



The Oaks Athletics Parent Manual 2020

THE OAKS ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

The Oaks seeks to provide an extracurricular activities program in order to supplement its academic program. The Oaks recognizes that God has gifted students in a variety of ways, including abilities in athletics, drama, music, academic study, as well as in other areas. We seek to provide an opportunity for these students to develop and use their God-given talents.

We seek to:

1. Provide an environment for the students to have fun, grow in their love of the sport, develop basic skills required for that sport, and learn to work hard physically.
2. Develop Christian character...special attention will be given to the student's interactions with teammates, opponents, and referees. Additionally, lessons in dealing with the wins, losses, preparations and battles of athletic competition will be communicated through the lens of Scripture. (***Athletics reveals character, and Scripture shapes it.***)
3. Develop sportsmanship, humility, and school spirit in the students.
4. Use Scripture to prepare the players for the event, to coach and train them during it, and to debrief them afterwards.

We believe that participation in extracurricular activities provides a good opportunity to encourage Christian students in their relationship with and witness for Jesus Christ. **We expect, and will insist upon, Christ-like character and behavior in all athletes, fans, and coaches. We expect all fans and athletes alike to limit words and actions at sporting events to those that are uplifting, encouraging, and positive. (Ephesians 4:29-32) We expect this to be our behavior toward our children, our opponents, our opposing fans, and game officials, whether "home" or "away", "ahead" or "behind".** We expect every Oaks person in attendance to do what Christ would, regardless of what the scoreboard says or how our opponents may conduct themselves.

We desire to teach our children to think, speak and act in the way Christ would at our athletic events. Thank you for your prayers and for leading our young ones by example!

Sportsmanship

The preeminent goal of the athletics program at The Oaks is to train young ladies and gentlemen to put their talents to work skillfully and graciously in order to extol and enjoy the excellencies of the Creator. In light of that fact, gracious and respectful behavior will be expected at all times toward coaches, players, officials and fans.

Oaks Athletics Frequently Asked Questions:

Question #1: If you miss a class during the school day, can you participate at a practice or in a game that afternoon?

Answer: If you miss even a single class during the school day, you may not participate in athletic practices or games without permission from the athletic director. Parents may text, call, or email the athletic director to get permission. (Sleeping in, doing homework at home, being sick, etc. will not be approved. Please try to schedule appointments outside of school times.)

Question #2: How do I get directions to the away games?

Answer: The location for away games can be found by clicking on the event name in Google Calendar or iCal. Once you see the event information, you will see the location. Click on that location and it will pull up your Maps app and give you directions.

Question #3: What should I do if I can't make the date and time that I am assigned (volunteered) for admissions, prayer, scorebook, etc.?

Answer: We ask that you find a replacement and inform the assistant athletic director who that replacement is.

Question #4: Where should I go if I have questions?

Answer: If it is about the sport (play time, questions about how/why a coach does something, etc.) should go to the coach. Questions about scheduling or concerns that extend beyond the coaches' realm should go to the athletic director. Questions about volunteering, admissions, or departure times go to the assistant AD.

Question #5: Who should I go to if I have a problem, issue, frustration, concern, etc.?

Answer: Matthew 18 says that we are to go to the person directly connected to our concern or frustration. If it is not resolved there (after prayer, attempts to resolve and cover in love), then the concern can go up to the next person in the "chain of command."

Question #6: How can I be a huge blessing to the athletic director's wife and children?

Answer: Wow! Thank you for asking...it is always appreciated if parents and kids jump in and help get things cleaned up at the end of the games. Also, make sure to show up at the appointed time for your admissions, scorebook, line judge, and other assignments.

Question #7: If I am driving students to an away game, what are the rules about music and kids using cell phones?

Answer: we love the community that is built around athletics at The Oaks. One way we build community and facilitate parent partnership is through the fellowship that happens on the drives to and from away games. That being said, having players sit with earbuds in on the trip doesn't match

that goal. For this reason, we are not allowing players to use earbuds on away games. Cell phone use will also be limited to communication with parents when needed and with the permission of the driver. Also, the school's policy on music played in the cars during travel to and from the game is the same as the policy on field trips that, "only classical music may be played."

Question #8: When should I show up for the admission's table? (No admissions table this year)

Answer: Please show up 45 minutes before the game time that you are volunteered for. You will also be relieved 45 minutes early so you will be able to watch quite a bit your player's game from the stands.

Questions #9: What are the players supposed to do between the end of school and the start of their late practice?

Answer: Students are to go immediately after school to the study room or leave campus. They may not wander around the school or hang out in the parking lot. If they go to the study room, they are to stay in their uniform. They will be released 15 minutes before practice to go change and get to practice. Jen Welch will

The rules of the study room are:

Quiet but not necessarily silent

Snacks are ok, if they pick up after themselves

No phone usage unless to contact parent for a moment

No ear buds or head phones

No wandering around the campus or leaving and coming back

Be working on homework or reading

Questions #10: What role do I play in the athletic program?

Answer: There are a number of ways to volunteer, including being the travel coordinator, assistant coach, line judging for volleyball, scorebook, scoreboard, etc. **But most importantly**, we are partnering together in the character formation and spiritual growth of your children. We want you to pray, be involved, come to games and volunteer to drive, and look for opportunity to bring your kids up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Athletics isn't something I do, it is something we do.

Questions #11: Does the Bible say anything about athletics?

Answer: You bet! Besides multiple analogies used by Paul to describe the Christian life using athletic imagery, the Bible talks about the athletic endeavor in many verses that don't include the word "sports" in them. For instance:

Deut. 6:4-8 says, "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."*

Ephesians 6:4 says, "*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

Home Game Expectations:

Having athletics in our gym is a huge privilege, especially right now. We are glad that we can have sports and invite other teams to join us. Many schools this year have to have her home games at our gym because of COVID restrictions.

Fans are a vital part of the success of The Oaks athletics and we encourage vigorous positive participation by our crowd. Oaks fans are also ambassadors of Christ and of our school and should cheer our teams in an appropriate manner. Our cheering should build up and encourage all who hear. Our emphasis on sportsmanship and character amongst our student athletes and student body begins with the example set by our parents. What do we expect in our gym for game nights:

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. This encourages us to speak and cheer words that build up and impart grace to those around us. We will aspire to that standard as we seek to impart grace and edify those that hear us speak and cheer in the gym.

Romans 1:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." This is a great reminder that we do things a little differently in the Mountain Christian League. As Christians, we show honor and respect to the referees, the coaches, and the players on both teams.

I Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do (even participate in a volleyball game), do all to the glory of God." Let's give glory to Him as we cheer, coach, and compete in our games

Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." We are first, brothers and sisters in Christ, and secondly, volleyball opponents. Let us practice humility and love as we cheer, coach, and compete.

4 reasons why you shouldn't yell at my referees: :)

1. I hired them and invited them to take authority over our court or field. If they need to be spoken to, the head coach or I will talk to them. Trust your coaches and your AD.
2. It is clearly against what Scripture has called us to in Eph. 4:29 to speak words that edify, impart grace, and show gratitude.
3. It is working against what the coaches are teaching the players. As parents, sometimes we parent by engaging with our kids, but so often we teach by example.
4. Split second decisions are hard. Try making 100 of them in one night with 200 people watching.

Away Game Expectations:

Getting our players to away games is the responsibility of parents. We do not have a van or bus on purpose, that we can involve parents. We ask that you try to drive to at least one away game. If you cannot do that, then it could be appropriate to help out with gas money to those parents that are driving. It is a sacrifice for everyone.

Any time we have an away game, you can find the directions on Google Calendar under location. Most smartphones will get you there as well. I usually choose the route that is quickest and takes main roads. If it is possible to get there using I-90, I will usually choose that route. Players are dismissed 15 minutes before the departure time.

We love the community that is built around athletics at The Oaks. One way we build community and facilitate parent partnership is through the fellowship that happens on the drives to and from away games. That being said, having players sit with earbuds in on the trip doesn't match that goal. For this reason, we are not allowing players to use earbuds on away games. Also, the school's policy on music played in the cars during travel to and from the game is the same as the policy on field trips that, "only classical music may be played." Please help the players maintain respect for the school by enforcing and honoring it.

When the travel coordinator sets up drivers and places athletes in cars, it is extremely important that we stick with those designations. When we deviate from the drivers that are set, we run the risk of leaving players behind. Please pass this along to the players as well.

If a parent wants to stop on the way home from an away game for a meal, that needs to be approved by the coach. Parents should not be surprised or worried about how long it takes for their kids to get home from away games. Please communicate with the coach about this and hopefully, players can communicate what time they will be home to their parents.

Through the rules, sometimes it is hard to see the principles. We love your kids and we want a robust athletics program with a great community of parents speaking into the lives of young people who need that love and guidance. That is why we hire coaches that have high standards of personal righteousness and that is why we create opportunities for parents to connect with our athletes.

Also, the Scriptures above that apply to how we act at our home games, apply at other gyms and fields as well. We should have the best reputation in the league as parents and fans.

COVID19 Policies

1. We ask that you sign the Oaks COVID19 Family Agreement.
2. We are taking protocols seriously at practices, so that we can continue to play sports.
3. Please speak respectfully and supportively about the precautions we are taking. Very few schools are getting the opportunity that we are to play basketball and we want to make sure that we can continue to do so.
4. We will be working in smaller groups, called "pods," in order to limit the possible spread of any illness and to contain any possible outbreak should someone contract an illness this season.
5. When we are not playing or scrimmaging, we will observe the 6 foot or masks guideline at practices.
6. We will only be allowing immediate family in the gym during games. We allow grandparents with that, but no one else. Please help us with that.
7. Things are changing on a daily basis from the federal level, from the Governor, and from the Spokane Health District. Please be patient with us as things may change along the way. "Flexible" is my middle name...:)