal guardians transporting their own children from away games will need to sign their students out with the coach. Upon departing from the contest, the coach will have a team roster to check attendance. The coach will then be responsible for transporting students whose parents did not check them out.

Athletes traveling to and from games will dress in attire designated by the coach and in keeping with the BACS dress code. School vehicles will be left clean after each use.

The drivers of the vehicle are the ultimate authority and all students must submit to his/her instructions. If more than 15 student athletes are traveling by bus, a second coach will travel on the bus with the team. Any student who does not comply with the above-mentioned travel rules will forfeit his/her right to travel with the team.

## Overnight Travel

All school/athletic rules are in effect during overnight travel. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ like manner at all events. Any direct violation of the BACS Handbook is at the discretion of the Coach and Athletic Director on overnight travels. Possible sanctions may include but are not limited to immediate removal from a team, suspension from a team, parents phoned to pick-up athlete, game suspensions, or other sanctions as determined by coach and approved by Athletic Director. School discipline will also follow once returned to school as outlined by the School Handbook.

## Player Expense

A student must be in good standing with the school and the particular area of participation. This means that school owned equipment checked out by a participant in any sport is his/her responsibility; the loss or misuse of equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant.

The cost of any deliberate mutilation of school property will be charged to the athlete. Athletes will not be allowed to continue in or begin a new season until all financial obligations have been cleared. Current replacement costs will determine the amount for which the athlete will be held accountable.

Participants will not be allowed to continue competition or receive awards until that obligation is fulfilled.

The athletic program at BACS is supported in part by gate receipts, fundraising, and donations. The student athlete's parents will be scheduled to work the gate and concession for all home games.

The athletic department supplies the players' game uniforms but the players may be required to buy a practice uniform. Participants may be expected to furnish their own shoes, socks, and other needed items for the sport in which they are competing. The athletic department may provide player pack criteria for these items above. Additional personal expenses may be incurred while the team is traveling (i.e. eating, lodging, etc.).

### **Requirements for Athletic Awards and Lettering in a Varsity Sport**

- Attendance, general attitude, sportsmanship, practice, game, and training participation, as well as participation in all athletic fundraisers are to be considered. Consideration must also include an athlete's effort to excel to the best of his or her ability.
- Athletes must attend all possible practices, matches, games, (with the exception of excused absences) etc. pertaining to the sport in which they would letter for the entire season.
- In the event that a player is injured in a sport and not allowed to participate further, he or she will be entitled to an award upon the recommendation of the coach.
- Athletes must complete the full season in the sport in good standing in order to be considered for a letter.
- With regards to letter jackets, an athlete may not order a letter jacket until he/she has completed an entire season and has fulfilled the requirements.
- Letters and patches may only be worn in accordance with the approved sport in which the athlete has lettered.
- Students must obtain approval from the coach/sponsor/teacher and the athletic director before lettering.