

Letter from the Athletic Director

Dear Student Athlete and Parents:

We are excited to have you become a part of the Calvary Schools of Holland's Athletic Program. We sincerely wish that your experience in our athletic program is satisfying and rewarding. We feel that participation in athletics is an important part of the educational process as athletic participation provides the opportunity for student athletes to develop knowledge, skill and attitudes that will develop Christian character and train them to be servant leaders of our community and society.

The CSH Athletic Program seeks to provide an experience that is fun and promotes individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. We hope that all students will participate in some phase of our athletic program as these will be memorable high school experiences that will last a lifetime.

When your daughter/son chooses to participate in one of our sports programs, we feel that they have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some specific policies/rules that are necessary for a well organized program of interscholastic athletics.

Calvary Schools of Holland are members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). We are affiliated with the Alliance League and compete as a "Class D" school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the CSH Athletic Program and/or this handbook, please contact me at 396-4494 ext. 120.

We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to "be the best you can be, to the Glory of God."

In His Service,

Athletic Director

Calvary Schools of Holland Philosophy of Athletics

Basketball • Soccer • Baseball • Volleyball

Calvary Schools views athletics as another instrument to fulfill the school mission and disciple students. Physical exercise and a healthy degree of competitiveness should encourage students and compliment school culture.

Our school is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) with varsity teams in volleyball, soccer, basketball and baseball. Many of these sports are also available to younger grades. We compete in the Alliance League and against public, private, and other Christian schools similar in size.

Christian Philosophy of Athletics

The main approach to athletics must stem directly from the school's Christian philosophy of education, since it is foundational to every part of the total school program. A brief philosophical statement of athletics is "to develop the athlete spiritually, mentally, and physically so that his spirit, mind, and body are directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:23)

We do believe a well organized, properly coached athletic effort will encourage the mission of the school. As coaches train and organize each team for competition, student leadership and servant-heartedness will be developed. Within the discipline of athletics, both in training and in competition a student's character will be revealed, allowing the coach to disciple. As students are physically fit, mentally sharp through rigorous athletic training, and submit to the grade requirements for athletic participation, the quality of the education is enhanced.

I Corinthians 10:31 states, "Whether, therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Therefore, the Christian athlete ought to strive for excellence because he or she is motivated by the desire to use given talents for "the glory of God." By using I Corinthians 10:31 as a Biblical base, there are three basic facts that constitute the Christian Philosophy of Athletics.

First, athletics is a ministry. Calvary Schools of Holland seeks to minister to others. There are a number of methods of outreach in which the Calvary athletes may be involved. These would include post-game entertainment, prayer, testimonies, one-on-one evangelism, and witnessing. Sportsmanship and appearance are also very important in helping the athletes realize their responsibility "to show forth Christ through sports."

Secondly, athletics is a method of achieving goals. Some of these goals should include showing school spirit, promoting CSH, glorifying Christ, seeking God's best, and developing as a total person.

Thirdly, athletics is a means to an end. Each individual athlete must desire to excel for the glory of God. By doing so, he/she will tell the world that a Christian is capable of being competitive in sports as well as being totally dedicated to Christ. Athletics must be used as a tool to propagate the Gospel of Christ to unbelievers.

Like everything else in the Christian life, athletics must be kept in balance. Paul reminds us in I Timothy 4:8, "bodily exercise profiteth little." In other words, we must strive to keep athletics at Calvary Schools of Holland in the proper perspective. Athletics are to be fun and helpful in the Christian life, and also to build the character of Christ in each athlete. Jesus Christ is alive! Let's make it known through sports at Calvary Schools of Holland!

Christian Philosophy of Coaching

Coaches are stewards. They have been divinely placed in the coaching ministry to meet the spiritual, mental, and physical needs of the athlete. It is important then, that since they have been called into this position of authority and responsibility that they know how to carry out their duties Biblically.

The Calvary philosophy of coaching must stem directly from its educational philosophy. The major purpose is to cause Calvary athletes to serve and lead in a way that honors Christ. We want our athletes to possess positive Christ-like character qualities, and to express them openly through athletics. We are most interested in building external values in our athletes, and therefore need to stress attitudes and actions in relation to God's Word.

Calvary coaches will be confronted with all types of life situations where they can teach Biblical perspectives, including intensity, diligence, dependability, patience, and other Christ-like qualities.

The attitude and approach of the coach is crucial in Christian athletics because Luke 6:40 states, "The pupil is not above his teacher, but everyone that is perfect shall be as his teacher." Or, in the context of athletics, "When an athlete has been fully trained he will become like his coach." A coach in a Christian school is called to an important and influential position. He is an ambassador for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20).

Athletics and Parents

Calvary enjoys great support from the parents of our student athletes. We believe the parent's presence at games greatly encourages all students, and allows parents to use sports in their efforts to disciple at home. We also believe parents have an opportunity and a mandate to reveal Christ to other parents, coaches, and the athletes of other schools by their enthusiasm and godliness by cheering and encouraging students, with the constant realization that the athletic competition is temporal, but relationships eternal.

M.H.S.A.A.

Each year Calvary Schools of Holland applies for membership into the Michigan High School Athletic Association. In doing so, Calvary, its athletic department, and participants agree to implement and enforce the rules of the M.H.S.A.A. The M.H.S.A.A. rules become Calvary's rules. Each year, M.H.S.A.A. publishes a handbook containing the basic regulations. A copy of this handbook is available for reading through the athletic department. Other items of interest are published throughout the year, and also, can be made available by contacting the athletic department. All coaches receive a copy of this handbook. Parents and athletes are encouraged to read the handbook, as this will prove helpful in the enforcement of the regulations.

Calvary Schools of Holland competes in the Alliance League and against public, private, and other Christian schools similar in size. Currently, we offer six Varsity sports. Girls may participate in volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and soccer in the spring. Boys may participate in soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and baseball in the spring. Calvary does not allow mix gender sports. CSH competes in the M.H.S.A.A. state tournament with all Varsity Sports. Currently, CSH participates as a Class 'D' school. These tournaments are played at the conclusion of each sports respective season.

Privilege of Participation

As an athlete, you commit yourself to your team the day you put your name on the sign-up sheet. At CSH it is a privilege to participate in athletics, not a right. Once practice begins an athlete has demonstrated his/her commitment to being there for his/her team. When an athlete decides to quit, he/she demonstrates a lack of commitment, which is a key character trait being taught through athletics. It is important that all student athletes finish the season they start.

In order for Holland Calvary to compete at the level that it is most capable of competing at, it is extremely important that all athletes make themselves available for all practices and all games. Practices are where the Crusaders get better and are an essential part of athletics. Athletes are not just practicing for the opportunity to play in games, but they should be working to better themselves and form a team through practices. The privilege to participate in a game is earned through hard work in practice. Missing practices and/or games may reveal a lack of commitment to the team, CSH and an athlete's personal testimony. It is understandable that some things are unavoidable and sometimes a practice or game will be missed. Excusable exceptions include: death in family, illness, doctor's appointment related to current illness, injury that does not allow for attendance at practice or game, an essential youth group activity of an athlete's home church planned prior to the current sport schedule being available, and possibly others deemed credible by the administration. Inexcusable reasons include: music lessons, no transportation, family vacations, homework, or possibly others to be considered by administration. When an athlete misses a practice and/or game with an unexcused reason that athlete will be subject to team discipline to be decided at the head coach's discretion.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in any sport that is currently sponsored by Calvary Schools of Holland an athlete must meet certain academic requirements. An eligible student, academically, is a student that is attending CSH full time, carrying the required academic class load, and is maintaining an overall grade percentage of 70% or higher. Furthermore, a student may be carrying a 70% average or higher and still be academically ineligible. When an athlete receives a failing grade (59% or lower) at the time that grades are submitted, that athlete is automatically declared ineligible, until the failing grade becomes a 60% or higher. When a failing grade becomes a non-failing grade then the overall average must be a 70% or higher to be academically eligible.

At the beginning of each school year all athletes are academically eligible, as long as they are enrolled with a full load of classes. At the conclusion of the third week of the Fall Semester, each teacher will be required to submit a form with grades for each athlete that they are currently teaching. (This form will be made available to the faculty by the athletic director). It will be the athletic director's responsibility to inform any athletes that are ineligible. Subsequent grading forms will be collected each week thereafter, throughout the academic school year. Percentage grades will be figured on the semester marking period, not the nine-week period. A

three-week grace period will be given at the beginning of the Spring semester. (Note: If an athlete is ineligible at the conclusion of the fall semester, this athlete will remain ineligible until grades are submitted after the grace period of the spring semester).

If you are declared ineligible, this does not mean you are removed from your team. An ineligible athlete is still an active part of his/her team. While ineligible the athlete must continue to practice with the team, attend all games in proper dress code, and sit on the bench with the team. Failure to comply with this policy will result in immediate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, possible dismissal from the team.

At Calvary an athlete must also be in attendance for the entire school day to be eligible to participate in an athletic contest on that same day. If an athlete is absent for part of the day due to illness or some other reason, they will not be allowed to participate in any contests held on that same day. Scheduled doctor's appointments are not considered an absence. If an athlete has question about their eligibility due to absence they must see the athletic director before suiting up for a contest.

Physicals

In order to participate as an athlete on a sponsored CSH team, each athlete is required to have a physical form on file in the athletic office. Each subsequent school year another physical form must be on file. Athletes participating in Junior High sports are also required to have a physical on file. A physical for the current year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after April 15 of the previous school year. The forms must be signed by the MD, DO, PA, or NP who administers the exam. The forms can be picked up in the main office at CSH.

Behavior

It is considered a privilege to participate in athletics at Calvary Schools of Holland. One way to lose the privilege is to disobey the rules of the school, which governs the athletic department. If an athlete receives a detention, for whatever reason, the detention takes precedence over practices, scrimmages, or games. An athlete is not allowed to change the day that he/she serves the detention to accommodate the athletic schedule. If an athlete is caught abusing this policy, immediate disciplinary action will be taken, including, but not limited to, possible dismissal from the team.

Guidelines for Student Attire

The academic handbook contains the minimum expectations of an athlete's dress. At all times an athlete is to be in school dress code. The exception to this rule is on game days. When a team has a game scheduled for either home or away, all team members are to be dressed in Wednesday Chapel attire. Meaning, all girls are to be in a skirt or dress, and all boys must be wearing a tie. This rule applies for all sports, junior high through senior high. If a casual dress day is scheduled on a game day, athletes are not allowed to dress down; they are required to stay in game day attire. The only exception is the week of "Homecoming". During this festive week all athletes are encouraged to participate in Spirit Week.

Game day attire is to remain in effect until it is time to change into uniforms for the contest. At the conclusion of the contest, if there is a game to follow, athletes are required to change back into game day attire to watch the next game.

Transportation

Transportation for all away contests will be arranged by the athletic director and the athletic coordinator. The athletic director will give a vehicle departure form to each coach at the beginning of each respective season. The school will provide, or arrange for transportation to all away games that are outside the surrounding area of Calvary Schools of Holland. All vehicles will be treated with respect and all refuse will be cleaned up upon return. Only students that are on the teams will be allowed to ride with the team.

Athletes are required to ride the transportation provided by the school unless a signed note is given to the head coach prior to leaving CSH, stating other intentions. (This note must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.) The only exception that a coach may accept to not receiving a note before the bus leaves CSH is to speak in person to a parent or legal guardian of an athlete and at that time secure a signature, stating other intentions. A head coach will not be allowed to accept any other circumstances and at no time will an athlete be allowed to ride home with anyone else. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team while in transit. When different teams are riding the same vehicle to their respective contests, the following seating must be observed at all times. When teams consist of different genders, at no time are boys and girls allowed to sit together. Furthermore, one row of seats must be left vacant in order to separate the teams. This space can be used for equipment. When in transit, at no time will any participant of any team join the seating of another team. Coaches are responsible for assuring the athletic department that this policy is being followed.

Transfers

If a student should transfer into the high school at CSH from another high school, it is important to see the athletic director to check on the status of eligibility. All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities; however, CSH must comply with M.H.S.A.A. regulations.

Cancellations

If school is canceled due to bad weather, such as a snowstorm, any athletic events, practices or games, are canceled for that day. Athletic events can be canceled even when school is in session, if the weather is forecasted to worsen or the opponent does not wish to make the trip. When there are athletic events scheduled for a Saturday, the athletic director will contact the head coach, who will be responsible for contacting his/her team roster. When possible the cancellation will be announced on the local media mentioned in the academic handbook. If you are unsure if a contest is being held, please feel free to contact the athletic office.

Facilities

The present facility at Calvary will not accommodate all of the teams' needed practice time. Currently, the soccer and baseball teams are required to practice at area township parks or other area high schools. When practices are held at facilities other than Calvary, transportation will be provided to the practice site. Transportation will not be provided back to the school. Parents can pick up athletes at the practice site. If an athlete is of legal driving age, and currently has a valid Michigan Driver's license, that athlete will be permitted to drive to designated practice sites. At no time will teammates be allowed to ride with anyone without written permission from the parents of both students. (driver & rider) The only exception is when siblings are on the same team and one sibling has a license.

Again, with the lack of a suitable facility to have spectators watch athletic contests, the athletic department has to rent other facilities. In order to keep good relations, as well as a good testimony with area organizations, we need to be good stewards of the facilities that are rented. At times these facilities will have special announcements that will be communicated through the public address system before a particular contest. It is of extreme importance that we abide by these wishes. Failure to comply with facility rules will result in immediate dismissal from the stands, without a refund.

Admission

Gate Prices for Basketball: \$4 Adults
\$2 Students (K-12)
\$10 Family (immediate family)

Gate Prices for Volleyball: \$3 Adults
\$2 Students (K-12)
\$10 Family (immediate family)

Gate Prices for Soccer: \$3 Adults
\$2 Students (K-12)
\$10 Family (immediate family)

Gate Prices for Junior High Games at Calvary Gym (only): \$1 - general admission

Sports Passes: Family passes \$120 (includes 5 passes)
- Not accepted at Homecoming
- Additional passes above 5 are \$30 each

Individual Student passes \$35
-Not accepted at Homecoming

Faculty & Staff passes
- Free to Full-Time staff (for immediate family only)
- Free to Part-Time staff (for staff member only)
- Not accepted at Homecoming

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN COACH

- ◆ Do everything to God's glory. *Prov. 16:4; Eph. 6:7; Col. 3:17,23*
- ◆ Strive to be conformed to the image of Christ. *Isa. 55:8-9; Matt. 5:48*
- ◆ Be an "ambassador for Christ". *I Cor. 5:17-20*

PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN COACH

- ◆ In the Christian school, our purpose must be in line with the purpose of the Christian church. *Eph. 4:12-13*

Bottom Line:

Coaching, for the Christian, cannot be separated from our daily walk with Christ. Our daily walk with Christ can only be maintained through the regular input and output of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. Teaching our players to glorify God, strive to be like Christ, and be a witness is impossible if we are not living the truth. As Christian coaches, we fall short of our ultimate purpose when we fail to make every possible effort to direct young people to conform to Christ, instill a heart for Christian ministry and encourage the building of the lives of the athletes God directs across our path.

Coaches' Responsibilities:

1. The coach must exercise mature judgment in communicating that team membership is not the ultimate loyalty in a young Christian's life.
2. The coach must strive to keep the school's testimony intact at all times.
3. The coach must see that God is uplifted at all times.
4. The coach must encourage all athletes to enjoy and love what they do and accomplish.
5. The coach must remember that he or she is a role model and that they may influence a young person's life more than a parent, pastor, teacher, or any other authority figure.

Coaches' Duties:

1. Varsity coaches are required to hold a parents' meeting prior to the start of a season.
2. Coaches must understand the academic eligibility policy at Calvary and adhere to it.
3. Coaches must be aware of all rules in their sport according to M.H.S.A.A.
4. Coaches must be responsible for all equipment, uniforms, and equipment room.
5. Coaches must submit a completed roster to the athletic office one week prior to the first contest.
6. Coaches must make sure the facilities they use for practice are secured after use.

7. Coaches must communicate any needs they have immediately with the athletic director. (i.e. med kit supplies, special practice arrangements, equipment or uniform orders, etc.)
8. Coaches must report scores to local newspapers and TV (varsity only), before 10:30p.m.

<i>Holland Sentinel</i>	392-2314 (ask for sports)
<i>Grand Rapids Press</i>	800-878-1455 (ask for sports)
<i>Wood TV8</i>	616-235-4317 or 4325
<i>WZZM TV13</i>	616-224-7816
9. Coaches must turn in a report at the conclusion of their season, including: record, brief summary, highlights, thoughts on officials, awards (Offensive, Defensive, Most Improved, and Christian Character), anything deserving of attention.

Coaching Distinctive

Every program undertaken by Calvary Schools of Holland (CSH) must support or encourage the school mission statement. Given these criteria, coaches pursued and instated by CSH must bear certain distinctive qualities.

I. Fundamental Personal Qualities

- A. Each coach must display an active, growing relationship with Christ
 1. This is marked by active involvement and membership with a local church of like faith.
 2. There is an absence of continual, obvious, unchecked sin
 3. There is an obvious desire to be obedient to Christ and a service to His people
- B. Each coach must view every activity and relationship in light of the work of God in his or her life.
 1. The act of coaching is an opportunity to disciple young people
 2. There is a unique understanding of how to relate sport and preparation for sport to the Christian life
 3. The coach must see themselves as an example of Christ-likeness in every aspect of the coaching process:
 - a. the running of a practice
 - b. expectations for participants
 - c. treatment of parents/officials
 - d. personal habits as observed by students
 4. The coaching staff must be dedicated to the development of excellence in sports participants
 - a. the coach must have an understanding of the game, and be willing to learn M.H.S.A.A. requirements for students
 - b. he or she must be physically able to develop and coach challenging practices and games
 - c. he or she must not knowingly break any M.H.S.A.A. or CSH requirements for athletes
 - d. he or she must be willing to communicate clearly with parents
 1. at the annual meeting for the sports season
 2. when needed

C. Guidelines for Coaches Attire

1. All coaches shall maintain a personal appearance that is a role model of cleanliness, modesty, good taste, and in agreement with school policy.

II. Programmatic Preferences

A. The Athletic Director (A.D.) is responsible for the presentation of eligible coaching candidates to the Executive Director (E.D.) to interview for said coaching position.

B. The A.D. will screen possible candidates based on the above criteria and supply all applicable information to the E.D.

C. The E.D. will have final say in the hiring of coaching staff persons.

D. The A.D. will be responsible to follow through with the observation/evaluation of coaches and present the E.D. with information as needed for the continual growth and development of the coaching staff.

E. Safety Standards. Every coach and assistant must observe the following safety standards:

1. Coaches are never to enter an opposite gender locker room for any reason.
2. Coaches should secure any necessary medical forms on file at the school office before the season begins. These forms must be kept with the first aid kit at practices and games.
3. Coaches should direct all official contact (written or telephone) to parents as well as students.
4. Coaches should observe all academic requirements as outlined by the A.D.
5. Coaches should submit program goals to the A.D.
6. Coaches must never place the health or safety of an athlete in jeopardy.
7. Any difficult situation that could possibly compromise any above standard must be approached with full knowledge of the A.D. and Administration.
8. Coaches should avoid transporting individual athletes in their personal vehicles and should never transport an individual player of the opposite gender.

F. It is the preference of CSH to hire same gender coaches.

G. If a suitable same gender coach can not be secured, an opposite gender coach may be instated with the following criteria: The opposite gender coach must ...

1. be completely above reproach.
2. be willing to submit to any accountability necessary by the A.D. and E.D.
3. never be alone with a (single) player, or transport any player.
4. secure an assistant of the same gender as the athletes to assist in said game or practice.
5. adhere to the safety standards outlined above.