



VERDE CHRISTIAN **ACADEMY**

Parent-Student **Athletic Handbook** **2026/2027**

I. Philosophy and Purpose

Dear VCA Parents and Athletes,

Athletics at VCA/VCHS are an extension of the classroom. Participation is a privilege meant to build character, leadership, and confidence while reflecting honor to God, families, and the school.

Verde Christian Academy Athletic Department

II. VCA Code of Conduct for Coaches

Core expectations:

- **Christ-like Conduct:** Coaches must act in a Christ-like manner at all times, demonstrating trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and grace.
- **Role Modeling:** They are expected to teach and strictly enforce sportsmanship, fair play, and proper behavior by setting a strong personal example during both practices and games.
- **Respect for the Game:** Coaches must treat all opponents, officials, and spectators with respect, avoiding foul language or improper behavior.

The Six Pillars of Character (as applied to Leadership)

- **Trustworthiness:** Being completely worthy of trust in all administrative and coaching actions.
- **Respect:** Treating student-athletes, families, and officials with dignity while requiring student-athletes to do the same.
- **Responsibility:** Taking ownership of team preparation, keeping student safety at the forefront, and prioritizing the academic eligibility of the players.
- **Fairness:** Adhering strictly to standard league rules (such as the Canyon Athletic Association) and maintaining open-mindedness.
- **Caring:** Consistently demonstrating concern for student-athletes as individuals and fostering a unified team environment.
- **Citizenship:** Honoring both the letter and the spirit of the game, respecting authority, and avoiding improper gamesmanship.

Note on Accountability: Per school policy, athletics are viewed as a public representation of God and the school. If a student-athlete or parent feels a coach is violating these foundational attributes, they are instructed to report the information directly to the school Administrator.

III. Rules and Regulations for VCA Athletes

1. Abide by all school, district, and league rules.
2. The athlete's first responsibility is to spiritual formation and academics. These processes should not be compromised by participation in a sport. A student's grades and behavior will be a factor for eligibility.

Eligibility

- a. Students having (1) or more failing grades and/or (2) or more grades of D in any core curriculum class during subsequent eligibility grade checks will be deemed ineligible to participate until the next eligibility grade check, Every Tuesday. The offending student will be placed on a temporary suspension from the team and will be unable to participate in gameplay until passing grades are restored. They will need to attend at least two study hall sessions. (player on this status may still attend practice)
- b. Any athlete deemed ineligible for two eligibility periods shall be removed from the team.
- c. Severe misbehaviors at school/practice or at games will be reviewed by the school administration and the athlete may be subject to dismissal from the team or game suspensions.

CITIZENSHIP - Honor the spirit and the letter of rules. Teach your children to avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

- Focus on cheering **for VCA/VCHS** rather than against opponents.
- Do not yell or disrespect officials. They are human and will make mistakes.
- Let the coaches do the coaching. Avoid directing technical instruction or critique from the sidelines or bleachers.
- If you are asked to leave you will not be able to attend the next game and will have to take a sportsmanship class.
- If it happens a second time you will be banned from attending games for the the rest of the year.

V. **Tryout Information**

Pre-Tryout Orientation Meeting

In an effort to avoid future problems, it is important for the coach to clearly communicate the responsibilities and demands of being a member of the team. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to conduct an orientation meeting before the tryout process begins.

Invite all interested students and their parents to the meeting - you may even consider making this a mandatory part of the tryout process. Inviting the parents will ensure that they know the time and financial commitment their child will be making if selected for the team. If you choose not to invite parents, you should, at the very least, provide candidates with informative handouts that can be taken home for parents to review.

Be up front and honest with information that pertains to being on the team. Tryouts can be difficult for all involved. ***Please keep documentation, skills, and ratings, in the unlikely event that you are challenged.***

Tryout Process

Introduce and preview the tryout requirements and process. Give specific information regarding practices, forms to be turned in, dates(s), time and location of tryouts and the number that will be selected for each team. Discuss and review all rules and regulations governing the team. Make sure everyone knows the expected behavior of a member of the team and what the consequences will be if expectations are not met. Be sure to include academic requirements.

Time Commitment

Make candidates aware of the length of the season, practice schedules and the time involved in preparing for competition (if this applies). You may wish to hand out a preliminary calendar of events that includes estimates of practice time, camp dates, and game commitments.

Tryouts

Make sure to set an agenda for the day of the tryout. First Aid should be ready for any emergencies that may arise. Always make sure water is readily available at any time.

Please remember to select 2 managers. One will need to adeptly learn how to keep the scorebook. The other manager will run the scoreboard.

Do not have parents of students trying out help you select the team. Only parents cleared as a volunteer through the district may help you after the teams have been selected. You, after all, are the one who is ultimately responsible! Lists of students who make the team are to be posted privately in student's Email no earlier than 7:45 am on selection day. Instruct students to look there to see if they have made the team. (AD can post for you if you get the list to her.)

VI. **Complaint Procedures:**

There shall be no hazing, solicitation to engage in hazing, or aiding and abetting another who is engaged in hazing of any person enrolled, accepted for or promoted to enrollment, or intending to enroll or be promoted to VCA within twelve (12) calendar months. For purposes of this policy a person as specified above shall be considered a "student" until graduation, transfer, promotion or withdrawal from the district school.

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student, and in which both of the following apply:

- The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with an education institution.
- The act contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation, or causes physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation.

"Organization" means an athletic team, association, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, or similar group that is affiliated with an educational institution and whose membership consists primarily of students enrolled at that educational institution. It is no defense to a violation of this policy if the victim consented or acquiesced to hazing.

In accord with statute, violations of this policy do not include either of the following:

- Customary athletic events, contests or competitions that are sponsored by an educational institution.
- Any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, a legitimate extracurricular program, or a legitimate military training program.

All students, teachers and staff shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this policy. Students and others may report hazing to any professional staff member. Professional staff members must report the incident to the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor, in writing, with such details as may have been provided. A failure by a staff member to timely inform the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor of a hazing allegation or their observation of an incident of hazing may subject the staff member to disciplinary action in accordance with VCA policies. The staff member shall preserve the confidentiality of those involved, disclosing the incident only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law. Any instance of reported or observed hazing which includes possible child abuse or violations of statutes known to the staff member shall be treated in accordance with statutory requirements and be reported to a law enforcement agency.

To assure that students and staff are aware of its content and intent, a notice of this policy and procedure shall be posted conspicuously in each school building and shall be made a part of the rights and responsibilities section of the student handbook. Forms for submitting complaints are to be available to students and staff in the school offices. Disposition of all reports/complaints shall be reported to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will determine if the policies of the District have been appropriately implemented and will make such reports and/or referrals to the Board as may be necessary.

All violations of this policy shall be treated in accord with the appropriate procedures and penalties provided for in District policies related to the conduct and discipline of students, staff, and others.

XII. Game Schedules and Directions to Away Games

All Game Schedules will be distributed no later than 2 weeks from the first game or match.

Each Event will specify its status as home or away, the address of the event, and the start time.

Away games will also include the commuting time and early dismissal time for families wishing to travel to games.

Verde Christian Academy
CONSENT FOR EMERGENCY CARE & PARENT RELEASE

STUDENT _____ DOB _____
GRADE _____ TEACHER _____ DATE _____
INSURANCE COMPANY _____ INSURANCE POLICY # _____

BE IT KNOWN that I, the undersigned or guardian of the student above named, do hereby give and grant unto any medical doctor or hospital my consent and authorization to render such aid, treatment or care to said student as in the judgment of said doctor or hospital, may be required, on an emergency basis, in the event said student should be injured or stricken ill while participating on a Verde Christian Academy team in an interscholastic activity.

IT IS HEREBY understood that the consent and authorization hereby given and granted are continuing and are intended by me to extend throughout my child's education at VCA.

IT IS FURTHER understood that any expense incurred will be paid for by insurance or the parent/guardian of the student. ***Payment of the expense is not a school responsibility.***

EMERGENCY CARE: If emergency service involving medical action or treatment is required and neither the parents nor guardians can be contacted, I hereby consent for the student named above to be given medical care by the doctor selected by the school.

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Main Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
Father's Work Phone _____ Mother's Work Phone _____
Father's Email _____ Mother's Email _____

I AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO PICK UP MY CHILD FROM PRACTICE & MEETS:

Friend/Relative _____ Phone _____
Friend/Relative _____ Phone _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: If parent/guardian is not immediately available, contact:

Friend/Relative _____ Phone _____
Friend/Relative _____ Phone _____
Family Physician _____ Phone _____
Hospital _____
MEDICAL ALERTS _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN DATE