



Athletic Philosophy

West Seneca Christian School

Mission

Athletics exist to use sport as a means to develop champions for Christ both on the field and in life (1 Cor 9:24).

Goals and Objectives

To develop Christ-like character and to encourage maturity in physical, mental, social, and spiritual disciplines (Luke 2:52).

Physically – To foster physical development in the lives of athletes (1 Cor 9:27).

1. Athletes will learn the technical skills and techniques of the game.
2. Learn the principles of living a healthy lifestyle.
3. Learn practical motor skills for everyday life.

Mentally – To enhance an athlete's mental discipline and knowledge (Prov 18:15).

1. Coaches will come to practice ready to stimulate the minds of players and to teach them the rules and strategies of the game.
2. Coaches will engage athletes in thinking through tactical decisions and teach critical thinking.
3. Athletes will be required to attend all classes.
4. Athletes are required to maintain academic eligibility.

Socially – To provide athletes the opportunity to build relationships and accept greater responsibility (1 Chr 4:10).

1. Submit to the authority placed over athletes (coaches, captains, and administrators)
2. Provide athletes the opportunity to be in leadership roles and influence others positively.
3. Be accountable to teammates, coaches, and school administration.
4. Engage in proper relationships with friends and significant others.

Spiritually – To use sports as an opportunity for athletes to evangelize for Christ and to be more like Him (Phil 2:5).

1. Come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
2. Have a burden to witness to others and share the good news of Christ.
3. Reflect Christ in our words and actions on and off the field.
4. Grow in our relationship with Christ.

The overarching goal of athletics for Christians is to develop Christ-like character and to encourage athlete maturity physically, mentally, socially, and spirituality. To achieve the goal of fostering physical development in the lives of athletes, players will learn the technical skills of the game, will develop a lifestyle of physical fitness, and will learn practical motor skills for everyday life. By participating in athletics and developing these motor skills, athletes develop the tools necessary to win and be successful in the sport as well as being able to teach their own children or students in the future.

Mental development is something athletics can help foster. The goal of mental development in athletics is to enhance an athlete's mental discipline and knowledge; not just discipline and knowledge in sports, but also in school, life, and in the workforce. Coaches will come to practices and games ready to stimulate the minds of players and to teach them the rules and strategies of the sport. As a partnership between coaches and players, athletes will be required to attend all classes and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher in order to remain on a team (Deut 4:5).

Social development gives athletes the confidence and experience to become leaders in their families, churches, and communities. The goal of social development in athletics is to provide athletes the opportunity to build relationships and accept greater responsibility. Athletes grow socially by learning to submit to authority: parents, coaches, officials, administrators, and peers in leadership roles; by being held accountable to the team in respect to team rules and policies (arriving to practice and games at the proper time, ensuring players have all necessary equipment, etc.); and by engaging in proper relationships by identifying what qualities are most important in friends and in a future spouse (Rom 16:2-7; Eph 6:3).

Finally, spiritual development is the most important part of athletics. If spiritual growth is not taught and demonstrated every day, then there is no point in having an athletic program. The closest friend any person could have is Jesus Christ. It is imperative that all athletes are exposed to the Gospel and are given opportunities to accept Christ as their personal Saviour. Those that have received Christ in their lives will be given opportunities to serve in the community in the hopes that a burden to witness and share the Gospel with others will grow in each and every athlete. Each practice day, teams will devote time in order to learn from the Word of God so that each player might grow in their faith and relationship with Christ (Phil 2:5).

In all sports, difficult times come. Losing streaks happen, players get hurt, calls do not go our way, but how we respond to those situations will reveal our character. If we complain and show poor sportsmanship when things aren't going our way, how bad does that make Christ look? The importance of Christlike character in sports cannot be understated because non-Christians form not only an opinion of our team from our actions, but they also form an opinion of our God from how we act. We recognize that athletics is often-times the most visible part of our school. It is during athletic contests that people who would never come onto our campus otherwise, arrive in order to watch their family member or friend play in a game. As Christians, this should be viewed as a unique and significant opportunity to share the Gospel and; therefore, should be most vigilant in how our words and behaviors are perceived (1 Pet 3:15).

Athletics provides so many opportunities to grow in the physical, mental, social, and spiritual disciplines. We recognize these are opportunities for growth and not guarantees. We strive to be purposeful in fostering these disciplines. In so doing, we desire that our athletes, long after ending their time with us, will lead humble lives, giving God the glory in all things (John 3:30; Col 1:18).