

# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2024 - 2025

# LIBERTAS

*Athletics*



LIBERTAS ACADEMY  
A CHRISTIAN FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Adopted 9/27/24

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# VISION

Our goal is to graduate students who love God with all of their heart, all of their soul, all of their minds, and all of their strength (*Mark 12:30*). Here at Libertas, we train students to understand that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor. 6:19-20*), and as such, need to be given attention through rigorous physical activity on a regular basis in order to be ready for every good work to which the Lord Jesus calls them (*1Cor. 9:26-27*). Our students take what they have been taught here and practice healthy habits post high school and throughout life. We want to graduate students who are physically literate and can contribute physically to protecting and building families and communities in order to fully live out the command to “Love your neighbor as yourself” (*Mark 12:31*).

We recognize that students have a wide range of skills and giftings and they may be starting in very different places. As classical students and teachers, we do hard things and believe that students can improve their physical fitness through hard work and perseverance. This program builds discipline, integrity, mental toughness, physical toughness, strength, agility, endurance, and quickness in students gradually over time, year after year, from TK through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our PE program lays the foundation and structure for a lifetime of health and physical fitness. Discipleship in the Christian faith is at the core of our vision. We strive to develop, inspire, and equip our student-athletes to use God-given talents to the fullest, while building character through competition.

## PE PARTICIPATION

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All students will participate in age-appropriate physical education and sports activities. A signed parent's note, submitted to the office, is required for a student to be withdrawn from PE for one to four days (1 week). A signed doctor's note for the teacher is required for health or injury situations that require a student to be withdrawn from PE for more than four days. In the case a student fails to participate in a PE activity without cause, the parents will be contacted, and the student will receive a "zero" for that day's grade. Libertas Academy strives to provide a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment for these activities.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE BEHAVIOR & CONDUCT

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It is very important that each student cooperates in maintaining order and discipline. For the benefit of each member's family, we must guarantee an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, safe and nurturing and encourages Christ-likeness in daily choices. Please refer to the current School Handbook for information regarding expectations and standards of student behavior.

## SPORTS COMPETITION

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Libertas Academy is an associate member of the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section and participates in the following interscholastic sports:

### PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Boys 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Cross-Country
- Girls 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Cross-Country
- Boys 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Wrestling
- Girls 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Basketball
- Boys 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Basketball
- Girls 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Volleyball
- Boys 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Flag Football
- Boys 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Track and Field

- Girls 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Track and Field

## HIGH SCHOOL

- Freshmen (F.), Junior Varsity (J.V.), Varsity Cross-Country
- Boys Freshmen (F.), Junior Varsity (J.V.), Varsity Wrestling

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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Any student-athlete wishing to participate on a school team must have maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 or better during the previous month's grading period. Eligibility cannot be reinstated until the following month's first grading period. A student who is placed on academic probation at the end of the school year will remain on probation until the conclusion of the first grading period in the Fall of the next year.

## ATHLETIC MEDICAL CLEARANCE (CIF)

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### PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parents/Guardians must submit a complete Sports Liability Form.

### HIGH SCHOOL

All new and returning student-athletes trying out for a sport must have a current valid doctor's physical examination form on file before the first day of participation in that sport. A blank doctor's physical examination form can be downloaded from the Libertas Academy website. A completed doctor's physical examination form must be submitted to the coach or Athletic Department office before the CIF starting date for each specific sport. Physicals are valid for one calendar year per CIF rules. It is strongly recommended that parents keep a copy of the completed form for their records.

All student-athletes are permitted to participate in as many sports as they wish. No coach should advise a student-athlete not to participate in another sport. Concurrent participation in two school sports must have prior approval from the team coaches and the Athletic Director. Students participating in multiple sports must give precedence to the first commitment (e.g., Will participate fully in scheduled contests for first sport. Missing practice or contests for the first sport to participate in second commitment will not be permitted). A student-athlete who quits a sport or is

dropped from one sport for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to participate in a second sport until the first sport is completed (end of scheduled events). Appeals with special circumstances must be made to the Athletic Director.

## ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

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Student-athletes must be present for at least one-half of the school day to be eligible to participate in after-school athletic practices or games. Student-athletes who are absent from school are not allowed to participate, be on campus, or attend a team event on the same day unless approved by the administrative team. Student-athletes participating in athletic events during the day or at night prior to a scheduled school day are expected to be in attendance the full school day following the event. Student-athletes missing class due to an athletic event are responsible for all work missed. Student-athletes should notify teachers in advance of events whenever possible.

All student-athletes are financially responsible for any items issued by the school. A replacement charge will be billed to parents for articles that are lost, stolen, or damaged. Any lost, stolen, or damaged equipment should be reported to the coach immediately. All school equipment and uniforms must be returned in similar condition as received. Any student-athlete participating on an athletic team accepts all the rules of that team as explained by the coach(es). During school holidays and breaks, student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games.

## PRACTICES

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The usual policy is to practice every weekday except game day. Head coaches are to determine and communicate, in advance, the practice schedules and attendance policies for their teams. Saturday and most holiday practices are allowed with advance notice. No meetings or practices are allowed on Sunday.<sup>1</sup> Practice on major holidays must be cleared with the Athletic Director. Practices may only be conducted with a coach present. Coaches will establish their own attendance policy for student-athletes.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

During the high school season, no student-athlete can participate in the same sport with an outside organization (see CIF Constitution and Bylaws Article 60 for limited exceptions).

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<sup>1</sup> There may occasionally be a tournament scheduled on a Sunday.

## MISCONDUCT

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Any student-athlete ejected from a game automatically receives a one-game suspension. Coaches will inform the Athletic Director immediately of any ejection and submit a written report to the Athletic Director within 24 hours of the incident. Repeated ejections will incur additional sanctions as deemed appropriate by the school administration.

## ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE

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Athletes participating in a sport may be charged a non-refundable athletic fee for each season of sport in which they participate. This fee helps offset costs associated with participation, (i.e., officials, uniforms, travel, facility rental, equipment, tournaments, strength and conditioning program, etc.). This applies once a roster has been submitted and the student-athlete has participated in one contest. Even if a student-athlete quits or is removed from a team, he or she is financially responsible to pay this fee.

## EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

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Equipment and uniform costs vary from sport to sport. Libertas Academy makes every attempt possible to ensure our student-athletes have the best equipment available. There will be instances where certain sports require their student-athletes to purchase uniforms or a limited amount of equipment. Please see the Athletic Director or the head coach of the respective sport for more information.

## GAME DAY ATTIRE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

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To promote school spirit at Libertas Academy, our student-athletes are encouraged to wear “Game Day Attire” on the day of competition and on Fridays (after Chapel) preceding Saturday games. For Game Day Attire during the school day, student-athletes may wear:

- Game jerseys that have sleeves with dress code bottoms.
- Team polo shirts designating sport representation with dress code bottoms.

## TRAVEL AND GAME ATTIRE

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Students are expected to be in the following attire when they arrive at sites for competition as directed by the head coach: Athletic game uniform or game day attire (e.g. Polo with dress code bottoms).

## TRANSPORTATION

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The school's interscholastic and other athletic programs consist of a variety of competitive sports teams, membership on a competitive sports team, participation in try-outs, games, tournaments, meets and matches, both at the school and at other locations, training, practice, fundraisers, and other related activities and events. Participation in Libertas Academy's athletic program may involve travel beyond the confines of the school campus and to various locations both within and outside California. This policy is applicable for all activities of the school athletic program throughout the entire academic year. Transportation to sports activities is not provided by the school. Transportation to and from events is the responsibility of the student's parents. Coaches may arrange transportation using private volunteer drivers, including coaches, teachers, or other students' parents, grandparents, guardians ("private volunteer driver"). A private volunteer driver is one who is not employed by the school, or if employed is acting outside of the scope of his or her employment, and who is not utilizing a school-owned vehicle. The school is not responsible for transportation by private volunteer drivers and assumes no liability for any accidents or injuries arising out of transportation provided by private volunteer drivers, as set forth below. Private volunteer drivers providing transportation to athletic contests for students subject themselves to their own risk of liability and to use of their private insurance coverage. The school does not assume any liability to either the students who ride with private volunteer drivers or to private volunteer drivers for any accidents or injuries arising out of transportation provided by private volunteer drivers.

## OFFICIAL DATES

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Official dates for each season (Fall, Winter, and Spring) are published on the Libertas Athletics website.



# GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATING CONCERNS

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1. Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone at Libertas Academy. The coaches and players are expected to and are held accountable for representing Libertas Academy with dignity and integrity. The same high standards of behavior are expected from all adults and fans.
2. Not all players get the same playing time. The nature of athletic competition means we try to put the best team on the court or field. It is the coach's job to decide who the most qualified players are so the team has its best chance for success. Part of any player's maturation process includes putting one's personal desires aside for the betterment of the team.
3. Coaches are to be treated with the same respect accorded any other professional.
4. If you have any concerns about your child's coach or your child's athletic participation on a team, please use the following procedure until you feel the issue is resolved:
  - a. Have your child speak to their coach. Sometimes the coach is unaware of your child's concerns or feelings. It is also important that we teach our students how to communicate effectively with adults in a mature manner.
  - b. Arrange an appointment to speak with your child's coach. Our coaches will respond to your request as quickly as possible.
  - c. Arrange an appointment with the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will investigate the situation promptly.
  - d. Arrange an appointment with the Head of School if you feel the issue still has not been resolved.

