

HARVESTER

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Athletic

POLICY MANUAL

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters,
since you know that you will receive an inheritance
from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ
you are serving.

Athletic Philosophy

Harvester Christian Academy believes athletics should be an extension of the school's mission to develop students spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. The foundation of the HCA Athletic Program is found in Colossians 3:23:

“And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men.”

This verse carries two important principles for every HCA student-athlete:

- **“Do it heartily”** — Student-athletes are encouraged to give their very best effort in all areas of competition and preparation. This includes physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual commitment.
- **“As to the Lord”** — The motivation behind every effort should be to honor God rather than seek the praise or recognition of others.

At HCA, athletics are viewed as an opportunity to glorify God through teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, leadership, and character.

Athletic Department Mission Statement

In accordance with the mission of Harvester Christian Academy, the Athletic Department exists to provide athletic extracurricular opportunities for both HCA and homeschool student-athletes (AES).

The HCA Athletic Department is committed to the total development of each student-athlete by emphasizing growth in:

- Mind
- Body
- Spirit

Through athletics, HCA strives to prepare student-athletes to become Christ-centered leaders both on and off the field of competition.

Athletic Department Overview

The athletic program at Harvester Christian Academy offers student-athletes opportunities to participate at the:

- Varsity Level
- Junior Varsity Level

- Middle School/Elementary Level

Approximately 80% of students in Grades 7–12 participate in the athletic program.

As a member of Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools (GAPPS), the HCA Hawks consistently compete for region and state championships across multiple sports. The success of the program is supported by the school’s strong commitment to quality athletic opportunities and Christ-centered values.

The HCA Athletic Department emphasizes:

- Discipline
- Character Development
- Quality Instruction
- Teamwork
- Encouragement
- Playing for the “Audience of One”

Historically, HCA has earned multiple state championships in several sports. In addition, many HCA student-athletes have received:

- All-Region Honors
- All-State Honors
- Collegiate Athletic Scholarships

Athletic Department Core Values

Passion

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”
— Colossians 3:23

HCA student-athletes are encouraged to compete with passion, commitment, and excellence in every aspect of athletics and life.

Unity

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”
— 1 Peter 3:8

The HCA Athletic Department values teamwork, humility, encouragement, and unity among coaches, student-athletes, and families.

Servanthood

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

— Mark 10:45

HCA Athletics seeks to develop servant leaders who demonstrate Christ-like character by serving teammates, coaches, opponents, and the community.

Humility

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

— Proverbs 11:2

The HCA Athletic Department encourages student-athletes to demonstrate humility in both victory and defeat. Athletes are expected to show respect, remain teachable, and place the success of the team above individual recognition.

Tenacity

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

— Hebrews 12:1

HCA student-athletes are encouraged to compete with perseverance, determination, and endurance. Through challenges and adversity, athletes are taught to remain disciplined, focused, and committed to honoring God through their effort and attitude.

Athletic Department Goals

The Harvester Christian Academy Athletic Department strives to:

1. Promote the development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for all student-athletes.
 2. Teach the skills necessary to achieve a high level of athletic performance.
 3. Encourage and motivate student-athletes through positive coaching and mentorship.
 4. Develop and maintain an atmosphere that reflects good sportsmanship, respect, and Christian character.
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Elementary / Middle School Athletic Philosophy

At Harvester Christian Academy, the elementary and middle school athletic programs are designed to serve as a foundation for future athletic and personal growth.

Because participation opportunities may vary based on enrollment numbers, HCA seeks to offer programs that emphasize:

- Developing a passion and enjoyment for sports
- Learning fundamental skills and techniques
- Encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship
- Building confidence and character

At this level, coaches are encouraged to provide participation opportunities for all team members whenever practical and appropriate.

Elementary and middle school athletics are considered developmental programs. Therefore, recognition and media exposure are intentionally limited in order to maintain the primary focus on development and to avoid overshadowing the junior varsity and varsity athletic programs.

Junior Varsity Athletic Philosophy

The purpose of the junior varsity athletic program at Harvester Christian Academy is to further develop each student-athlete's passion for the game while strengthening their understanding of team concepts, skills, and competition.

The junior varsity level seeks to balance:

- Participation
- Skill Development
- Competitiveness
- Team Growth

The primary goal of the junior varsity program is to prepare student-athletes for successful participation at the varsity level.

At this stage, coaches continue to focus on developing the complete student-athlete mentally, physically, and spiritually while reinforcing discipline, teamwork, leadership, and Christ-centered character. The junior varsity program should support and complement the varsity program without overshadowing it.

Varsity Athletic Philosophy

The varsity athletic program at Harvester Christian Academy represents the highest level of athletic competition within the school's athletic department.

The purpose of the varsity program is to fully integrate individual skills into a team-oriented environment while pursuing excellence in competition. Varsity teams strive to compete at a high level and achieve success during both the regular season and postseason.

In addition to athletic achievement, the varsity athletic program is designed to develop lifelong habits that encourage:

- Academic Growth
- Athletic Excellence
- Spiritual Maturity
- Leadership
- Discipline
- Strong Character

Student-athletes are encouraged to apply biblical principles in all aspects of life while learning the value of commitment, teamwork, perseverance, and accountability.

As the final phase of athletic competition at HCA, the varsity level receives the highest degree of recognition, responsibility, and media exposure within the Athletic Department.

Academic Eligibility for All Extracurricular Programs

Harvester Christian Academy believes academic achievement is an essential part of student development. Therefore, all students participating in extracurricular activities, including athletics and Fine Arts programs, are expected to maintain satisfactory academic standing.

The purpose of the eligibility policy is to encourage academic excellence, responsibility, and balance between extracurricular involvement and classroom performance. These standards are intended to support students and provide accountability, not serve as punishment.

Elementary Student Eligibility

Elementary students who meet the appropriate age requirements are eligible to participate in after-school activities offered by HCA.

At the elementary level, participation does not require specific academic standards. However, parents are encouraged to carefully consider the number and type of activities in which their child participates to ensure extracurricular involvement does not interfere with academic responsibilities.

Scholastic Standing Requirements

To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out for interscholastic activities, students must maintain academic eligibility.

Students in grades 9–12 must successfully pass classes carrying at least **2.5 academic units per semester** that count toward graduation during the semester immediately preceding participation.

Additional Academic Eligibility Guidelines

- First-semester ninth-grade students are academically eligible upon entering high school.
 - Second-semester ninth-grade students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units during the previous semester.
 - Students participating at the junior varsity level must meet the same academic eligibility standards as varsity participants.
 - Eligibility is reviewed at the conclusion of each semester.
 - Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the following semester.
 - Students who fail to meet academic requirements may not participate in practices, contests, or team activities until eligibility is restored.
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Summer School and Credit Recovery

Students may regain or maintain eligibility through approved summer school or credit recovery programs.

Summer School Guidelines

- Summer school is considered an extension of the previous semester.
- Courses may be:
 - **Remedial**, where a failed course is repeated for credit, or
 - **Enrichment**, where a new course is completed for additional credit.
- A maximum of **two units** earned during summer school may be used toward eligibility requirements.
- Courses must be accredited and accepted by HCA for graduation credit.
- Credits earned through non-accredited programs may not be used for eligibility purposes.
- Students who successfully complete summer school become eligible on the final day of summer school.

Independent Study and Make-Up Work

Independent study or make-up courses must:

- Be accredited and accepted for graduation credit by HCA.
- Meet all school academic standards.
- Be completed successfully before eligibility can be restored.

Students remain ineligible until all required coursework is completed and passing grades are officially recorded.

Academic Eligibility Requirements by Grade Level

Students must accumulate academic credits toward graduation according to the following guidelines:

First-Year Students (9th Grade)

- First-semester students are automatically eligible.
- Second-semester students must have passed at least 2.5 units during the previous semester.

Second-Year Students (10th Grade)

- Must have earned at least **5 total units** during the first year.
- Must have passed at least 2.5 units during the previous semester.

Third-Year Students (11th Grade)

- Must have earned at least **11 total units** during the first two years.
- Must have passed at least 2.5 units during the previous semester.

Fourth-Year Students (12th Grade)

- Must have earned at least **17 total units** during the first three years.
- Must have passed at least 2.5 units during the previous semester.

Students may regain eligibility at the start of a new semester after meeting the required academic standards.

Courses Required for Eligibility

Of the required courses passed for eligibility, at least **three units** must come from the following academic areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Science
- Foreign Language
- Religion
- Business Education

The following courses do not count toward eligibility requirements:

- Teacher's Aide
 - Office Aide
 - Equivalent non-credit elective assignments
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Failure to Meet Academic Standards

If extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the student, parent, or school impact academic eligibility, school administration may review the situation and determine whether additional consideration is appropriate.

However, lack of knowledge or misunderstanding of academic eligibility requirements does not exempt a student from meeting established standards.

HCA encourages all student-athletes and extracurricular participants to demonstrate excellence, integrity, responsibility, and commitment both inside and outside the classroom.

Team Makeup / Roster Composition

The number of AES athletes permitted on a team roster is limited to **25% of the reasonable number of athletes necessary to field a team.**

If a team includes AES athletes, the overall roster maximum will remain the same. Schools that do not include AES athletes are not subject to the same roster restrictions.

The Harvester Christian Academy Athletic Department and coaching staff may use league roster limits as a general guideline; however, team roster sizes may be adjusted at the discretion of the Athletic Department or Head Coach based on the needs of the program.

Important Participation Guidelines

1. At no time may an enrolled HCA student-athlete be removed or cut from a team in order to add an AES athlete.
2. If it is determined that an enrolled student-athlete was removed from a team to create space for an AES athlete, the allowable number of AES athletes on that roster will be reduced accordingly.

HCA remains committed to maintaining fairness, integrity, and opportunities for enrolled student-athletes while also providing participation opportunities for qualified AES students.

Alternatively Educated Student Participation Guide by Division (High School)

AES PARTICIPATION GUIDE (Team Sports)			
Varsity: DIVISION I.		Middle School: DIVISION I.	
SPORT	AES / ROSTER LIMIT	SPORT	AES / ROSTER LIMIT
Baseball	4 16	Baseball	5 20
Basketball	3 12	Basketball	4 16
Clay Target Sports	Division 2 Only	Clay Target Sports	Division 2 Only
Flag Football	4 16	Flag Football	HS Only
Football 9 Man	3 16	Football 9 man	Division 2 Only
Golf	0 None	Golf	Division 2 Only
Soccer	5 20	Soccer	6 24
Volleyball	2 12	Volleyball	4 16

General Policies and Responsibilities

All student-athletes are expected to give their best effort, compete with integrity, follow training guidelines, and demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Athletes and coaches are representatives of the HCA Athletic Program both on and off campus. Their behavior in public and private settings reflects directly on the school and athletic department.

A. Expectations During Competition

Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Understand that both winning and losing are part of athletics and learn to handle each with maturity.
2. Never use illegal tactics or unsportsmanlike behavior.
3. Maintain self-control at all times. Horseplay, temper outbursts, profanity, or disrespect toward coaches, teammates, or officials may result in disciplinary action.
4. Respect game officials and their decisions. Officials are responsible for enforcing the rules fairly and to the best of their ability.

B. Locker Room Expectations

Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Take pride in the locker room and follow all rules and expectations.
2. Store equipment and personal belongings properly.
3. Keep lockers clean and organized.
4. Never borrow another athlete's equipment without coach approval.
5. Avoid leaving food in lockers overnight.
6. Shower or freshen up after practices and contests when appropriate.
7. Secure cell phones in lockers during practices, games, and athletic activities.

C. Classroom Expectations

Student-athletes must remember that they are students first and athletes second. Academic success is required for athletic participation.

Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Maintain grades that meet HCA eligibility requirements. Coaches will monitor academic progress and communicate concerns with students and parents/guardians when necessary. Study hall or tutorials may be required for struggling students.
2. Understand that failing two consecutive grading periods may result in removal from the athletic period.
3. Demonstrate respectful behavior toward teachers, administrators, and fellow students. Repeated issues such as tardiness, horseplay, or disruptive behavior may result in suspension from athletics.
4. Attend at least half of the school day (4 classes) in order to participate in contests unless otherwise approved by the Athletic Director.

D. On-Campus Conduct

Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Maintain proper dress, grooming, and personal hygiene.
2. Refrain from fighting, scuffling, horseplay, or inappropriate behavior on campus.

E. Off-Campus Conduct

Student-athletes are representatives of the HCA Athletic Program even when away from school.

Athletes may face disciplinary action for inappropriate behavior including, but not limited to:

- Criminal activity
- Reckless behavior
- Alcohol, tobacco, or drug use
- Fighting
- Inappropriate social media activity

F. Club, League, and Select Team Participation

1. School-sponsored sports take priority over non-school club or select teams. Failure to honor this expectation may result in suspension or dismissal from the school team.
2. Athletes participating in outside sports during an HCA season must notify the head coach of their HCA sport.

Personal Appearance and Grooming

In addition to following the HCA dress code outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook, student-athletes may be held to additional standards regarding appearance during athletic periods, practices, games, and team travel. Coaches may establish sport-specific expectations.

General guidelines include:

- Athletes must wear school-issued attire during practices and games unless otherwise directed by the coach.
- Athletes should maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance.
- Jewelry must be removed during athletic participation.
- “Do-rags” are prohibited due to safety concerns. Coach-issued skull caps are permitted.
- Earrings may not be worn during practices or competitions.
- Facial hair is not permitted.

- Hairstyles and hair colors outside of natural tones may be allowed as long as they do not create distractions or interfere with school operations.
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Equipment (Non-Negotiable)

All athletes are required to wear school-issued practice uniforms during athletic periods and practices. Athletic equipment and uniforms are not to be worn to class unless permission is granted by the head coach.

All issued equipment must be returned in proper condition to the HCA Athletic Department. Student-athletes are financially responsible for lost or damaged equipment.

Students who fail to return equipment:

- May not participate in another sport until the issue is resolved.
- May have academic records or transcripts placed on hold if equipment is not returned or paid for, especially in the case of graduating seniors.

Coaches are expected to wear HCA apparel or appropriate coaching attire during practices and games. Game attire should consist of sport-specific coaching shirts with khaki shorts or pants.

Respect

The HCA Athletic Department believes respect is earned by showing respect to others. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate respect toward teachers, coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, and all individuals associated with the school community.

Disrespectful behavior may result in disciplinary action, including:

- Suspension from contests
- Removal from athletic participation
- Expulsion from athletic activities for up to one calendar year

Any decision regarding reinstatement will be based on the student-athlete's conduct during the disciplinary period.

Respect During Competition

Student-athletes must:

- Avoid profanity and illegal tactics.
- Display good sportsmanship whether winning or losing.
- Respect officials at all times.
- Allow coaches to address concerns with officials.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, flagrant rule violations, or inappropriate behavior may result in removal from contests or dismissal from the athletic program.

Expected Student-Athlete Behaviors

Parents are encouraged to partner with the Athletic Department in promoting the following character qualities and behaviors:

- Respect for authority
- Respect for others and their property
- A teachable attitude
- Refusal to bully or mistreat others
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Diligence
- Patience
- Self-control
- Godly leadership

Quitting a Sport

There may be times when a student-athlete feels it is necessary to quit a sport before, during, or after the season. Because participation on a team is a commitment, student-athletes are expected to carefully consider their decision and follow the procedures outlined below:

1. The student-athlete should carefully think through the situation before making a final decision to quit.
2. The student-athlete should speak with both the head coach and parents/guardians to determine whether a solution can be reached without quitting the team. A conference involving the student-athlete, parent(s)/guardian(s), and coach may be required and is strongly encouraged before an athlete is permitted to quit.

3. If the student-athlete decides to quit, he/she must officially check out with the head coach and return all issued equipment and uniforms in proper condition. The student-athlete will be financially responsible for any equipment not returned.
4. A student-athlete may not quit one sport simply to join another sport already in season. The original sport commitment must be completed before participation in another sport may begin.
 - If two sports overlap during the same season, participation in both sports must be approved by both head coaches and the Athletic Director.
 - Additional conditioning, suspension, or other requirements may be necessary before the student-athlete is allowed to participate in the second sport.
 - At the beginning of each sport season, there will be a five (5) day grace period in which a student-athlete may withdraw from a team without penalty.
5. If a student-athlete quits a sport, the following consequences may apply:
 - Loss of any letter, award, or recognition for that sport
 - Possible restriction from future participation in that sport at the discretion of the head coach
 - Additional conditioning or sport-specific requirements before participating in another sport if both sports are in season at the same time
 - Suspension or removal from the athletic period

Multi-Sport Athletes and Same-Season Participation

HCA encourages student-athletes to participate in multiple sports whenever possible. However, student-athletes are expected to honor their commitment to their current team and season.

A student-athlete who is committed to a sport may not begin practicing for another sport until the current season has concluded. Exceptions may be made only with approval from both head coaches and the Athletic Director, especially when considering future athletic opportunities for the student-athlete.

Participation in two sports during the same season is permitted only with prior approval from:

- Both head coaches involved
- The Athletic Director

Quitting a team is considered a serious matter. Student-athletes who quit a team may risk losing future athletic participation privileges.

Being on Time / Absences

Student-athletes are expected to arrive on time and properly dressed for the athletic period, practices, games, and any other event designated by the coach. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to notify the coach if he/she will be late or absent. If the coach cannot be reached directly, a message should be left with the school office. Failure to communicate with the coach regarding an absence or tardy may result in disciplinary action.

Any missed athletic period, practice, or workout — regardless of the reason — is still considered an absence and must be made up prior to the next contest whenever possible. Make-up conditioning is intended to replace the workout missed by the student-athlete and is completed in addition to the regular daily workout. Sport-specific conditioning, disciplinary action, or penalties may result from missed athletic periods or practices.

Excused Absence

An excused absence may be granted for reasons such as illness, family emergency, death in the family, or other approved circumstances. In these situations:

- The student-athlete or parent/guardian should notify the coach prior to the absence whenever possible.
- A written note, text message, or email from the parent/guardian should be provided immediately following the absence.
- Communication with the coach is the responsibility of both the student-athlete and the parent/guardian.

The Athletic Department understands that unavoidable absences will occasionally occur. However, even excused absences may require make-up conditioning to replace missed workouts. This is not intended as punishment, but rather to maintain conditioning and team expectations.

Unexcused Absence

An unexcused absence is any absence in which the student-athlete fails to properly communicate with the coach beforehand or does not provide appropriate documentation afterward.

Extended absences due to illness, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator and the head coach of that sport to determine appropriate expectations and consequences.

Awards

HCA values the commitment and dedication demonstrated by each student-athlete who participates in interscholastic athletics. The HCA administration and school community recognize that athletics provide valuable experiences for participants while also promoting a positive image of the school to spectators and the community.

To recognize and celebrate these accomplishments, HCA will host athletic award recognition events each year. All student-athletes are encouraged to attend.

Award Recognition Events

Whenever possible, within two weeks following the completion of a season and prior to the award recognition event, each head coach will submit a written season summary to the Athletic Director. The summary should include:

- A brief overview of the season
 - Results of contests and competitions
 - Team rosters, including participants, letter winners, captains, coaches, and support staff
 - Individual and team award recipients (team, region, state, etc.)
 - Individual and team statistics
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Varsity Awards

Individual Awards

Based on team participation numbers, the following varsity sports may present up to four (4) individual awards:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Track and Field

The approved award size for varsity awards is a 7x9 plaque. Any exceptions or extenuating circumstances must be approved by the Headmaster and Athletic Director.

The following varsity sports may present up to three (3) individual awards:

- Golf
- Tennis

The approved award size for these varsity awards is also a 7x9 plaque. Exceptions must be approved by the Headmaster and Athletic Director.

Based on participation numbers, the following junior varsity sports may present up to three (3) awards:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Football

- Track and Field

Junior varsity awards will be presented in the form of certificates.

Based on participation numbers, the following junior varsity sports may present up to two (2) individual awards:

- Golf

Both junior varsity and middle school awards will be presented in the form of certificates.

Varsity Lettering

To receive a varsity letter or award, student-athletes must meet all scholastic eligibility requirements established by HCA and the governing athletic league, in addition to meeting the participation requirements listed below:

Sport	Requirement
Football	Participate in 5 or more games
Basketball	Participate in 14 or more games
Track & Field	Participate in 4 or more meets
Flag Football	Participate in 5 or more games
Volleyball	Participate in 14 or more matches
Baseball	Participate in 13 or more games

Cheer	Participate in 50% or more games
Soccer	Participate in 9 or more games
Golf	Participate in 4 or more tournaments
Clay Target	Participate in 4 or more meets

The head coach of any sport may recommend a student-athlete for a varsity letter even if the athlete has not met the minimum participation requirements. This recommendation may be made in cases where the athlete has made significant contributions to the team through leadership, loyalty, attitude, effort, or dedication.

Varsity Letter Awards

- **Participation Certificate** — Awarded to non-letter winners
- **Letter Certificate** — Awarded each time a varsity letter is earned (the athlete must complete the season as a team member)
- **“H” Chenille Letter** — Awarded to first-time varsity letter winners
- **Sport Pin** — Awarded to first-time letter winners in their respective sport
- **Bar** — Awarded to repeat varsity letter winners

Student-athletes who earn a varsity letter are eligible to purchase an official HCA letterman jacket at their own expense. The official HCA letterman jacket consists of a navy blue body, white sleeves, and a red, white, and blue chenille “H.”

Specific lettering criteria and expectations for each sport will be communicated by the head coach prior to the beginning of the season.

Team Awards

Student-athletes may purchase patches through the Athletic Department to recognize region or state accomplishments earned by their team.

Teams that achieve the following accomplishments may be recognized in the HCA Gymnasium:

- Region Championship
- State Championship
- State Runner-Up
- Final Four Appearance (where applicable)

Programs may also honor region and state championship teams by displaying championship years at their respective athletic venues.

Senior Awards

Eligibility Requirements

1. Awards will be presented during the final athletic recognition event of the school year.
 2. The recipient must have:
 - Participated in and lettered in a varsity sport at HCA for a minimum of two (2) years
 - Participated in the sport during his/her senior year
 3. The recipient must be on track to graduate from HCA.
 4. The approved award size for senior awards is a 7x9 plaque.
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Senior Night

Senior student-athletes will be recognized during each athletic season.

- **Fall Sports:** Seniors and their parents/guardians will be recognized during a designated home football game.
- **Winter Sports:** Seniors will be recognized during a designated basketball game.
- **Spring Sports:** Seniors will be recognized during a designated spring athletic event.

The Athletic Department will provide one rose for each athlete's mother and/or stepmother. Roses will be distributed during the official Senior Night ceremony.

Annual Awards

General Information

1. Annual awards will be presented during the final athletic recognition event each year.

2. Award recipients will be selected through voting by the current HCA Faculty, Head Varsity Coaches, Athletic Director, and Headmaster.
3. The approved award size for all annual awards is a 7x9 plaque.

Annual Award Categories

- Male Athlete of the Year
 - Female Athlete of the Year
 - Male Coaches' Award
 - Female Coaches' Award
 - Hawk Award
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Award Qualifications

Male and Female Athlete of the Year

The Male and Female Athlete of the Year awards are presented annually to senior student-athletes who have demonstrated:

- Outstanding athletic achievement
- Christian character
- Teamwork
- Strong work ethic
- Leadership on and off the field/court

These student-athletes exemplify the values and mission of the HCA Athletic Department through both athletic performance and personal conduct.

Male and Female Coaches' Award

The Coaches' Award is presented annually to a senior varsity student-athlete who demonstrates:

- Enthusiasm
- Coachability
- Leadership
- Positive influence on teammates
- The ability to serve as an extension of the coaching staff by communicating effectively and leading by example

This award recognizes student-athletes who consistently display dedication, teamwork, and a servant-leader attitude within their program.

Hawk Award

The Hawk Award recognizes outstanding multi-sport senior student-athletes. One male and one female recipient may be selected each year.

To be eligible, the student-athlete must:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Demonstrate strong Christian character and sportsmanship
- Excel through athletic accomplishments and contributions to multiple teams
- Display leadership, dedication, teamwork, and commitment throughout his/her athletic career at HCA

The purpose of the Hawk Award is to honor student-athletes who use their God-given talents to positively impact their teams, school, and athletic community through hard work, dedication, and leadership.

Championship Rings

Any individual or team winning a GAPPS recognized State Championship is eligible to receive a championship ring.

The following individuals are eligible:

- Varsity team members
- Team managers
- Statisticians
- Coaches

Individual state champions in Cross Country, Tennis, and Track & Field are also eligible for championship rings.

Financial Responsibility

- HCA will contribute \$75.00 toward each student-athlete's championship ring.
- HCA will fully cover the cost of championship rings for coaches.
- Supporting cheerleaders may purchase state championship pendants at their own expense.

The championship ring design will be determined by the head coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

Alumni Recognition (Jersey Retirement)

An HCA graduate may become eligible for jersey retirement ten (10) years after graduation if the following criteria are met:

1. Graduated from HCA
 2. Demonstrated success in high school athletics
 3. Participated on a highly competitive or state championship team while attending HCA
 4. Earned a college athletic scholarship and/or was selected in a professional league draft
 5. Achieved success in college and/or professional athletics
 6. Graduated from college, if applicable
 7. Demonstrated character and representation that bring honor and distinction to HCA
 8. Received recommendation to the Board of Directors
 9. Received approval from the Board of Directors
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Athletic Hall of Fame

An HCA graduate may be nominated for induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame by a fellow HCA graduate.

To be eligible, the nominee must:

1. Have attended HCA for a minimum of two (2) years
 2. Have lettered in at least two (2) sports
 3. Have demonstrated strong athletic performance and team leadership
 4. Have received post-season honors or recognition, such as:
 - Team captain
 - Most Outstanding Player
 - Record-setting performance
 - Region or state honors
 - Individual championships
 5. Post-high school athletic achievements may also be considered
 6. Must have graduated from HCA at least fifteen (15) years prior to nomination
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Catastrophic Insurance

Each year, HCA Christian Academy enrolls student-athletes participating in sanctioned GAPPs interscholastic activities (athletic and literary) in catastrophic insurance coverage.

This insurance provides medical coverage for catastrophic injuries or incidents exceeding \$25,000, or other approved coverage limits as determined by the HCA Administration.

Participation in this insurance program is mandatory, and the cost is included in the school's annual dues.

Communication

Effective communication between the Athletic Department, coaching staff, and parents is essential to the success and well-being of each student-athlete. HCA encourages parents and coaches to work together in the best interest of the student-athlete.

The following methods of communication are encouraged:

A. Electronic Mail (Email)

Each coach and teacher at HCA is provided with an HCA email account and can typically be reached quickly through email communication.

Faculty and staff email addresses follow the format:

- First initial + last name @HCAAcademy.com

Example:

- rbrown@HCAAcademy.com

B. Phone Calls

Phone communication is available for all teachers and coaches; however, response times during the school day may be limited due to teaching and coaching responsibilities.

C. Conferences

Occasionally, it may be necessary for a parent or coach to request a conference regarding a student-athlete's progress, behavior, or participation.

Parents requesting a conference should contact the coach by phone or email to schedule a meeting at an appropriate time during the school day whenever possible.

Conferences should never take place immediately following a game or contest.

Attendance / Practices / Games

Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices, games, meetings, and team activities.

To receive an excused absence, the student-athlete must notify the head coach prior to the absence whenever possible. Missing practices or games without permission may result in disciplinary action as determined by the head coach.

Student-athletes who are injured are still expected to attend practices and games unless:

- They are physically unable to attend, or
- The absence has been approved by the coach.

Parents and student-athletes should make every effort to schedule appointments, vacations, and outside activities around athletic schedules.

Equipment / Uniforms

Student-athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them by the Athletic Department.

Equipment Return Expectations

- All issued equipment and uniforms must be returned at the conclusion of the season.
- Athletes who fail to return equipment or uniforms will be financially responsible for replacement costs.
- Student-athletes may not participate in another sport until all issued items have been returned or paid for.

At the conclusion of each semester (with the exception of basketball and cheerleading during basketball season), student-athletes who have not returned athletic equipment may:

- Be prohibited from taking final exams
- Have report cards withheld
- Be prevented from graduating until all obligations are resolved

Coach Responsibilities

The head coach of each sport is responsible for collecting and inventorying all team equipment and uniforms.

Coaches are required to:

- Maintain a uniform and equipment issue list
- Track all items distributed to student-athletes
- Verify all items are returned at the conclusion of the season
- Submit a uniform inventory report to the Athletic Director at the end of each season

Student-athletes should understand that school-issued uniforms and equipment are intended for practices and games only unless otherwise approved by the coach.

Any apparel or equipment intended to be permanently kept by the student-athlete must typically be purchased by the student-athlete.

The Athletic Department maintains a uniform purchase schedule that is updated by the Athletic Director. Head coaches must consult with the Athletic Director before placing any uniform or equipment orders.

Facilities Usage

The facilities of HCA Christian Academy are intended primarily for school-related and athletic team use.

Any outside individual or organization requesting use of HCA facilities must receive prior approval from both the Athletic Director and the Headmaster. Approval requires:

- Submission of a facilities usage request form
- Payment of a \$200.00 deposit

Under no circumstances should a student or representative of an outside organization:

- Be given a key to school facilities, or
 - Be allowed to use the gym or athletic facilities without a coach or school administrator present.
-

Field / Gym Maintenance

The Athletic Director is responsible for the overall planning, repair, and maintenance of all athletic facilities.

Head coaches are responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of the field, gym, or athletic facility used by their sport throughout the calendar year. This includes coordinating and participating in a mandatory pre-season workday in cooperation with the Athletic Director.

Coaches are expected to help ensure that all athletic facilities remain clean, safe, organized, and properly maintained for student-athletes and spectators.

Athletic Fees

Athletic fees help cover the costs associated with operating HCA athletic programs, including but not limited to:

- Transportation
- Officials and referees
- Uniforms
- Player gear and equipment
- Facility and equipment maintenance

Athletic fees are required for each sport in which a student-athlete participates.

Varsity Football and Varsity Cheer	\$500 + Gear Pack
All other Varsity Sports	\$400 + Gear Pack
All Middle School Sports	\$300 + Gear Pack

Athletic Fee Deadlines

Athletic fees are due according to the following schedule:

Due August 15

- Football
- Clay Target
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading

Due November 15

- Basketball

Due February 15

- Baseball
 - Golf
 - Soccer
 - Track & Field
-

Parental Behavior

Parents are reminded that their example is one of the most powerful forms of influence and education for their child. Therefore, parents are expected to:

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for players, coaches, officials, and spectators at all games, practices, and athletic events.
 2. Conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on HCA Christian Academy and supports the school's Christian mission and values.
 3. Help maintain an environment free from drugs and alcohol and refrain from the use of either at athletic events.
 4. Treat players, coaches, fans, and officials with courtesy and respect at all times.
-

Parent Communication

All coaches are required to conduct a pre-season parent meeting to communicate the philosophy, goals, expectations, and rules of their athletic program.

During these meetings, the following parent expectations should be reviewed:

1. The sideline and bench areas are restricted to authorized game personnel only, including coaches, players, statisticians, and managers.
 2. Parents are encouraged to support and encourage their child during contests, but should avoid extended conversations during games.
 3. Parents should not approach coaches immediately after games regarding concerns or complaints. Instead, parents are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the coach at an appropriate later time.
 4. Parents should not enter the playing field or court. In the event of an injury, coaches or medical personnel should be allowed to attend to the athlete first. A coach will notify the parent if their presence is needed.
 5. Parents are expected to demonstrate courtesy and respect toward officials, opposing teams, spectators, and players at all times.
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Personal Appearance

Each coach will establish team expectations regarding travel attire to and from games and events.

Student-athletes should always remember that they represent HCA Christian Academy whenever traveling or participating in athletic activities. Athletes are expected to present themselves in a disciplined, respectful, and modest manner at all times.

Please refer to the HCA Student Handbook (pages 31–34) for additional dress code guidelines.

Playing Time

Coaches are responsible for evaluating players and making all decisions regarding playing time and team participation.

Playing time is determined solely by the coaching staff based on factors such as:

- Skill level
- Effort
- Attitude

- Team needs
- Attendance
- Preparation
- Overall contribution to the program

Parents should understand that contributions made to the program through volunteering, donations, or fundraising do not influence coaching decisions regarding playing time.

Physical Examinations

Prior to participating in any athletic activity at HCA, all student-athletes must have a current, signed physical examination form on file with the school.

Student-athletes will not be permitted to participate in practices, workouts, or contests until all required physical documentation has been completed and submitted.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to schedule and obtain the required physical examination.

School Attendance

To be eligible to participate in practices or interscholastic competitions on a given day, a student must attend at least four (4) class periods during the school day.

A student must be present in class for a minimum of 25 minutes in order to be counted present for that class period.

School Logo

All uniforms, spirit wear, and athletic apparel must use officially approved HCA trademarked logos.

No uniforms, apparel, or spirit wear containing HCA logos or trademarks may be created, ordered, or distributed without prior approval from the Athletic Director or Headmaster.

Sport Changes

Any student-athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to participate in another sport's practices or games until the conclusion of the season of the sport that was left.

State Association

HCA Christian Academy is a proud member of the Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

Summer Camps

Varsity head coaches are encouraged to develop summer camps to promote interest, skill development, and growth within their respective sports programs.

All summer camps must receive prior approval from both the Athletic Director and the Headmaster before being scheduled. Coaches are required to submit a camp application to the Athletic Director for review and approval.

As part of the facility usage agreement, the school will retain 20% of the camp's gross income. These funds will be deposited into the school's general fund.

All camp fees and payments must be collected, processed, and received through the school's Business Office.

Sunday / Wednesday Practices

Athletic practices will not be conducted on Sundays.

Exceptions may only be granted by the Headmaster in special circumstances.

Wednesday practices must conclude by 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise approved by the Head of School.

Transportation

Athletic teams are encouraged to use school-provided transportation for all athletic events whenever possible.

Student-athletes are not permitted to ride to or from athletic events in vehicles driven by another student.

A student-athlete may ride with an adult driver only if the head coach has received permission from the student-athlete's parent or guardian.

Game Entry Fees

MIDDLE SCHOOL / SUB VARSITY			
SPORT	REG SEASON	POST SEASON	CHAMPIONSHIP
Baseball: Double Header	Adults \$8	Adults \$8	Adults \$8
	Students \$5	Students \$5	Students \$5
Basketball	Adults \$6	Adults \$6	Adults \$8
	Students \$4	Students \$4	Students \$5
Football	Adults \$8	Adults \$8	Adults \$10
	Students \$5	Students \$5	Students \$7
Soccer	Adults \$6	Adults \$6	Adults \$8
	Students \$4	Students \$4	Students \$5
Volleyball	Adults \$6	Adults \$6	Adults \$8
	Students \$4	Students \$4	Students \$5

VARSITY			
SPORT	REG SEASON	POST SEASON	CHAMPIONSHIP
Baseball: Double Header	Adults \$10	Adults \$12	Adults \$12
	Students \$7	Students \$8	Students \$8
Basketball	Adults \$8	Adults \$10	Adults \$12
	Students \$5	Students \$8	Students \$8
Football	Adults \$10	Adults \$10	Adults \$12
	Students \$5	Students \$7	Students \$8
Soccer	Adults \$8	Adults \$10	Adults \$10
	Students \$5	Students \$7	Students \$7
Volleyball	Adults \$8	Adults \$10	Adults \$10
	Students \$5	Students \$7	Students \$7

Note:

- Children ages 5 and under are admitted free to all Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools events.
- HCA students, faculty, and staff are admitted free to all regular season home GAPPS events.
- GAPPS passes issued to coaches and school administrators will be accepted at all GAPPS sanctioned events.
- GISA, GHSA, and GAOA passes are accepted at all GAPPS sanctioned events, with the exception of Region and State Playoff contests.