



PLAYER HANDBOOK
2018-2019

Our Purpose

To develop the Christian character of young men and women, using the many lessons learned in success and failure to cultivate their skills and abilities to live based on their relationship with Jesus Christ, for the glory of God

Our Mission

Participating in a sport is a wonderful opportunity to improve physical skills and athletic abilities, as well as to learn and utilize lessons in discipline, fitness, teamwork, and attitude. We intend to use this blessing from God to enjoy our health and His creation. We also have the great privilege of letting our lights shine before men, as we play this sport to the glory of God through Christ His Son, our Savior. Therefore, let it be our primary goal to glorify God's name and edify one another throughout the season. We look forward to learning these lessons together as we walk humbly before our God.

Core Values

- **Christ-Centered:** Build character and develop a servant's heart through hard work and discipleship.
- **Team:** Value the concept of "team" as greater than the concept of the "individual."
- **Lofty Goals:** Strive for excellence in all things.
- **Commitment:** Participate fully and be on time.
- **Respect:** Be respectful of coaches, teammates, officials, fans, and all you come in contact with.
- **Humility:** Consider others of higher esteem than yourself.

Expectations for Participation

Nearly equal playing time will be awarded to players participating through the eighth grade. Even so, the coach may elect to have the players he or she feels gives him or her the best opportunity for victory participating in the contest in the final moments.

At the freshman and junior varsity levels, competition will increase to the point that not every player will be awarded equal playing time. However, to ensure that student-athletes develop to their full potential, every player will be awarded as much playing time as possible, insofar as it does not hinder the development of players with the greatest potential.

At the varsity level, while it is often in the best interest of the coach to use all of his or her bench depth, it is sometimes necessary that a disparity of playing time between players be in place in order to give the team the greatest chance for success. Varsity coaches have the right to distribute playing time in whatever way they feel is best for the team.

Regardless of age, playing time need not be awarded to players who fail to show maximum effort.

Coaching Staff & Contact Information

Head Coach:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Communication

Players will be informed at practice of changes in the schedule. In addition, an email will be sent home to parents. Please familiarize yourself with highschoolsports.net. This will be your information source for schedules, directions, etc. You can also access the Zion website, athletics page, for directions.

Game cancellations due to bad weather: It is the school's policy to not have a policy regarding inclement weather. If school is closed due to a snow day, the athletic contest that evening might still take place. A coach or player will inform you by noon as to whether or not we will cancel the games that evening. Please also watch WOOD TV.

Fan Code of Conduct

The bleachers can be an excellent source of fun and excitement for parents and families of all our players. We ask that you keep every game a positive experience for everyone by not speaking negatively about any player, especially the player of another parent, or our opponents. Please let the coaches coach, the players play, and the officials officiate.

Parents should abstain from questioning or reprimanding officials or players by seeking them out face-to-face after the conclusion of the game. Parents should see the coach first with questions and to voice concerns.

Any comments or concerns that you have about this team should be directed to the head coach. If you are not satisfied, you may then contact the Athletic Director.

Please keep these principles in mind as you sit in the stands.

1. **Use the golden rule.** Treat others as you would like to be treated. Luke 6:31-36, "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them...But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."
2. **Respect our opponents and officials.** They are our guests and should be treated with thoughtfulness and accorded tolerance at all times. Insults, making fun, taunting, booing, chanting, towards the opponents or officials are not necessary. Restrict your comments to those of encouragement and praise. Proverbs 11:12, "Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent."
3. **Gain an understanding of the rules.** If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on the officials, coaches, players, etc. Recognize that you may be biased toward a particular player or team and that this might interfere with sound judgment. Proverbs 24:23, "These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good."

Team Expectations

Devotions Devotions will be held during practice at least once per week. Coaches and players will participate.

Practice Attire Shirts that are sleeveless, have holes, or rips/tears in them are not permissible practice attire. Shorts should be a respectable length. Boys should leave their shirts on during practice. Practice jerseys will be issued and should be worn to each practice. In addition, each player is responsible for having proper athletic shoes, shorts, and shirts at every practice. Being unprepared for practice will be considered an unexcused absence. Players without the necessary equipment will be expected to be present at practice to observe.

Game Day Attire	On game days, players should remain in dress code or in uniform on their way to and from any event, whether they ride the bus or take alternate transportation. Example, boys should not be shirtless or wearing tank tops. For home games, wear your white uniform. For away games, wear your blue uniform.
Missing Practice	<p>In order to practice or play in a game, a student must be at school the whole day. There are some exceptions that must be cleared by the administration and the head coach.</p> <p>Players are expected to attend every practice and game and to be on time. Missing practice/game can effect playing time. A player having two unexcused absences from practice/game may be dismissed from the team.</p> <p>Excused absences from games and practices include only illness (including medical appointments), family emergency, and family vacations. In addition to missing a practice, unexcused absences also include a player leaving practice early or arriving late except for the reasons listed above. Please note that this applies even when written parent permission is given. While we respect the parents' decision to allow the child to leave early or arrive late, it does not make the absence excused. <i>Only the conditions of the absence deem it excused or unexcused.</i></p>
Respect	Players may not call the coach by their first name.
Cell Phone Use	Cell phone use while on the bus or at an extracurricular event is limited to calling your parents to relay information pertaining to the event taking place.
Music	<p>Listening to iPods, MP3s, music players, and using cell phones to listen to music, etc, are not permitted at school or on the bus or at extracurricular activities. Please leave them at home.</p> <p>Preferences for pre-game warm-up music, may be submitted to the Athletic Director.</p>
Transportation	<p>When riding on a bus or in a van, different genders should not sit in the same seat or bench. Players should stay seated at all times. Players should not communicate with any other vehicles.</p> <p>All players must ride together to all away games, unless the coach grants permission of a different arrangement. Players MAY go home with their father and/or mother after the game without special permission. If a player needs to ride home with someone else, the parent should give written permission to the coach.</p> <p>Only players, coaches, and assistants may ride to the game on the bus. If parents, family members, or fans wish to ride the bus, they must make a request of the Athletic Director 24 hours prior to departure time.</p>
Playing Time	Playing time will not be equal among players as stated in the <i>Expectations for Participation</i> . Players wishing to discuss their playing time may contact the head coach before or after practice. Playing time will not be discussed with parents.
Injuries	<p>Players must wear braces intended to protect a past injury. Please notify the coach of any pre-existing medical conditions. Players with injuries preventing them from playing are still considered important members of the team and are expected to be present at practice and games to observe.</p> <p>During practices and games, small injuries can happen. Some of the injuries require ice for a period of time, bandaging, taping, or other medical care. We ask that if a player is receiving medical attention that you trust the staff and stay in the spectator area.</p> <p>If the injury stops the game, we ask that parents stay in the spectator area until the staff comes to get you. Most of these times the injuries are minor and the player just needs a few minutes of downtime to recover.</p>
Eligibility	Participants and parents must read and agree to comply with the school's extracurricular eligibility policy.

Parent / Player Signature Page

Please return this page by this [Day, Date].

Player name: _____

For Parents

- _____ I understand the potential risks to my athlete while he/she participates in sports.
- _____ I give my permission for my child to participate and will hold the school blameless in case of accident or injury during practices and games and transportation to and from these events.
- _____ I give my permission for the coach to give my child Ibuprofen.
- _____ I give my permission for my child to be left at school if I am not there to pick up my child at the conclusion of a practice or game.

My signature verifies that I have reviewed the entirety of the player handbook and extracurricular eligibility policy and agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

For Player

I understand the tremendous responsibility that I will be taking on as a student-athlete representing my school. I promise to be at practice and games on time and ready to fulfill my role to praise God every day, no matter what that role may be. I also promise to abstain from any actions which do not bring honor to God, my family, my school, my team, or myself during this season. I also understand that the guidelines set forth in this handbook may be amended by my coach at anytime.

My signature verifies that I have reviewed the entirety of the player handbook and extracurricular eligibility policy and agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein.

Player Signature

Date