

Cincinnati Classical Academy Athletics Handbook: Parent Expectations

Introduction

At Cincinnati Classical Academy, we believe that athletics is an integral part of the classical education experience. Sports provide a venue for students to develop character, discipline, and a spirit of teamwork while striving for excellence. In partnership with parents, coaches, and the broader school community, we aim to create an environment where athletes can flourish both on and off the field.

This section outlines expectations for parents to ensure a positive and supportive environment for our student-athletes, coaches, and teams. Your role is vital in reinforcing the values we uphold as a school and contributing to the success of our athletic programs.

Core Values for Parent Involvement

1. **Gratitude**
 - Be grateful for the opportunity for your child to participate in athletics. Appreciate the time and effort of coaches, officials, and fellow parents, and show your gratitude through support and encouragement.
2. **Compassion**
 - Demonstrate understanding and empathy towards your child, their teammates, and opponents. Show support in moments of difficulty or failure and encourage good sportsmanship in all situations.
3. **Humility**
 - Recognize that athletics is not just about winning. Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Teach your child that success comes from teamwork and collective effort, not individual glory.
4. **Justice**
 - Treat all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators with fairness and respect. Advocate for an environment where everyone is treated equitably, regardless of their role or performance.
5. **Perseverance**
 - Encourage your child to keep striving even when challenges arise. Teach them the value of resilience, whether they are facing a tough opponent, an injury, or a personal setback.
6. **Courage**
 - Support your child in taking risks and stepping outside of their comfort zone. Celebrate their efforts to grow and develop, even in difficult situations, and help them find the strength to persevere through challenges.
7. **Prudence**
 - Exercise sound judgment in your involvement in your child's athletic experience. Be thoughtful in your words and actions; consider how best to support your child's growth and the team's development.

Expectations for Parents

1. Support Your Athlete's Growth

- Encourage your child to approach sports as a learning experience. Focus on personal development, effort, and sportsmanship rather than just winning.
- Emphasize the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and responsibility.
- Allow your child to take ownership of their athletic journey, including communicating with their coaches and managing challenges.

2. Respect for Coaches and Team Culture

- Trust the coaches' decisions regarding playtime, strategy, and training. Understand that they aim to develop not only athletes but young men and women of strong character.
- Refrain from publicly or privately questioning or undermining a coach's decisions. Direct concerns should be communicated privately and respectfully.
- Encourage your child to discuss any concerns directly with their coach before intervening yourself.

3. Conduct at Practices and Games

- Be a positive and encouraging presence at games and practices, recognizing that you are a role model for your child and other spectators.
- Refrain from coaching from the sidelines. Let the coaches do their job to avoid confusion and ensure consistent messaging.
- Never engage in negative comments, insults, or derogatory remarks towards referees, opponents, or fellow spectators. Always demonstrate respect and sportsmanship, regardless of the game's outcome.
- If attending practices, remember that they are the coaches' domain. Keep interactions with your child minimal during training sessions to allow focus and development.

4. Communication Protocols

- Use the 24-hour rule: if you are concerned or upset about something related to your child's athletics experience, wait at least 24 hours before contacting the coach. This allows for a cooling-off period to promote constructive and rational discussion.
- Follow the established communication hierarchy: if concerns arise, encourage your child to first communicate with their coach. If further discussion is needed, then you may contact the coach, followed by the Athletic Director if necessary.
- Be timely in reading and responding to team communications regarding schedules, travel arrangements, and other important information.

5. Encourage a Balanced Life

- Help your student-athlete manage time between academics, athletics, and personal life. Prioritize schoolwork and support the holistic development of your child.
- Encourage adequate rest, nutrition, and recovery to foster long-term health and prevent burnout.

Parental Code of Conduct

As a parent of a Cincinnati Classical Academy athlete, you are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. I will encourage my child to work hard, be a team player, and conduct themselves with integrity on and off the field.
2. I will respect the judgment and decisions of the coaches, trusting that they have my child's best interest at heart.
3. I will model respect and sportsmanship to all athletes, officials, and fellow spectators.
4. I will refrain from criticizing referees or questioning calls during games.
5. I will allow my child to take responsibility for their athletic experience and communication with coaches.
6. I will support the team as a whole, recognizing that success is collective, not individual.
7. I will resolve concerns through appropriate channels and maintain a respectful, solution-oriented approach.
8. I understand that failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including restricted attendance at practices or games.

Final Thoughts

Your involvement as a parent in our athletics program is crucial. We value your commitment to upholding the values of Cincinnati Classical Academy and fostering an environment where all students can thrive. Together, we can create a culture of excellence, respect, and virtue that reflects the best of what athletics and classical education can offer.

Let us work together to support our student-athletes as they grow into men and women of gratitude, compassion, humility, justice, perseverance, courage, and prudence.