Tuscaloosa Warriors Athletic Guidelines

(REVISED AUGUST 2021)

"Bring every man up to his full potential in Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:28

"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

"Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other."

1Thessalonians 5:12-13

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

PURPOSE

1. To glorify God in every word and deed.
2. To compete athletically within the Alabama Christian Sports Conference (ACSC).
3. To recognize, appreciate and utilize each student athlete's God-given potential and talents.
4. To develop the skills and attitudes of godliness through teamwork and sportsmanship.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. The student athlete must currently be a member of THE (Tuscaloosa Home Educators) and either: 1) enrolled in an Approved Athletic Organization (AAO) through the ACSC; or 2) provide proof to THE that the student athlete meets the academic requirements of the ACSC. Tuscaloosa Home Educators is a support and resource group for home educators in Tuscaloosa and surrounding communities. More information regarding THE can be found here (http://www.tuscaloosahomeschool.com/). THE sports are a THE sanctioned activity.

2. THE is guided by an advisory board, which has oversight over all THE sanctioned activities, including THE sports. However, authority over THE sports is relegated to the THE Athletics Committee ("Committee"). Per THE Bylaws, the Committee reports and is accountable to the THE Advisory Board ("Board"). One member of the Committee serves as a liaison to the Board on all athletic matters. A copy of the THE Athletic Committee Policies and Procedures are available by request.

3. The Committee members are selected by the Committee and serve until resignation or until replaced. The current members of the Committee are:

Kris Sodergren (conference liaison)
Neil Reynolds (assistant AD for volleyball)
Katie Reynolds (assistant AD for volleyball)
Elizabeth Chandler (assistant AD for softball)
Grace Mancil (assistant AD for basketball and Advisory Board liaison)
Clint Mancil (assistant AD for basketball)

4. The Athletic Director ("AD") is selected the by Board. The AD reports to the Committee. The AD is responsible for the "day to day" operations of all THE sports but should delegate such duties to a coordinator for each sport. The AD should not serve as head coach or assistant coach of any THE sports team, absent express permission from the Committee and only under unusual circumstances.

5. The AD shall select a coordinator for each sport to assist with the fulfillment of their duties. The coordinator is accountable directly to the AD.

6. Coaches are selected by the AD (using the guidelines set out in the THE Athletic Committee Policies and Procedures). All coaches shall undergo background checks. To be eligible to coach, all coaches must sign THE's Coaching Agreement and abide by its terms. A copy of the THE's Coaching Agreement will be made available to any athlete or parent upon request to the AD. Coaches must also follow all THE and ACSC policies and procedures. Each team shall have one head coach and (to the extent possible) at least one assistant coach.

7. For any time period when the AD position is vacant, the Committee shall serve as acting AD, and the Committee has authority to act as AD in the manner it deems appropriate including, but not limited to, relegating AD duties for a particular sport or responsibility to particular member(s) of the Committee.

ATHLETE/ PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. <u>Rosters/Positions/Playing Time/Practice</u>.

    a. Student athletes under the age of 16 by August 1 will be eligible to play on the junior varsity (JV) team, and in some cases, varsity (V). A student athlete that is over the age of 16 on August 1 will be required to play V only. Student athletes that are eligible under conference rules to play both JV and V may be placed on either the JV roster, the V roster, or both. All roster decisions will be made by the head coach, whose decision will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired. It is the coach's decision to include or exclude any player from the team roster. The coach's decision may be based on factors other than athletic ability.

b. Rosters for games are limited to a maximum number of athletes, which varies from sport to sport. The maximum number of athletes is determined by conference rules. If necessary, tryouts will be conducted to determine the final roster(s) (including varsity and JV) for any sport. All roster decisions, will be made by the head coach, whose decision will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired.
c. Roster additions/subtractions after the season has started will be determined by the head coach, subject to conference rules. Coaches' decisions will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired.
d. Positions are determined by the head coach, whose decision will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired.
e. Playing time is determined by the head coach, whose decision will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired. No athlete is guaranteed any playing time. However, athletes can expect that coaches will make a good faith attempt to provide playing time to as many athletes as possible.
f. Student athletes will not be permitted to change from varsity to JV (or vice versa) after rosters have been established at the beginning of the season. The only exception to this will be in the case of injury or other loss of roster players. This would be a coaching decision.
g. In the discretion of the head coach, any practice may be closed to team parents, siblings, and other visitors that are not players, coaches, or athletic administrators.

2. Be aware that coaches and athletic administrators are encouraged to build relationships with student athletes and their families. We will help parents hold athletes accountable for the character choices and moral integrity displayed during sporting events.

3. Furnish the required participation and uniform fees.

4. Complete and submit an Athletic Packet to the coach or the AD which includes: a copy of these Guidelines signed by each athlete and, at least, one parent/legal guardian, physical form (completed by a doctor), copy of birth certificate, THE registration and release, liability waiver (ACSC release), concussion form, transportation liability release form, THE member form, THE membership fee paid, and any other document that may be required by the AD in its discretion.

5. Agree to abide by the Tuscaloosa Warriors Code of Conduct and respond respectfully to coaches and other adults.

- Be punctual at practices and game times. A good rule to follow is "Early is on time and on time is late."
- Show respect and cooperation with all coaches, officials, and other team members.
- Maintain a high standard of personal conduct. (i.e. no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, juul, use of profanity)
- Commit to the time required to attend and participate in all scheduled practices and games. If a student athlete is unable to attend a practice or game, it is the responsibility of the student athlete to inform the head coach ahead of time.
- Fully cooperate with the expectations of the coaches.

6. Respectfully accept coaching decisions regarding positions, roster make-up, playing time, and practice times and structure, etc. Coaches' decisions regarding these issues will be final. However, a head coach may solicit input from the AD if desired.

7. Commit to a complete season of teamwork. Once teams are determined, all athletes are expected to fulfill their commitment to the team from pre-season conditioning until post-season play is completed.

8. Players and parents can expect the following from the coaches and all athletic administrators:

a. Be a positive role model for the athletes (II Timothy 2:2);
b. Refrain from making harshly critical comments and instead address athletes and parents as image bearers of God (Genesis 1:27);
c. Refrain from using profanity and will have that same expectation of the athletes (Proverbs 21:23);
d. Speak only encouragement to opposing teams and will honor God in all dealings with opposing coaches (Ephesians 4:29);
e. Teach athletes to respect all authorities (including opposing coaches, game officials, etc. (Romans 13:1);
f. Accept personal responsibility for the behavior of him/her self and the athletes under their charge;
g. Comply with all policies and procedures put in place by THE and ACSC;
h. Will endeavor to develop the athletic skills of all players on their team.

9. All players and parents will adhere to the "24 hour" rule. The 24 hour rule means that players and parents will wait at least 24 hours from the end of any game or match to approach the coach or assistant coach with complaints/issues/problems, etc.

10. Understand that violation of any of these rules may result in discipline within the discretion of the head coach and, if needed, the AD. Such discipline may include reprimand, suspension, expulsion from the program, or such other appropriate action as determined by head coach, the AD, and the Committee. Any decision of the Committee will be final, subject to appeal and review by the Board. In addition, any player that violates these rules may be banned from any THE Warrior sponsored activity, such as practices, games, etc.

11. The family of a student-athlete must be a member in good standing of Tuscaloosa Home Educators.

12. If a student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from a team during the season there will be a review process before he/she can participate in another sport during the same academic year. The AD and the Committee members, with input as needed from the relevant head coach and assistant coaches, will gather information on the circumstances which led to the withdrawal and grant or withhold permission for that student-athlete to participate in the new sport.

13. If THE does not offer a sport, the student-athlete may play for another non-ACSC school in the sport not offered by THE only. The student-athlete may not play for a non-ACSC school in a sport offered by THE. (e.g. THE does not currently offer football so student-athletes may play football for another school. THE does offer basketball so a student-athlete may not play basketball for a non-ACSC school.) Student-

athletes who choose to do this are governed by the rules and regulations of the non-ACSC school and THE will have neither governance nor liability for the student-athlete in that sport. If a student-athlete plays one sport for THE, they may not play for another ACSC school in any sport for that academic year.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Accept the responsibility of transporting your student athlete to and from all scheduled practices, games and athletic events.

2. Volunteer and fulfill the required number of parental jobs necessary for a successful season. These jobs include but are not limited to: work in the concession stand, admission table, clean up detail, score keeping, max preps stat sheets and setting up for games. Failure to serve your appointed times may result in a suspension for your student athlete. Parental team jobs are required by every athlete's family.

3. Parents are responsible for supervision of their other children at all times. Children must not go to the bathroom by themselves, nor are they allowed to run around the gym while a game is going on. Parents will ensure that their children comply with any rules put into place by the gym/field/facility that hosts Warriors athletics events.

4. Present any known and unchangeable schedule conflicts before regular season practice begins. Recognize that once team commitments are made, any absences may result in reduced playing time for the student athlete.

5. Demonstrate a Christian attitude in all Tuscaloosa Warriors athletic settings, including practices, games, travel, post-game meals, and social gatherings. Negative criticism, gossip, or hostile conduct towards athletic administrators, coaches, officials, athletes, families of athletes, or opposing team coaches or athletes may damage the Christian testimony of Tuscaloosa Warriors and will not be tolerated. Repeated violations of this rule may result in the expulsion of the parent from any athletic activity (ex: games, practices, meetings, etc.) or the suspension of that parent's student athlete from the team.

6. Provide proper care for student athlete's uniform.

7. Address questions or concerns regarding team management and activities to the head coach. Any questions or concerns regarding program operation/management should be directed to the AD.

8. Understand that violation of any of these rules may result in discipline of the parent's student athlete, within the discretion of the head coach and the AD. Such discipline may include reprimand, suspension, expulsion from the program, or such other appropriate action as determined by head coach, the AD, and the Committee. In addition, any parent that violates these rules may be banned from any THE Warrior sponsored activity, such as practices, games, etc.

9. Give THE and THE Warriors athletic programs, and any and all representatives of the same, the right and permission to use and/or publish photographs of my child for art and promotional purposes including but not limited to, advertising, publicity, commercial or display of use. I also authorize my child's photos to be posted on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and website page.

UNIFORMS

These are general guidelines applicable to all sports. Since each sport is financially responsible for their uniforms, each sport will develop specific uniform policies.

1. The Tuscaloosa Warriors game uniform will be discussed at the first parents' meeting.

2. The Tuscaloosa Warriors uniform must be kept clean and well maintained.

3. Female student athletes are expected to wear properly fitting and properly colored sport undergarments. Coaches will specify and enforce team requirements of all undergarments.

4. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules apply to uniforms, equipment and jewelry. Coaches will inform student athletes what is proper for all games.

We, the student and parent/legal guardian, have read the above statements and agree to the Rules listed above.

Student athlete: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____