



# **Scioto Christian Youth Athletics**

## **Handbook**

*Scioto Christian is a Christian organization offering competitive team sports to area youth.*

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## Scioto Christian Youth Athletics Handbook

**Mission Statement:- Scioto County Christian Youth Athletics is a Christian organization offering competitive team sports to homeschooled and Christian/Private Schooled students.**

Introduction: All involved in Scioto Christian activities should look at these programs as an opportunity to bring the love of Christ to other families in our community through the venue of competitive sports.

### **Objectives:**

The primary goal of our athletic program is to bring glory to God in all that we do while developing a godly character in each student-athlete. To achieve this goal the athletic director and coaches encourage the student-athletes to perform to the best of their ability, which God has given to them. We want to strive for excellence in all we do (Col. 3:23). By developing and using the talents, which God has given us, we honor Him.

Coaches, in addition to teaching their specific sport's skills, also teach and model godly character traits throughout the season. Athletics is an area where scriptural principles can not only be taught, but also directly applied during the stress and drama of competition. Some of the character traits that are emphasized during the season are:

**Humility.** Recognizing that my achievements would not have been possible without the assistance of God and others. (1 Cor 10:12, Gal 6:14, Prov 27:2, James 4:6) Win or lose? Give glory to God.

**Respect.** Recognize that God places those in authority over us including officials, coaches and school leadership. (Rom 13:1-7) Practice giving respect regardless of your opinion of right or wrong.

**Gratefulness.** Expressing appreciation to God and others for the benefits they have brought to my life. (1 Thes 5:18, Col 5:20, 1 Cor 4:7) Thank God

for the ability to compete regardless of the outcome and thank those who made the contest possible.

**Teamwork.** We all have different gifts according to the grace given to us (Rom 12:4-6) which are combined to further the kingdom of God. Teamwork is an integral part of God's kingdom and is vital to success in athletics.

**Perseverance.** Having inward strength to withstand stress as you press toward the goal. (Gal 6:9) Develop physical, mental and spiritual endurance that you might prevail despite circumstance.

**Fellowship.** Fellowship with other teams reinforces and recognizes that we are all members of God's team. Opposing teams are not our enemy but simply an opportunity to test and sharpen ourselves through competition (Prov 27:17). Strive for fellowship through pre-game prayer for the other team and encouraging and helping injured opponents as you would your own teammates.

**Sacrifice.** Assuming personal sacrifice for the good of the team in every situation. Learning to think beyond oneself and put others first. Supply other's needs without thought of personal gains. (1 Cor 13:4-5)

**Commitment.** Honor your commitments to your team and to yourself.

**Responsibility.** Take responsibility for your actions, your gifts and the belongings entrusted to you.

### **Communication:**

We place a very high value on face-to-face communication, trusting in the Christian charity (love) of all members of the Scioto Christian family. Scioto Christian asks parents to wait 24 hours after a game or event to approach a coach if a complaint arises. It is also requested that complaints are directed to the coach alone face-to-face or by phone and not emailed and copied to

others or posted on social media sites. This is in keeping with the Biblical model of Matthew 18:15-17 to first attempt to settle our disputes in an orderly manner.

### **Our complaint process:**

- 1) If a problem arises concerning a player or coach, the first step in resolution is direct communication between the parties involved. (vs.15)
  
- 2) If additional steps are necessary to resolve the situation, then the Athletic Directors or necessary organizational representatives will be consulted. (vs. 16)
  
- 3) If a resolution cannot be reached with the Athletic Directors and the party in question, then the Scioto Christian Board of Directors will review and solve the situation. (vs. 17)

This process should also be modeled in other Scioto Christian related relationships.

### **Athlete Eligibility/Participation:**

Scioto Christian athletes will be made up of homeschooled and Christian/Private school students that do not play on any other school sport team for the same sport, during the same season. Public school students may play for Scioto Christian if granted permission by the Scioto Christian board and by their local school district.

### **Age and Gender Requirements (for national tournaments)**

A player's age group is determined by his/her age on September 1, of the current school year. For example, a player who is 16 on September 1, but turns 17 on October 5th is considered eligible to play in the 16-and-under age group at NCHC events. Players may play in a higher age group, if desired. A player is only eligible to play in the gender division that the player was born in; there are no co-ed teams.

## **Scioto Christian Guidelines and Conduct**

### **Guidelines and Conduct for Athletes**

As a Christian association, we expect the following of each athlete:

- Each athlete is expected to be committed to team goals. This implies that personal performance is not the only focus, but is directed toward achieving team goals and team unity.
- The coach is the head of the team, and as such needs each athlete's undivided attention during practices and games. Each athlete is expected to be attentive to the coach and to give him/her the respect he/she is due as the athlete's superior. The quality of athletic experience and success depends on a good working relationship between team members and coaches. If a problem between coach and athlete arises, both have the responsibility to work out a solution through good honest and charitable communication.
- The athlete is expected to maintain top physical condition by eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good health and fitness habits. Use of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs will not be tolerated and any violation will result in expulsion from the team.
- The athlete is expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. This is especially important during athletic contests. Respect for opponents and officials must be evident at all times. Such attitudes are a reflection on individual athletes and on all others who associate with Scioto Christian.

- The athlete is required to attend every practice and game. Any absence must be coordinated with the coach prior to the event.
- At all times the athlete is expected to do his/her very best, giving 100%.
- The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of all Scioto Christian sports equipment and uniforms.
- No foul, vulgar, or abusive language will be tolerated (at any time).
- Athletes will not question the judgments of coaches or game officials (on or off the field/court).
- Our motto is **“Players play, coaches coach, parents parent”**

#### **Penalties:**

- Any player found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary suspension to expulsion from the program.
- Any player who verbally/physically abuses another player, participants or official may be suspended from play for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from Scioto Christian competition.

#### **Guidelines and Conduct for Parents**

- As examples to our children, parents are expected to display Christ-like behavior at all times at all sporting events.
- Parents will show respect for our opponents and officials at all times.
- The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team, fellow parents and to the coaches. Attitudes of parents directly impact the attitudes of athletes. Prayers for athletes, coaches, and teams are important and appreciated.
- If possible, we ask that parent/guardian/or other family representatives be present during all practices and games.
- Our motto is **“Players play, coaches coach, parents parent”**

#### **Penalties:**

- A parent who verbally/physically abuses another player, participant or official or is found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary removal from the Scioto Christian sporting event.

### **Tryouts & Player Selection Guidelines:**

In cases where tryouts are required. Tryouts should be advertised prior to registration and tryout date(s) set on the organization calendar approximately 1 month in advance of said date(s), if possible. Certain sports have a maximum number of allowable players making up a team and this would require us to only be able to accept this specific allowable roster number.

In selecting players, factors such as loyalty to loyal Scioto Christian families should be factored in. Longstanding families with parents who have been involved should get special consideration under this principle to cultivate attitudes of loyalty within the organization. One example of this would be to opt in favor of a longstanding player of mediocre skill versus a walk-on senior with higher skill. While this is not necessarily a trump factor for making the team...it should be a factor nonetheless.

We trust that our coaches will be fair to all players and will seek out wisdom from the Scioto Christian Board when making these difficult decisions.

### **Playing Time Guidelines:**

While we trust our coaches will strive for balance and fairness in determining playtime at all levels, because of the formative aspect of our program, it is expected that they will adhere to the following guidelines at each level.

**14U (Middle School) Program:** Amount of playtime will depend more on the athlete's level of ability and as game situations dictate. If a player does not receive much playing time one game he/she may receive more the next. In the case of large leads players will be rotated through on a fairly even basis. The coach will take into consideration the player's skill level, attitude, attendance at practices and games.

**16U-18U (High School) Program:** Amount of playing time is solely at the coach's discretion. The coach will decide which players at any given time will maximize the "teams" ability to compete in the games at the highest level. The coach will take into consideration the player's skill level, attitude, attendance at practices and games.

**Penalties pertaining to all levels:**

1. Coaches have authority to withhold playtime due to missed practices and games and this penalty takes precedence over playtime guidelines for that level.
2. Tournaments can be considered a more competitive event and coaches may prioritize more skilled and older players at these events, regardless of level.
3. Poor sportsmanship/inappropriate behavior, attitude, missed/late to practices or games can be used to withhold playtime, regardless of level.

**Player Placement:**

Players will be placed on the team of their age level unless they will contribute substantially to the next level team. Final decision regarding player placement will be determined by the coach & athletic director.

## **Expectations for Athletic Participation:**

### **Volunteering**

Parents are an important part of the Scioto Christian program. Scioto Christian is a volunteer, non-profit (501c3) organization with a governing board. We need the participation of ALL our families to make Scioto Christian a successful organization. Parents are needed and expected to play a supporting role in this organization.

Each family must agree to fill some volunteer role. Needs will vary by season but team needs range from: statistician, concession coordinator, admissions coordinator, gym monitors, line judges, and more. **This is not a pay and drop-off your children league.**

**All parents are expected to help out if their children are playing on a Scioto Christian team - there are no exceptions.**

\*\*\*(Volunteer Questions should be directed to the Athletic Director/Coach for each respective sport)

### **Fundraising Expectations**

Scioto Christian continually strives to keep the cost of our sports programs as low as possible. The registration fee per sport covers only the basics needed for each sport to function. It covers the cost of uniforms and insurance fees for athletes. The registration fee does not cover the full amount needed to run each sport and extra money is needed to cover items like tournament fees, equipment, gym rentals and uniforms.

To keep the registration fees as low as possible, we require family participation in the fundraising process. These extra funds are essential to keep the Scioto Christian athletic program running efficiently in all sports.

All fundraisers must be approved by the Scioto Christian board in advance.

## **Registration Fees**

Registration fees are expected to be paid in full upon sign- up. If any family cannot meet this expectation, then a payment plan request can be made.

## **Registration Refund Policy**

If an athlete decides not to participate in an Scioto Christian sport after registering, our refund policy is as follows:

- If the athlete is facing an unforeseen medical situation less than two weeks after registration, Scioto Christian will refund the athlete in full.

## **Athletic Director and Coach Selection Guidelines:**

*Philosophy: Keep a balance between encouraging athletes, teaching skills to fine tune the athletes' abilities and creating a competitive team, all the while seeking to glorify God in all that we do.*

Every year, coaching positions should be open to review and new applications, if necessary. Athletic Directors (or other appointed representatives) should review and suggest to the Board their choice for coach based on past evaluations and qualifications of past coach and new applicants. Board reviews and approves appointments. Every effort should be made to honor loyalty to past coaches, but honest evaluation of a coach's record of:

1. Coaching ability
2. Christian character
3. Adherence to Scioto Christian philosophy must also be taken into account
4. Respect for Scioto Christian leadership, players and parents.

Coaches may be replaced if problems and complaints have plagued his/her season and the Board deems there has been serious lapse in one of the above three areas. Replacement should take place only following a fair assessment and review between AD, coach and the Board of Directors.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

#### **Athletic Director (may also be coach)**

- Recommends and or recruits coaches
- Receives coach applications and makes recommendations to the Board
- Maintain communication between coaches
- Provide coaches with guidelines along with mentoring and promoting the Scioto Christian philosophy.
- Help initiate and facilitate tryouts requirements
- Setup and Run Parent Meeting (beginning of season)
- Second level of communication between parent and coach
- Be actively involved in the Budget planning
- Schedule games for teams
- Adherence to all items in this document and the Scioto Christian Athletic Handbook
- Encourage parent involvement
- Recruit players
- Pre-Season, Mid-Season, and Post-Season meeting with coaches.
- Give information to the webmaster to be added to website or app

#### **Coaches (may also be Athletic Director)**

- Coach the team.
- Work with the Athletic Director on Budget projections
- Help Athletic Director with initiating and facilitating tryouts
- First level of communication to parents.
- Adherence to all items in this document and the Scioto Christian Athletic Handbook

- Adhere to scheduled game and practice times. (outdoor practices will shift based on weather and sunset time)

## **Guidelines and Conduct for Coaches**

Coaches are Christian role models for the young men and women who benefit from their instruction. Scioto Christian recognizes that coaching is both rewarding and challenging. Coaching is also a great opportunity for developing close relationships with athletes and families, for achieving excellence in athletics, and for glorifying God.

- All coaches are expected to be leaders in exhibiting Christian values and responsibility. As a highly visible representative of Scioto Christian and the community, the coach must accept a special role in demonstrating positive and responsible leadership and treat all athletes as valued members of the team.
- The coach is expected to treat all athletes, opponents, coaches, game officials, and Scioto Christian leadership with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- The coach is expected to resolve all team conflicts with honest and charitable communication, equitable treatment of all persons involved, and a willingness to achieve positive results.
- Dress Code: Coaches are expected to look presentable and modest in all Scioto Christian events. If possible, we recommend that you wear Scioto Christian logo apparel during all events.

### **Penalties:**

- Any coach ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next game and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any coach who verbally/physically abuses a player, parent, official or Scioto Christian leadership may be suspended or removed from position.

## **Policy for Multiple team coaches**

While all coaches are incredibly valued, there will be one head coach named to each team to direct communication with players, parents, athletic director, scheduler, and board in an effort to avoid confusion.

**Contact Information:**

**President - Gary Chaffins**

**Vice President - Miles Ferguson**

**Secretary - Rob McKinney**

**Treasurer -**

**Facebook - @SciotoChristianSoldiers**

**Website - SciotoChristian.com**

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