

2025 ~ 26

Warrior Student Athlete Handbook



Whatever you do, work at it with
all your heart, as working for the
Lord, not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23



Athletic Director:
Mr. Gage Shelmidine

Asst Athletic Director:
Mrs. Becky Reno

Billings Christian School Athletics Department

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High School - Shiloh Campus

1515 South Shiloh Billings, MT 59106

Middle School - Grand Campus (*Facilities Located Here*)

4519 Grand Ave Billings, MT 59102

School Colors: Crimson & White

School Mascot: Warriors

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From the Athletic Director . . .

Our athletic program provides a means to teach how a Christian should compete on the field/court as well as function in other aspects of life. Our players must participate in such a way that honors Christ, the team, and the school. At Billings Christian School, an athlete must play and observe regulations and policies, treat others with courtesy and respect, and meet adversity with honor. Billings Christian School is committed to developing a perspective on winning and losing consistent with the teachings of scripture. We expect our coaches and athletes to dedicate themselves to this goal. Our challenge is to contrast a sports world that emphasizes winning at any cost. Winning should be one of our goals, but we recognize that sports present a beneficial learning experience, regardless of outcome. Our objectives for our coaches, teams, and players must align with our philosophy. All of the policies outlined throughout this handbook will be strictly enforced. The Athletic Director will handle disputes and exceptions case-by-case at his or her discretion.

Core Values

Word of God is the standard from which we acknowledge absolute Truth in developing all policies, programs, and services.

Achievement of excellence is our goal.

Rooted in Christ, we model a vibrant and dynamic personal relationship with Him.

Raising the bar to a much higher level than what society requires or values, we support and partner with parents, guardians, and their churches in training and instructing students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

Investing in the lives of others is our hallmark.

Ordinary is not in our vocabulary. Everyone is valued and uniquely created in the image of God.

Recognizing God's presence and power, we strive for integrity, honesty, and transparency in our lives.

Spirit-driven, we are called to serve others, give selflessly, and exemplify good stewardship to honor God and benefit others.

Vision Statement

Grounded in biblical truth and academic excellence, we teach, train, and mentor individuals for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

Mission Statement

Billings Christian School provides a Christ-centered education that develops critical thinking, clear communication, and faithful living.

Scripture Focus

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.
—Proverbs 22:6

At Billings Christian School, we believe that sports are a valuable part of raising a child in the way they should go. The practices and games are training arenas for not just the sport at hand but life in general. Christian character is the focal point for training. We value character development more than skill development. At the same time, we believe proficiency in sports is an integral part of the athletics equation.

We believe athletics is more than competition between two teams. It is an educational experience between the coach and the team through practice, competition, and person-to-person relationships. Participation in athletics contributes to good student development, good sportsmanship, and the development of God-given talents and abilities. We encourage our athletes to work hard, enjoy the sport, respect each other and their opponents, and uphold Christ in all they do.

Communication with Coaches/Staff

The athletic department uses TeamSnap for all intra-team scheduling and communication. Electronic communication between coaches/staff and athletes must only occur through TeamSnap or school email. Athletes cannot communicate with coaches/staff using their phones (voice or text messages) or email. Having all communication go through TeamSnap and school email provides consistency for our athletes and a level of privacy for coaches/staff. In addition, it allows BCS to verify that communication between coaches/staff and athletes is always appropriate.

Athletic Objectives

Attitude: Christ-like (Philippians 2:5)

- Compete in a manner pleasing to God.
- Learn to overcome adversity as well as celebrate the victory in a Godly manner.
- Develop good sportsmanship that will last beyond high school athletics.

Work Ethic: 100% at all times, as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23)

- Develop skills and relationships through athletics.
- Develop Godly character.

Humility: (Luke 14:11)

- Be a witness to our competitors
- Submit to those in authority over you

Definitions of Competitive Levels

Varsity: First high school team, typically grades 11 and 12 though 9 and 10 are eligible*

Junior Varsity (JV): Second high school team, typically grades 9 and 10 through 11 and 12 are eligible*

Junior High (JH): Grades 5 through 8 for boys/girls basketball, grades 5 through 8 for girls volleyball**

*High school coaches may call up 8th grade athletes to participate on Varsity and JV teams when necessary in order to field a full team. The AD reserves the right to define “when necessary.”

**Grade levels for each sport are determined by the league in which that sport participates. JH coaches may call up younger athletes when necessary in order to field a full team. The AD reserves the right to define “when necessary.”

Team Selection and Playing Time

For all high school sports, tryouts will be held over a period of at least two days. The purpose of tryouts is to determine initial team selections and placement. If there are more players than roster spots, players may be cut. Once a season has begun, coaches may move players between Varsity and JV teams at their discretion. Dates and times for tryouts must be published at least two weeks prior.

Varsity and JV coaches select members of their teams and determine playing time based on attitude, work ethic, character, and skill, not based on grade level.

Since JH sports focus on development, coaches are equitable in their decisions while rewarding attitude, work ethic, and character through team selection and playing time. If there are more players than roster spots, some players may be cut.

Travel

Participation in athletics will include playing away games at other schools. The school does not provide transportation to games. Athletes must make their own travel arrangements. For high school away-games that are outside of Yellowstone County, the school will, when able, make transportation available using school vehicles and coach/staff drivers to those athletes who are

unable to secure their own transportation.

When travel requires an overnight stay, the school will organize and pay for overnight accommodations for coaches and players. However, the school does not provide food and will not reimburse food expenses.

Road trips can be an enjoyable and exciting time for teams. However, there are responsibilities that go along with being a representative of Billings Christian School. Athletes are expected to represent BCS and Christ appropriately. Athletes are responsible as Christians, BCS representatives, and team members to ensure that their behavior corresponds with the expectations of each of those titles. If team members choose not to abide by the appropriate code of conduct, the consequences may be missing one or more games, removal from the team, suspension from school, or another means of discipline.

5th-8th Grade Practice

There will be NO required practice on Wednesdays after school for any sport to allow time for family and church activities. JH teams using the BCS gym after school on other days may practice until 4pm.

5th-8th Girls Basketball: Practices will begin during the last two weeks of summer. Once school starts, the remainder of practices will be during flex time at school. Parents will be responsible for getting players to games. A prompt pick-up is expected.

5th-8th Co-ed Cross Country: Practices will begin during the last two weeks of summer. Once school starts, the remainder of practices will be during flex time at school. Parents will be responsible for getting players to cross country meets. A prompt pick-up is expected.

5th-8th Boys Basketball: Practices will begin at the end of October or early November, during flex time at school. Parents will be responsible for getting players to games. A prompt pick-up is expected.

5th-8th Girls Volleyball: Practices will begin toward the end of January or early February, during flex time at school. Parents will be responsible for getting players to games. A prompt pick-up is expected.

5th-8th Co-ed Track and Field: Practices will begin toward the end of February or early March, during flex time at school. Parents will be responsible for getting players to track meets. A prompt pick-up is expected.

High School Practice

There will be NO required practice on Wednesdays after school for any sport to allow time for family and church activities. High school teams using the BCS gym may start practice as early as 4pm.

High School Girls Volleyball: Practices will begin a couple of weeks before the start of the school

year and are located at the school. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

High School Boys Soccer: Practices will begin a couple of weeks before the start of the school year and are located at the school or another BCS partner location. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

High School Co-ed Cross Country: Practices will begin a couple of weeks before the start of the school year and are located at the school or another BCS partner location. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

High School Boys/Girls Basketball: Practices will begin at the end of October or the beginning of November. Practices will be before or after school and may be held at school or another BCS partner location. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

High School Co-ed Track and Field: Practices will begin toward the end of February or early March and are located at the school or another BCS partner location. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

High School Golf: Practices will begin toward the end of February or early March and are located at Peter Yegen Golf Course. A prompt pick-up at the end of practice is expected.

Required Forms

All athletes must have **payment, a signed student athlete handbook, sports physical, emergency consent form, concussion statement, liability waiver, and medical release form** completed before participating in the first day of practice. The sports physical must be completed and certified by a physician, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner. These forms will be kept on file with the office for a period of one or two school years and are valid for all activities during that time frame. Parents and players are responsible to complete the necessary forms in the Facts family portal under Web Forms before practice begins.

Athletic Fees

The athletic fee for high school athletes for each sport is \$380 (with the exception of cross country and track and field which is \$230 per athlete). The fee for junior high athletes for each sport is \$275 (with the exception of cross country and track and field which is \$150 per athlete). A payment form link for each sport will be made available on the school's website and in the school newsletter before the start of that sport's season. Students interested in athletic participation must complete this form to be added to the team roster and to participate in official season practices. The payment forms will collect the payment and information necessary for participation and communication. Athletic fees cover the cost of equipment, facilities, coaches, referees, uniforms, and overnight accommodations when necessary for high school teams.

Athletic fees are 50% refundable up to the first game in the form of a credit to your FACTS account. Fees are non-refundable after the first game. Families will be charged for any unreturned uniforms. Costs vary depending on the purchase price of the unreturned uniforms.

Athletes may be required to volunteer during their off-season to help other sports with concessions, scorekeeping, etc.

Transfer Students

High school transfer students are limited to a maximum of 4 years of eligibility. Transfer students are allowed to participate in athletics beginning their first semester at BCS unless otherwise notified.

Absences

Any athlete who is **unexcused** from practice may miss the next game. The coach and AD will discuss the consequences. This applies to all managers and players. Unexcused absences include any absence from which the **coach was not informed in advance** unless a student is absent from school. Work is not a reason for missing practice and will be considered unexcused. **On game day, athletes must attend each class in order to be eligible to compete in the game. Friday attendance applies to weekend games. Any extenuating circumstances (i.e., doctor appointment) must be cleared through the Athletic Director.**

Academic Eligibility

Academic Eligibility: Athletes will be ineligible if they have an “F” in any class or two or more “D’s.” Grades will be evaluated on a weekly basis during each season. A grace period will be extended during the first two weeks of any new academic quarter/term. If a student fails to raise their grades to eligible status by the next grade evaluation following the initial two-week grace period, they will be ineligible for athletic participation the next week. There will be a two-week grade carryover for eligibility from one quarter to the next, including one school year to the next. This will exclude athletes from two weeks of games if they are ineligible from one school year to the next. Ineligible high school athletes are required to attend all practices and home games. They may not participate in games or travel with the team to away games. Ineligible middle school students are not required to attend practice or games per parents’ discretion.

Pre-participation Clearance:

All athletes must have payment, a student athlete handbook acknowledgement form, a sports physical, emergency consent form, concussion statement, liability waiver, and medical release form

completed before participating in the first day of practice.

Required Practices:

Athletes must complete five contact days before they are eligible to compete. This means they must participate in at least one practice on five separate days before they can play in a game.

Absences:

Coaches may suspend from participation in the next game any athlete who is unexcused from practice. Unexcused absences include any absence from which the coach was not informed in advance unless a student is absent from school. Work is not a reason for missing practice and will be considered unexcused. On game day, athletes must attend each class in order to be eligible to compete in the game. Friday attendance applies to weekend games. Any extenuating circumstances (i.e., doctor appointment) must be cleared through the Athletic Director.

Affiliations

Billings Christian School is affiliated with the Montana Christian Athletics Association (MCAA) and not regulated by the Montana High School Athletics Association (MHSA) but does play in accordance with the rules established by the MHSA. The middle school and elementary teams participate in the Yellowstone County Schools Association.

After reading, sign acknowledgement of the Student Athlete Handbook in WebForms.