

# First Baptist School Hurricanes



## STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2024-2025

**Athletic Mission Statement:** In accordance with the mission/purpose of First Baptist School of “Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective”, the First Baptist athletic department exists to facilitate athletic extracurricular opportunities for First Baptist students. The athletic department at First Baptist is dedicated to the total development of each student-athlete as a maturing Christian first and then as an improving athlete. The pursuit of these outcomes is achieved through an emphasis on discipline, Christian character building and quality sport instruction, competition and encouragement.

**Athletic Philosophy:** 2 Timothy 4:7 states: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” There are two parts to this verse. To do an activity “in fighting the good fight and finishing the race” requires a complete commitment physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The second part, “keeping the faith” provides motivation for the effort. A First Baptist student-athlete should strive to honor God and not seek man’s praise.

**Athletic Department Chain of Command:** The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program with the assistance of the athletic staff. The AD works with the Headmaster, Lower and Upper School Principals to provide a quality athletic program. The Associate Athletic Directors work along with the Athletic Director to complete all necessary tasks for providing quality athletic programs. Each Assistant Coach for lower school, middle school, JV, or varsity team, reports to the Head Coach of their sport, and all Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director or to the Associate Athletic Directors in the absence of the Athletic Director. Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to the coach. If questions are not sufficiently addressed, an appointment can be made with the Head Coach of that sport, and then the Athletic Director. Coaches are strongly encouraged to include a member of the Athletic Department when meeting with parents in a formal setting. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach.

**Sports Offered:**

Sport	Varsity	Junior Varsity	B Team
Football	8th - 12th grades	n/a	n/a
Basketball	8th - 12th grades	6th - 10th grades	5th - 8th grades
Volleyball	6th - 12th grades	5th - 10th grades	5th - 8th grades
Baseball	8th - 12th grades	6th - 10th grades	5th - 8th grades
Softball	8th - 12th grades	6th - 10th grades	n/a
Soccer	8th - 12th grades	7th - 10th grades	n/a
Cross Country	6th - 12th grades	n/a	n/a
Cheerleading	6th - 12th grades	5th - 10th grades	1st - 4th grades
Swimming	6th - 12th grades	n/a	n/a
Golf	7th - 12th grades	n/a	n/a
Tennis	n/a	5th-10th	5th-8th
Track & Field	6th - 12th grades	n/a	n/a

**\*\*\*Teams can change at any time at the discretion of the athletic department and the coaching staff of the specific sport - please contact the head of a program for the most current information on what teams are available\*\*\***

**Lower School Athletic Philosophy:** The purpose of the Lower School athletic programs is to develop a passion for the respective sports and to provide a solid foundation of fundamental skills and concepts. The Lower School program will also stress the complete mental, physical, and spiritual development of the student athletes.

**Middle School Athletic Philosophy:** The purpose of the middle school athletic program is to integrate the individual's passion for the game into the mastery of the skills and concepts within the team setting. The middle school program will also stress the complete mental, physical, and spiritual development of the student athletes.

**Junior Varsity Athletic Philosophy:** The purpose of the junior varsity program is to continue the integration of individual skills into a team concept. We want to maintain a balance in the concepts of competitiveness and participation with a focus on preparation for competitive varsity participation. The junior varsity program will also stress the complete mental, physical, and spiritual development of the student athletes.

**Varsity Athletic Philosophy:** The purpose of the varsity program is to completely integrate the individual skills into a team concept. We will compete for and obtain as many regular season and postseason wins as possible. Student athletes will develop habits for academic, athletic, vocational, and spiritual growth through focused discipline based on principles from God's word. The varsity program will also stress the complete mental, physical, and spiritual development of the student athlete.

**Attendance: Practices/Games:** An athlete makes a commitment to the team when he/she joins the team and is responsible to fulfill this commitment by being at all required team practices and contests. The student-athlete must inform the head coach prior to an anticipated absence. Some things such as illness (absence from school), doctor's appointment, or a death in the family will be considered an excused absence. Family vacations, church functions, trips, outings may possibly be excused with prior notification to the coach but it is not guaranteed to be excused.

- Unexcused absences practices and/or games may result in disciplinary action by the coach. Student-athletes and parents should make every effort to schedule appointments during non-practice or game times. Conflicts in school-scheduled events will be resolved between the school sponsor and coach. Concerning family vacations: The school, coach and parent should work together to resolve any conflicts. Athletes are expected to attend all athletic contests.

**Other Extracurricular Activities:** Our main focus is for student-athlete to excel in First Baptist athletics. We have no problem with students participating in other recreational organizations. We do consider the commitment to the First Baptist athletic team as the first priority. Student-athletes are NOT permitted to leave a school practice/game early or sit out a practice due to another scheduled game or contest with other recreational organizations. Concessions may be made by the coach for your high school sport, but only for each individual sport. Leaving early for another team's event may result in disciplinary action by the head coach of the student-athlete's sport.

**School Attendance on Game Days:** Students must be considered "present" at school for half of their scheduled classes to participate in practices and/or games.

**Conduct of an Athlete:** Student athletes are to be positive role models for peers and younger students. Our athletes represent FBS to the community and must have a positive testimony at all times. Conduct guidelines are as follows:

- No use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time (365 days a year).
- Any improper or questionable language will not be permitted. Improper language includes profanity, boasting, and disrespect to officials, other players, or coaches.
- Language should be conducive to “building up” rather than “tearing down.” An athlete’s performance and sportsmanship should be above reproach. A violation of guidelines may result in suspension or expulsion from the team and/or school.
- In general, athletes are to be familiar with the rules of the school as well as the dress code policy and adhere to them with a spirit of cooperation and personal responsibility.
- Cell Phones must be turned OFF in the locker room - this is to protect your students so nothing is purposely or accidentally captured on camera.
- Social Media Etiquette shall be observed and utilized by all players. Social Media etiquette includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Be polite! Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
  - Exercise caution when using sarcasm and humor. Without face-to-face communications, a joke or statement may be misunderstood.
  - Show consideration and respect for others at all times.
  - The use of obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, offensive, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language will be grounds for discipline.

**Disciplines for Technical Fouls/Cautions/Ejections:** Student-athletes who receive technicals, yellow cards, or any similar admonishment from game officials will be disciplined at the discretion of the coach. Any student who is ejected from a contest will be disciplined according to the guidelines of the SCISA Blue Book.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for athletics on the middle school/JV/varsity level the student-athlete must have passed four core (English, Math, Science, History, Foreign Language, Computer Science, Fine Arts) or five total classes to be eligible for the next semester. Any student who has failed more than half of their classes for the school year is automatically ineligible for the first semester of the following school year (summer school does not count for these cases). The school will determine eligibility each semester but during each individual season a coach may institute their own grade guidelines only if the following guidelines are met: Guidelines are clearly and precisely communicated with all athletes/parents before the season begins. Make sure athletes/parents are aware of what is required to be able to fully participate with the team. Copies of guideline (if any) must be presented to the parents at the pre-season parent meeting. Please refer to the coaches’ preseason checklist. Guidelines are applied equally to all team participants and parents are notified when the guidelines are not met. Players under suspension must still attend all practices and HOME games that are scheduled. The athletic director will be responsible for checking player eligibility and will notify the head coach of any concerns.

**Equipment/Uniforms:** All student-athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. If an athlete fails to return the equipment or uniform they will be required to pay to replace it. All athletes are required to return equipment and uniforms issued to them at the conclusion of the season before they are allowed to participate in another sport. At the conclusion of the school year, any athlete who has not returned equipment/uniform issued will not be allowed to take exams, receive report cards and/or graduate until items have been returned or fees paid. Head coaches are responsible to issue and collect all issued uniforms and equipment.

**Homework Check-Out:** Students are responsible to get all assignments before they leave for a sporting event. Students are responsible for the completion of all assigned work on the date it is due. Teachers may allow student-athletes to complete the work at a later date but are not required to do so.

**Multi-Sport Participation:** Athletes can participate in multiple sports. During the school year Student-athletes must

choose their “primary” sport if they intend to participate in multiple same season sports. Both coaches will work together to create a written/electronic calendar for the athlete for practices and contests. A spirit of cooperation is encouraged amongst coaches. The primary sport of the student-athlete is the main focus for practices and games.

**Quitting a team/Dismissal from a team:** It is the goal of the First Baptist athletic department to teach values that go beyond the arena of athletic competition. Please keep the following in mind- Anytime a player voluntarily removes his/herself from the team for any reason after two (2) weeks of official practice start date it is to be considered that they “quit” the team. If the player quits the team or is dismissed from the team by the coach or Athletic Director, then the coach will collect all issued equipment and uniforms. Team fees will not be refunded. The student-athlete that quits or is dismissed from the team may not be allowed to participate in any sport for the remainder of the semester or the following semester. (Example- If a student- athlete quits Basketball in December they may not play any sport in the spring semester.) An appeal can be made to the headmaster, athletic director and head coach of the team involved. The committee will decide if the circumstances were beyond the athletes control and whether they will be allowed to participate in the following semester. The decision made by the committee is considered final.

**Sportsmanship:** Both the athlete and the fans represent FBS to our community and should always conduct themselves in a commendable manner. Sportsmanship guidelines are as follows:

- Athletes are not to cheat or play unfairly in any way.
- Both athletes & fans should accept the decisions of officials and coaches without dispute.
- Both athletes and fans should recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent.
- Any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship may be excused from the athletic program and/or the particular event.

**School Suspensions:** If a student is suspended, the following consequences will occur: The student shall not participate in any athletic events on the day(s) suspended and may not attend an activity without administrative permission. The final decision on when and how long the suspension from athletic activities will last will be determined by the athletic director and staff. A suspension of two or more days or a second one-day suspension may result in automatic suspension from participation in sports for a probationary period to be determined by the athletic director and staff.

**Try-Out/Cut Policy:** All coaching decisions as to who makes a team roster are final. If there is a question about whether a student-athlete should have made the team an appointment needs to be made with the head coach to discuss the issue. Bear in mind that a complaint filed to the coach does not allow your son/daughter to be placed back on the team. Coaches have full backing of the athletic director and administration.

**Athletic Travel Permission:** FBS Athletic Teams will travel to away games or practices on the First Baptist School Bus, charter bus, or coach/parent/player vehicles. It may be necessary for players to arrive and depart games on their own as buses may be severely limited. First Baptist School will exercise all reasonable care in transportation and supervising the students, however, the school will not be held responsible for any accidents. By signing the handbook the parent certifies that the student named on this document has permission to participate in any school-sponsored athletic trips during the school year. Furthermore, I hereby indemnify the school for any injuries, which may result from this trip.