

# **LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



## **Athletic Handbook 2021-2022**

**Character**

**Commitment**

**Community**

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## **Role of Athletics**

As a small part of Living Stones Christian School and its ministries, the Athletic Department is responsible to uphold the integrity of the LSCS organization and support its leadership.

At all times the LSCS Athletic Department will support the LSCS Mission statement:

“In the Spirit of Unity, we are:  
Empowering the spirit  
Educating the Mind  
Building the Body  
Preparing lives for the Future.”

The Athletics Department will fulfill the mission of LSCS by teaching our athletes the standard of Christian sportsmanship and competitions. In doing so, the following order of priorities will be acknowledged: 1) God, 2) Family, 3) Academics, 4) Athletics. By having our priorities so ordered we believe our student athletes will be balanced spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

## **Athletics Staff**

The LSCS Athletics staff and volunteers should support the mission of Living Stones Christian School, model Christian leadership both on and off-campus, and set an excellent example for our athletes through our behavior, church involvement, personal and social media interactions.

The Athletic Director will be responsible to the LSCS Administration. All coaches and athletics volunteers will fall under the direct supervision of the Athletic Director.

## **Athletic Program Profile**

- Mascot: Lions
- Colors: Royal Blue and Yellow
- League:
  - Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools ([TAPPS](#)) grades 9-12
  - Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) for grades 6-8
- Classification: TAPPS 1A / Division II 6-man Football
- Sports:
  - Grades 9-12: Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Swimming, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis, Golf, Cross Country
  - Grades 6-8: Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Softball

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Volleyball** - 2006, 2007 **Baseball** – 1989, 1990

## **STATE RUNNERS-UP**

**Cross Country** – 1990 **Tennis** – 2007 **Volleyball** – 2003, 2004, 2009

## **STATE FINAL FOUR**

**Baseball – 1990 Soccer – 1996 Volleyball – 1998 Girls Basketball - 2005**

### **Philosophy**

LSCS athletics helps to fulfill the mission of the school by teaching the Christian way of competing and the Christian way of life as expressed through our three core values in athletics:

#### **● Character**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Gal 5:22-23*

*“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Rom 5:3-4*

*“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.” I Cor 16:13*

#### **● Commitment**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Col 3:23*

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it a slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” I Cor 9:24-27*

#### **● Community**

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Prov 27:17*

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4*

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” I John 4:11*

## Team Level Philosophy

We recognize the normal stages of a child's development and provide appropriate opportunities in athletics:

- **Varsity** athletics is the culminating experience for each sport's program. It is an experience provided for the elite athlete and is the most demanding and competitive of all programs.

Prior participation on a team does not guarantee an athlete a spot on the varsity roster, even if the athlete was a member of the varsity squad previously. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed, since the outcome of the contest becomes an important consideration at this level.

The goal of a varsity team should be to qualify for postseason play in district, regional or state competition. In the individual sports (cross country, tennis, golf, etc.), opportunities are presented to qualify for dedicated team members to represent the district in individual championship competitions at the league, division, and state levels. These opportunities are only provided, however, to those individuals who show a complete and ongoing commitment to the team.

A place on a varsity team is earned through commitment to the sport, effort in practice, and a team attitude. Being a part of varsity athletics is a privilege not a right. Varsity athletes are expected to adhere to the LSCS Honor Pledge and present themselves as Christian leaders to their fellow students, competitors, and those in authority over them.

The athletic Director and coaches ask for your prayers and support as we strive to develop a physically disciplined and spiritually alive athlete. We need your encouragement and cooperation as we work together for the benefit of our children and our school.

- **Junior Varsity** athletes are in the process of gaining the valuable knowledge, skills and experience required for varsity competition. Skill, conditioning, work ethic and reliability are big factors in an athlete's quest to move up.

At this level, athletes are expected to have visibly committed themselves to the program and continued self-development. To this end, increased emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play, as well as social and emotional development.

Junior varsity programs work towards achieving a balance between continued team and player development and the quest for victory. The outcome of the contest does become a consideration at this level.

- **Junior High** programs, in general, offer an introduction to the world of competitive athletics. The focus is on learning basic skills, game rules, fundamentals of team play, social and emotional growth, and healthy competition.

While we try to avoid cuts at the middle school level, certain factors exist that must be dealt with by imposing a limitation on the number of students that can be accommodated in specific

programs. Opportunities for contest participation for each team member will exist over the course of a season, providing that the athlete meets program expectations. Playing time will vary between individuals and will be determined by the coach. Determining factors will include readiness capacity, skill level, team expectations and safety. Creation and size of teams is determined by many factors including but not limited to the number of participants interested in a sport, facility availability, safety and coaching resources.

Whatever we do, we want to do it well. Decisions will be made on a season-by-season, team-by-team basis so that we can provide a healthy experience for all parties involved. We highly encourage our athletes to participate in two sports. For players who are undecided there will be a four day only practice trial period to determine if the student and parent are able to commit for that sport season. During the four day trial period there will be no charges submitted to any financial accounts. We believe that Junior High is a time for students to explore their gifts and interests.

## Goals

Based on our philosophy, our athletic department and team goals are:

- **Excellence** - programs focused on discipleship that honor God and are well managed and well executed
- **Success** - reaching maximum potential both individually and as a team

We will emphasize the individual goal of Academic All-State to all of our students in grades 6 through 12. Being a great student and a great athlete is a difficult task, an admirable goal and a worthy accomplishment.

It is our desire that our athletic community – coaches, players and parents – participate in such a way that honors God and conveys a positive witness to those around us. We will be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

We strive to:

- To teach respect to authority on and off the court.
- To teach players to work together with Christ-like attitudes and actions, sportsmanship and cooperation.
- To teach how to handle stress, hard-work, and problems with God's strength.

## General Policies

- **Attendance & Participation**
  - **Practice**

Practice is a crucial part of team sports. Student athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices. If they are absent for an EXCUSED reason, they need to notify their coach in advance. EXCUSED absences will be those that would be considered an EXCUSED school absence. An UNEXCUSED absence from practice will result in consequences to be determined by the coach. More than one UNEXCUSED absence may result in suspension and/or removal from the team.

- **Games**

Athletes must be present at school on game days. **Students who are absent for more than two periods will not be allowed to play in any athletic contests that day.**

If an athlete will miss a game for an EXCUSED reason, they will need to notify their coach in advance. EXCUSED absences will be those that would be considered an EXCUSED school absence. An UNEXCUSED absence from a game may result in suspension and/or removal from the team.

- **Discipline**

As leaders, student athletes are expected to keep the LSCS Honor Pledge and model integrity in their behavior. Athletes choosing to dishonor their commitment to the Honor Pledge or to break school/athletic policy will face disciplinary action. Participating in athletics is a privilege that can be lost as part of a disciplinary review. Once a student has been removed from a team for disciplinary reasons, they will need to schedule a meeting with their parents and the Athletic Director and/or LSCS Administrator before they may try out for another sport. The Athletic Director and Coach will work together to discipline negative classroom behavior.

- **Sportsmanship**

As Christian leaders, our student athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that keeps with Christian values and the LSCS Honor pledge. During home contests, we serve as hosts to the visiting team, Lions students, parents, fans and officials. They are our guests, and they should be treated accordingly. While we will have competitive games, our behavior and words should show the love of Christ to our guests and our behavior should reflect the hospitality they deserve. All LSCS fans will cheer FOR our team and not AGAINST the other team. We will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

At away contests, we are expected to act as invited guests. We will treat the home school's personnel and facilities with care and respect. Additionally, we will regard the rules of the game as an agreement, the spirit and letter of which we should not break. Players play the game, coaches coach the games... no official has ever "lost" a game for a team. Much like we do not readily credit an official for a win, we will not blame an official for a loss. Officials will be treated with respect and we will accept the final decision of any official.

The outcome of one athletic contest is never as important as our reputation and representations as Christian men and women. Situations arising with the visiting teams or officials will be handled by the Athletic Director or Game Administrator on duty.

If a fan or student becomes unruly, as per TAPPS guidelines they will be removed from the game area and be assessed a fine by TAPPS. Any fines assessed are the sole responsibility of the person receiving the reprimand.

- **Scheduling**

The athletic department does its best to schedule games and practices well in advance of the season. Because we cannot control league changes or changes made by an opponent when we travel to their home court/field, changes to schedules will inevitably occur. In the GCAC league (6th-8th grade sports); schedules are not created until the season starts.

Please stay up to date by accessing the Athletics Calendar available on [lscs.org](http://lscs.org). This is set up through a Google calendar that can easily be synced to your phone or personal device for the most current information. Also, sign up for the Remind App. Updates are sent out via text message to your registered device.

- **Transportation and Travel**

If a team uses a LSCS vehicle, then the following guidelines will be in effect:

- 1.) All team members are generally expected to ride with the team to and from contests. If, for some reason, you need to ride home with your parents, you must clear this with the coach **before leaving for the contest**, and you must give either a written release, text message, or email from one of your parents to the coach. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than your parents. Exceptions to this policy would allow students to ride home from contests if the parents in attendance have plans other than returning directly home or the school from athletic contests, therefore requiring the student to travel with the family. Students would still need to clear this with the coach before leaving for the contest with a written release to the coach.
- 2.) While traveling to and from games, students will be required to wear school uniforms or Athletic-approved clothing. (Game uniform or LSCS t-shirt and warm-ups) *If an athlete is not in the travel dress code, that athlete will not be allowed to travel to the contest.*
- 3.) Students will conduct themselves properly on the school bus or in any school vehicle.
- 4.) Students must receive permission from the coach before bringing any phones, electronic games, etc., aboard the bus. (All music, games, and videos must comply with LSCS guidelines)
- 5.) It is your responsibility to be on time for all departures and to inform your parents of the time to pick you up after the contest. Every effort will be made by the coaching staff to notify proper personnel as to unexpected changes in arrival times.
- 6.) Students will not be allowed to bring parents, family members or friends on any bus trip. Only coaches and athletes are permitted to ride on the school bus. Managers will be allowed to ride if there are enough seats.
- 7.) Students will be required to wear seat belts at all times.

- **Inclement Weather**

Any changes to published schedules due to bad weather will be updated on our athletic website as soon as an affirmative decision can be made. If lightning is present during an outdoor event, all parties must be moved indoors. The event can only be resumed if 30 minutes have passed since the last visual evidence of lightning. For outdoor practices, heat and humidity are closely monitored. When possible, practices will be scheduled in the coolest times of the day. Practices will not be held outside if the heat index is 110F or above.

Decisions for weather delays or cancellations at LSCS events will be made by a member of the Administration based on the TAPPS guidelines and safety of the students. Inclement weather situations during post-season contests (playoffs) will be regulated by the TAPPS and may be rescheduled or not rescheduled at their discretion.

- **Fundraising**

LSCS Athletics raises funds annually through the booster club, athletic participation fees, concessions and gate fees at games, and from individual gifts. The objective is to provide enhancements to our team sports programs such as new uniforms, equipment, coaching stipends, officials, technology and supplies. These enhancements can often meet unexpected needs that extend beyond our operating budget.

- **Eligibility**

LSCS follows the “No Pass, No Play” policy governing Texas schools, for student grade averages. LSCS students must maintain a grade of 70 or higher to participate in extracurricular activities. A failing grade would be that of a grade average of 69 or below. An athletic grading period will be reviewed every 3 weeks. Students will be notified of their grades on Monday of the checkpoint week by their coach or the Athletic Director. Parents can stay apprised of their athletes current grades through frequent checks of RENWEB. If a student does become ineligible they will be out of athletics for a time period of 3 weeks.

After two weeks, students may have their failing grade re-evaluated. If they have brought their grade above 69, they may resume play. If it is still below 70 the student will remain ineligible until the next scheduled checkpoint. If a student becomes ineligible, they must continue to practice with the team but may not participate in any games, travel to games with the team, sit on the bench or wear their uniform. Students who are ineligible more than twice during a season will meet with the coach and Athletic Director and may be removed from the team.

Students who accumulate zeros in a class will have a difficult time remaining eligible. LSCS has a “zero rule”. The zero rule goes into effect if a student athlete receives 3 zeros in a specific class over a 3 week grading period. A meeting between the athlete, coach and athletic director will be

scheduled to discuss their grades. If the student continues to earn zeros on their classwork, the student will be suspended from their next sport contest. Each zero after the 3<sup>rd</sup> zero will be a game suspension. This cycle will start over each 9 week grading period.

- **Substance Abuse**

LSCS vigorously opposes student use, possession, or distribution of tobacco products, smoking paraphernalia, alcohol in any form, or illegal substances on campus or off campus. LSCS Honor Pledge states that students should maintain high personal standards in regard to substance use or abuse both on and off campus. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Athletic Department, School Administrators and/or the LSCS school board. If appropriate, law enforcement officials may also be notified. Penalties could include multiple day suspension, permanent removal from the team, or expulsion from school.

Students are not permitted to use, possess, purchase or distribute illegal drugs, including athletic performance enhancement drugs which are detrimental to the health of the student and are never an acceptable alternative to hard work. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action by the Athletic Department, School Administration and/or the LSCS School Board and may lead to the involvement of law enforcement.

- **Gambling**

Gambling is not tolerated. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action.

- **Hazing**

Hazing is defined as subjecting someone to an indignity, fright, abuse or threat and is not tolerated. Violation subjects the person(s) to disciplinary action. Treating others in a threatening, abusive, inappropriate or demeaning manner is not in keeping with the goals of the LSCS Athletic Department or LSCS as a whole. Student athletes are expected to treat others with respect and good-sportsmanship at all times. Violations of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

- **No Quit Policy**

If a student quits a sport during the season, he or she must meet with the coach and Athletic Director(s) to decide if they can play another sport later in the season. Student Athletes that quit a sport are not eligible to receive any participation awards or superlative awards.

- **Lost and Found**

Coaches require athletes to be good stewards of all personal articles, equipment and facilities. Should an item be lost or misplaced, it may turn up in the lost and found area at the school.

- **Personal Property & Uniforms**

Athletes should be good stewards of their school issued equipment. All items issued at the beginning of a sports season should be returned at the end of the season. Students failing to return their equipment will be charged for its replacement cost.

A student's personal items (bags, shoes, clothing, etc.) are their responsibility. Items left on the bus, in the locker rooms, gym fields, or at another school may not be able to be found or replaced.

- **Respect**

Athletes will recognize and respect the authority of their coaches, athletic director and school administration. Insubordination will not be tolerated. Back talk or "attitude" has no place in team sports. Complaining or negative talk will receive consequences from the coach, athletic director or school administration.

Players will respect each other. As a team, every player brings value to the group dynamic. Athletes will refrain from gossip and strife amongst teammates.

Proper respect will be shown to other teams, coaches, and officials.

- **Sports Fees**

Students participating in a sports season will be required to pay a sports fee. The amount will vary from sport to sport and will be charged to the family's account during the first week of the sports season. Once your child commits to a sport, you are required to pay the entire sports fee. **The family is responsible for the full sports fee even if your student chooses to leave the team, is removed from the team, or is unable to complete the season for any reason.**

Sports fees provide your athlete supplemental insurance coverage for injuries occurring during a school sponsored athletic event. This supplemental policy can help cover some of the costs that your personal insurance may not. Should your child experience an injury during athletic competition, please contact the school office the next school day to obtain a claim form.

- **24 Hour Rule**

Coaches will not discuss a players' playing time after the game. Please contact coaches with questions or concerns 24 hours after the game. Coaches are not permitted to discuss decisions that affected the outcome of a game until after the 24 hours time frame has passed.

**Dear Parents,**

Your student has expressed interest in participating in LSCS Athletics this season. Being a part of a school team is an important commitment.

**Athletes are expected to:**

1. Maintain a minimum average of 70 in all academic classes.
2. Attend all practices and be fully engaged in participating.
3. Be prepared for all games.
4. Represent themselves and their team as a Christian young man or young woman on the court and in the classroom.
5. Be a team player and refrain from name calling, gossip or strife with their teammates.
6. Commit to the entire season.
7. Respect the authorities placed over them in the Athletic Department.

**Athlete's Parents are expected to:**

1. Support my son/daughter in whatever activity he/she is participating in.
2. Support the coaching staff of each team my son/daughter is involved in. If there is a difference in opinions, coaching style, calls, etc. I will not voice it to others, including my child, until I have talked it over with the coach in question.
3. Take a proactive role in my sons/daughters life by helping him/her succeed in the classroom and on the field/court.
4. Most importantly, show my child love whether he/she plays well or not, wins or not, or makes a mistake or not.

Students are asked to sign the attached form as their commitment to LSCS Athletics. Students who choose to dishonor their commitment may lose the privilege of being on the team and/or lose the privilege of future athletic participation.

Please sign below to acknowledge your agreement to these guidelines, to give your child permission to participate in Athletics, and to assume financial responsibility for sports fees and uniform replacement fees in case of loss or damage.

**Please select your season:**

FOOTBALL  VOLLEYBALL  BASKETBALL  BASEBALL/SOFTBALL  TRACK  CHEER

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LIONS ATHLETICS Commitment

Please select your season:

FOOTBALL  VOLLEYBALL  BASKETBALL  BASEBALL/SOFTBALL  TRACK  CHEER

Being a part of a school team is an important commitment. Athletes are role models to our younger students and are important representatives of our school and our team. By choosing to be a part of this team you are committing to the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will represent myself and the school as a Christian young man or woman.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am committing to my teammates for the entire season. I will not quit on my team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will do my best to remain eligible in my academic classes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am committing to attend and fully participate in practices. I will make every effort to attend all scheduled practice times.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will dedicate myself to putting forth 100% effort in practice and in games.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I have an unexcused absence from practice, I may not be able to start in the next game. Multiple unexcused absences from practice may result in my removal from the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be an encourager to my teammates and will refrain from name calling and gossip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will respect my Coach and maintain a good attitude.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will remember that whether I am on the court or on the bench, I am important to the team and will be focused on the game and an encourager to my teammates.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will respect the equipment issued to me by LSCS and return all my uniform pieces in good condition and in a timely manner.

By signing this commitment, I understand the importance to my participation and dedication. I also understand that if I choose to dishonor my commitment, I may lose the privilege of future athletic participation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **LSCS ATHLETES CREED**

**As Christian Athletes at LSCS we will strive to live as Philippians 2:14-15 says, "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."**

- **Whether we win or lose we will praise the Lord. We will honor Him with our actions and our attitudes.**
- **I pledge to give God everything I've got and leave the results up to Him**
- **I pledge to play with respect to myself, my teammates, my school and the officials overseeing the event.**
- **I will know the rules and obey them.**
- **I will play with integrity and never sacrifice my morals to win a game.**
- **I pledge to play with heart and to give 100% to my team, my coach, and school.**
- **I will put my team above myself because I am nothing by myself. Philippians 2:2-4**
- **I will not judge others by their actions and myself by my intentions.**
- **I acknowledge that God has given me my ability to compete and will honor Him by giving everything that is in me. Ephesians 6:7, Colossians 3:23**

**I will give God the glory for allowing me to compete and be a LSCS LION!!**