



Cornerstone Classical Academy Athletics
Athlete Code of Conduct
2025-2026

Participating in athletics plays a significant role in the holistic education of a student-athlete. It is a powerful tool that is used to help develop leadership skills and character development. Therefore, every effort should be made to demonstrate the highest standard of excellence and character.

As a student-athlete, with the help of your coach and teammates, you will:

- Treat coaches, administrators, and officials with respect as the authority figures placed over you as you represent Cornerstone Classical Academy.
- Treat fellow student-athletes with respect and celebrate diversity regardless of ethnicity or cultural background.
- Instill ethical characteristics in your teammates by demonstrating high standards of personal honesty and integrity.
- Accept responsibility for behavior and performance in the classroom as well in competition.

ELIGIBILITY:

As a member of CCA athletics, you are known as a STUDENT-ATHLETE. You are a STUDENT first and an ATHLETE second. Your coach expects you to take your academic responsibility seriously. This requires commitment, organization, effective study skills, and time management responsibilities. To be eligible, you are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA. Your grades will be monitored on a biweekly basis to ensure that you are meeting the eligibility requirements.

BEHAVIOR:

You are a representative of Cornerstone Classical Academy and will be expected to act in a manner that is both appropriate and respectful. This behavior is expected on and off the court/field, both in and out of the classroom. Disrespect to any adults, classmates, and/or teammates will not be tolerated. If an issue arises, the student-athlete(s) will be held accountable with an appropriate consequence after practice (i.e. extra conditioning) and (depending on the severity of the incident) may be subject to missing playing time.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Playing and competing for Cornerstone Classical Academy is a privilege. Student-athletes at CCA are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by the majority of student-athletes here at CCA in one form or another. Student-athletes should be aware that third parties could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos and comments. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, the athletic department, and the school.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posts that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of vapes, e-cigarettes, marijuana, drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity. No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the CCA Athletic Department's and the school. Remember, always present a positive image and don't engage in anything that may embarrass yourself, the team, your family or the school.

PRACTICES:

Attendance to all practices is mandatory. All absences must be cleared through your coach prior to missing practice. If you are sick and miss school, or go home early, it is your responsibility as a student-athlete to leave a message for your coach regarding your absence. This is the responsibility of the student-athlete, not the parent. Any unexcused absences will be dealt with by the head coach.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS:

1. All players need to be at practice at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time to avoid being late. Tardiness will result in extra conditioning. Frequent tardiness may result in loss of playing time or dismissal from the team. When you step on the court, it is practice time, leave all the socializing at the door.
2. All balls/equipment not in use must be put away.
3. All players need to be attentive during practice. You will not talk while the coach or another teammate is talking. Any type of horseplay or talking back will not be tolerated. This does not mean that we cannot smile, laugh, or have fun.
4. When being instructed/coached, listen to learn – not to respond. This simply means, do not give your coach any excuses. Own up to your mistake and fix it!
5. No cursing or profanity will be tolerated.
6. You are expected to work hard during practice. Laziness will not be tolerated. HUSTLE.
7. All players need to wear appropriate attire during practices. Appropriate attire for females means: hair tied back (do not wear your hair down), athletic shorts (do not wear short-shorts), appropriate shoes, sports bra, athletic t-shirt or cutoff, and practice jersey. Failure to wear appropriate attire will result in consequences subject to the coach's discretion.

GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS:

- On game days, players are expected to manage their time wisely both academically and athletically.
- Make sure you are getting an adequate amount of sleep the night prior to a game, in addition to hydrating and eating nutritious meals throughout the day.
- It is your responsibility as a student-athlete to have assignments completed and studied for – you will never be allowed to use the excuse, “I had a game last night.”
- The National Anthem will be played prior to every game/contest, and all players must be on the sideline for the National Anthem. During the National Anthem, players and coaches on the field and bench area should stand at attention, face the flag, and refrain from talking.
- You will respect all authorities/referees involved in the game by accepting any calls on or against you or our team.
- Players will allow the coach to do the coaching.

PLAYING TIME:

There is no guarantee that everyone will get into every game or receive equal amounts of playing time. Players who give the team the best opportunity to compete will play. This will vary game by game based on various situations. The coach will take into consideration not only the talent level of a player, but also will take into account their attitude, work ethic, desire, dedication, and knowledge of our offensive and defensive systems. Individual talent is only beneficial when put to use in the TEAM concept.

ACCEPTANCE OF ROLES:

Roles will be defined for each player prior to the start of the season, but can be adjusted throughout the season. A player’s willingness to accept the role will be crucial to the success that we have as a team. In order to be successful, everyone must be willing to put their personal interests aside for the betterment of the team. If jealousy, egotism, or complaining exist then success is almost impossible. Regardless of your role, it is important to our team’s success that each player gives 100% effort at all times. While most roles will reflect seniority, that may not be the case at all times. If a player has an issue with their role, it is their responsibility to discuss this issue with the coach. If a player cannot accept their role in a positive manner, they may be dismissed from the team.

RESPECT AND TRUST:

Respect and trust are two important factors in our success. Respect and trust must be displayed between team members, between players, and between coaches. There will be times of adversity. How we handle this adversity as individuals and as a team will help determine the type of season we will have. Any display of disrespect toward team members, coaches, opponents, fans, or other community members, will not be tolerated and will result in a warning with appropriate consequences. Your coach has an open-door policy at all times. If a player has an issue regarding our team, the player needs to see the coach first and not an outside source. The student athlete should first speak directly with his/her coach, if further clarification is required, a parent should then contact the coach (it is advised that no contact between parent and coach be made until, at least, the

day after the incident/event in question – the so-called “24 hour rule”). If the issue remains unresolved, the parent should then communicate his/her concerns to the athletic director. Not following the proper chain of communication, can create bigger problems. These problems can lead to issues with team chemistry which is crucial to having a successful season. We all have the same goal – to succeed.

TEAM GOALS:

We must all work together to accomplish our team goals. No one player is more important than another. If a player cares more about his/her individual interests instead of the team’s interests, then the success of our program will be undermined. Whether you are friends with a teammate off the court is irrelevant. When we are together - be it during practice, games, or team activities - you are teammates, we are a family. Players are expected to put their differences aside for the betterment of the team. Rumors and half-truths will not be tolerated. If a player feels the need to talk negatively about an individual on our team, that player may run the risk of being removed from the team.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM EXPENSE COVERAGE PROTOCOL

1. Purpose

This protocol establishes clear guidelines for expense coverage within the athletic program. The primary goal is to ensure fiscal responsibility, promote equity among teams, and encourage community involvement through fundraising. Coverage of expenses by the program is limited to teams qualifying for FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) state tournaments. All other tournaments or trips requiring overnight stays must be funded through fundraising efforts or direct payments by parents/guardians.

2. Scope

This protocol applies to all athletic teams, coaches, athletes, parents/guardians, and administrative staff involved in the athletic program. It covers expenses related to travel, lodging, meals, transportation, and other associated costs for tournaments and trips.

3. Definitions

- **FHSAA State Tournaments:** Official postseason competitions sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association where teams qualify based on regional performance.
- **Overnight Stay Trips:** Any tournament, competition, or team-related travel that requires lodging for one or more nights.
- **Program-Covered Expenses:** Costs reimbursed or directly paid by the athletic program's budget, including but not limited to transportation, lodging, meals, and entry fees.
- **Fundraised Expenses:** Costs covered through team-specific fundraising activities, such as events, sponsorships, or donations.
- **Parent/Guardian-Paid Expenses:** Costs directly borne by the parents or legal guardians of participating athletes.

4. Policy Guidelines

4.1 Eligible Expenses for Program Coverage

- The athletic program will only cover expenses for teams that qualify for and participate in FHSAA state tournaments.
- Covered expenses may include:
 - Transportation (e.g., bus or van rentals).
 - Lodging (e.g., hotel rooms for athletes and essential staff).
 - Meals (per diem rates as defined by program guidelines).
 - Entry fees or registration costs specific to the state tournament.
- Coverage is contingent on available budget and prior approval from the athletic director.

4.2 Non-Eligible Expenses

- All other tournaments, competitions, or trips requiring overnight stays (e.g., invitational tournaments, out-of-state events, or preseason scrimmages) are not eligible for program coverage.
- These expenses must be funded through one of the following methods:
 - **Fundraising:** Teams may organize approved fundraising activities to cover costs. All fundraising must comply with school district policies and be coordinated through the athletic department.
 - **Parent/Guardian Payments:** Families may be required to pay directly for their athlete's share of expenses. Payment plans or scholarships may be arranged on a case-by-case basis to ensure accessibility.

4.3 Fundraising Requirements

- Teams planning non-FHSAA overnight trips must submit a fundraising plan to the athletic director at least 60 days in advance.
- Fundraising activities must be ethical, legal, and aligned with school values (e.g., car washes, bake sales, sponsorship drives).
- Funds raised must be deposited into a designated team account and used solely for the intended trip expenses.
- If fundraising falls short, remaining costs must be covered by parent/guardian payments.

4.4 Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents/guardians must be informed of potential costs for non-FHSAA trips at the start of the season via a signed acknowledgment form.
- Payments, if required, should be made in advance according to a schedule set by the coach or athletic director.
- In cases of financial hardship, parents/guardians may request assistance through the athletic department's hardship fund, if available.

5. Procedures

5.1 Requesting Program Coverage for FHSAA State Tournaments

1. Upon qualification for an FHSAA state tournament, the head coach submits an expense request form to the athletic director, including estimated costs and a roster of participants.

2. The athletic director reviews and approves the request based on budget availability.
3. Expenses are reimbursed or paid directly by the program upon submission of receipts.

5.2 Planning Non-FHSAA Overnight Trips

1. The head coach proposes the trip to the athletic director, including details on purpose, itinerary, and estimated costs.
2. If approved, the coach develops a fundraising plan or payment schedule.
3. Parents/guardians are notified via a meeting or written communication.
4. All funds are tracked and reported to ensure transparency.

5.3 Documentation and Reporting

- All expense requests, fundraising records, and payments must be documented and retained for at least two years.
- Annual audits may be conducted to ensure compliance.

6. Responsibilities

- **Athletic Director:** Oversees protocol implementation, approves requests, and manages the program budget.
- **Head Coaches:** Communicate policies to teams and families, coordinate fundraising, and submit required documentation.
- **Athletes and Parents/Guardians:** Adhere to payment or fundraising obligations and sign acknowledgment forms.
- **Administrative Staff:** Handle financial transactions and maintain records.

7. Exceptions and Appeals

- Exceptions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances (e.g., unexpected qualification or emergencies) at the discretion of the athletic director and school administration.
- Appeals for denied coverage or hardship cases should be submitted in writing to the athletic director within 7 days of notification.

8. Compliance and Enforcement

- Violations of this protocol may result in trip cancellation, coaching disciplinary action, or restrictions on future participation.
- This protocol will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect changes in FHSAA rules or program needs.

Updated June 2025

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I have read the CCA Athlete Code of Conduct and will abide by all the information. I agree to act in good faith and good judgment while participating in any athletic event. My actions and behaviors directly reflect Cornerstone Classical Academy, and I will present myself and the school in a professional, ethical manner at all times. If I fail to adhere to the Athlete Code of Conduct, I understand that I will no longer be a part of CCA Athletics.

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

