



Yellowstone County Christian Homeschool Athletic League Participation Handbook

Yellowstone County Christian Homeschool Athletic League (YCCHAL) exists to provide homeschool students in the Billings, Montana area a Christian approach to athletics by demonstrating and encouraging Christ-like character both on and off the field of competition while promoting sportsmanship, fellowship, physical fitness, and healthy competition. YCCHAL will encourage open prayer at practice and games. Scripture memory and other scriptural character building practices will be encouraged in all aspects of our program.

Statement of Faith:

We believe in and unqualifiedly affirm: 1) The inspiration of the Bible, equally in all parts and without error in its origin; 2) The One God, eternal existent Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who created man by direct immediate act; 3) The pre-existence, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutional death, bodily resurrection, ascension to heaven, and second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; 4) The fall of man, the need of regeneration by the operation of the Holy Spirit on the basis of grace through faith and the resurrection of all to life or damnation; and 5) The spiritual relationship of all believers by the Lord Jesus Christ, Living a life of righteous works, separated from the world, witnessing of His saving grace through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Code of Conduct for Athletes, Parents, and Coaches:

Members of YCCHAL agree to treat athletes, parents, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans with respect at all times. Our goal is to reflect well on YCCHAL and on the Lord we serve by being positive, encouraging, and supportive.

The following are not allowed and could result in dismissal from practices, games, or the league:

Swearing, inappropriate clothing, athlete drug or alcohol use, violence, racial jokes, pushing, hitting, punching or any use of violence, unwanted physical contact or sexual comments, name calling, threatening, picking on, arguing with officials, etc.

When traveling: no members of the opposite sex are allowed in a team member's room without parent supervision.

Swimwear is to be modest. Dress is to reflect well on the League. Our code of conduct applies to the duration of the trip, not just during games.

Player Eligibility:

Student athletes are allowed to participate in the YCCHAL at the High School level for four consecutive (4) years.

Athlete must be actively participating in a home education program under the direction of their parent or guardian.

No athlete is eligible to participate who has received a GED or has gone through a graduation ceremony.

Athlete must be 18 years old or younger on August 31 of the school year.

Eighth (8th) grade athletes can be granted an extension of a fifth year of participation at the JV or Varsity level. The Executive Council of the YCCHAL and the Board of Directors of the MCAA must be informed in writing of such participation.

Seventh (7th) grade athletes are allowed to participate in YCCHAL at the Varsity level only when the total athlete participation is below the following: Soccer - 18; Volleyball - 12; Basketball - 10, without losing a year of eligibility. The Executive Council of the YCCHAL and the Board of Directors of the MCAA must be informed in writing of such participation.

Seventh (7th) grade student athletes are allowed to participate in YCCHAL at a Junior Varsity level without losing a year of eligibility. The Executive Council of the YCCHAL and the Board of Directors of the MCAA must be informed in writing of such participation.

Existing MCAA member schools without enough students to participate in the current sport may combine with another church school/association, but only with MCAA Board approval.

If there is an excessive number of players signed up to play a sport, the coach will determine the maximum number needed. Tryouts, or other skill level assessment, will be used to determine team members.

YCCHAL General Release of Liability

By participating in YCCHAL activities, you and your student hereby release, discharge and agree not to sue Yellowstone County Christian Homeschool Athletic League (YCCHAL) and the organization's directors, officers, agents, servants, associations, teams, affiliates, employees, coaches, volunteers or any person or entity connected with YCCHAL for any claim, damages, costs or cause of action that you or your student has or may have in the future as a result of injuries or damages sustained or incurred by the participant from whatever cause including but not limited to participation in any YCCHAL sports activities.

YCCHAL Medical Policy

By having your student participate in YCCHAL activities, you are affirmatively stating that your child is in good health and proper physical condition to participate in the sport. YCCHAL recommends that you consult with your medical provider and/or obtain a sports physical prior to participation.

Parent Responsibilities:

All families are required to help with game day duties such as keeping the book, score clock, line judge, concessions, taking stats, clean-up, and set-up. You must sign up for duties (or be assigned) before uniforms are distributed. Arrive at least 30 minutes before the game starts. If you are unable to fulfill your duty, it is your responsibility to find another parent to trade jobs with.

Team Parent Responsibilities:

- Help distribute uniforms
- Oversee parent duties
- Pay referees at games
- Organize team building/ service projects (approved by coach and AD)
- Help organize Senior Night in conjunction with coach, AD, and parents (high school)
- Collect uniforms right after the last game
- Wash and check-in uniforms (make sure you have them all)
- Awards party- communicate plans, help set up, gather any missing uniforms, collect and present coach gifts.

Coaching Staff:

Coaches and assistant coaches may be recruited by the Board, parents or other interested parties. The coaching staff for each sport for each season will be reviewed and approved by the Board. Head coaches will be allowed to determine their assistants with Board approval. The Board may require statements of faith, resumes, or letters of recommendation.

Compensation is one athlete fee for elementary and junior high head coaches. Compensation for head high school coaches is a \$500 stipend plus mileage & hotel costs.

Coaches are encouraged to:

- Have athletes memorize scripture, have devotions, pray together, and emphasize Christian character.
- Seek training in First Aid and concussion identification and care.
- Protect themselves by never being alone with an athlete (except in an emergency situation).

Communication:

Communication is vital between coaches, players, parents, the athletic director, and the board of directors. Please assume the best in all circumstances and remember to extend Grace, as Grace has been freely given to us. Conflicts are to be resolved in a timely manner; do not wait until the end of the season to issue a complaint. If an issue needs to be addressed, use the following conflict resolution plan, based on Matthew 18:15-16:

1. Before going to the person, I will take some time to check my own motives, intentions, and behavior, taking responsibility for any wrong I might have done and asking God to take the log out of my eye before trying to take the speck out of my brother's eye. ~ Matthew 7:4
2. I will contact the person at an appropriate time to discuss the matter directly. I will not contact a coach right before, during, or after a game. I will not disrupt a practice in order to discuss a complaint.
3. If the problem is not resolved, I will tell the person that a third party needs to be involved, and then contact the athletic director, or a member of the Executive Council to arrange a meeting with the person present.
4. If these steps have not resolved the problem, and I wish to seek formal resolution from the Executive Council, I will submit a signed, written complaint to the Executive Council.

Lettering:

At a minimum, athletes must compete in 4 or more Varsity level games. Coaches can add additional requirements for lettering. It will be the coach's responsibility to clearly communicate additions to the team.

Music:

All music played at YCCHAL games and/or practices is subject to board review and approval. While the preference is for Christian music to be played, secular music is allowed, provided that it does not have inappropriate language or subject matter such as cursing (even if it is "bleeped" out); lyrics with derogatory or slang words for any race, gender, etc. or music that objectify men or women; lyrics which discuss gambling, violence, drug or alcohol abuse, etc.

Equipment and uniforms:

Equipment and uniforms are the property of YCCHAL. You will be charged for lost or unreasonable damage to the uniform. Return your athlete's full uniform promptly at the end of the season.

Traveling Teams/Outside Tournaments:

Outside experience and tournaments are encouraged for all players. Use of league equipment or uniforms will be considered on a case by case basis. General considerations are that the majority of the players are active in YCCHAL, the games or tournaments do not interfere with the YCCHAL scheduled games, practices or season, and the team agrees to present Christian character. Uniforms and equipment may be recalled at any time should the League decide that the team or its coach is not within the guidelines required.

Philosophy of Play:

In the 5th/6th grade, play time should be equal between all players. This level is for developmental purposes.

In the 7th/8th grade, the level of competition increases as does the level of play. However, all athletes need game time to be developed. So, please think beyond this year's season as you develop players.

In the Junior Varsity program, the level of competition increases dramatically. Playing time is still important to each player to prepare them for the Varsity level.

In the Varsity program, the goal is to win games, earn a good seed for tournament, and ultimately win the MCAA State Tournament, while still conducting ourselves in Christ's likeness and with good sportsmanship. Coaches are to make a conscious effort to play all team members for a portion of each match of competition. If the athlete feels their playing time needs to be adjusted, it is the player's responsibility to individually approach the coach and ask what they can do to increase their playing time while remembering to be coachable.

Donations and Fundraising:

YCCHAL is a 501c (3) Tax Deductible Charity. Our EIN is 31-1588760. Fundraising is optional but greatly appreciated. Donations and fundraising proceeds can be directed to the benefit of the general league, a specific team, a project or to scholarship a specific athlete. YCCHAL is greatly blessed by our corporate & family donors. Thank you!

End of Year League Meeting:

Because we are a parent-led league, each family needs to make every effort to participate in the board elections and recap of the year in April or May. Board responsibilities are for a 1 year term. All parents are encouraged to pray about how God would use them to grow and serve this league. Any member of YCCHAL is welcome to run for a board position at the year-end meeting.

YCCHAL Board Member Contact:

- President: president@ycchal.org
- Vice President: vicepresident@ycchal.org
- Secretary: secretary@ycchal.org
- Treasurer: treasurer@ycchal.org
- Member at Large: memberatlarge@ycchal.org
- Athletic Director: ad@ycchal.org

YCCHAL Website: <http://www.ycchal.org/>

Thank you League Families for your service & participation...for future **Knights** to come!