

Timothy Christian Schools

Philosophy and Objectives of Athletics

The following statement of philosophy and the objectives of participation are basic to the athletic program of Timothy Christian Schools. They are given here to place athletics in the proper perspective in our school.

Philosophy

It is the philosophy of Timothy Christian Schools that all aspects of Christian education, including interscholastic athletics, must fulfill its mission - "to develop academically prepared Christian disciples who embrace Christ's call to transform the world." Timothy Christian is committed to providing a God-centered education. As such, Timothy expects its coaches and athletes to pursue the goal of excellence with Christ-like character¹. Consistent with this goal, Timothy Christian seeks to develop the entire student, as it believes that successful Christian education results in the development of a balanced lifestyle in the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions of a student's total being².

We believe athletics is more than competition between two teams of individuals representing different schools; 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 character development, good sportsmanship and the development of God-given talents and abilities. We expect our athletes and coaches to work hard, enjoy the sport, respect each other and their opponents and honor Christ in all they do.

Our athletic program provides a means to teach young people how to compete and grow in the context of a Christian worldview. Our teams must participate in such a way that honor comes to the team, the school and the Lord. Timothy Christian School athletes and coaches must play fairly, observe regulations and policies, treat others with courtesy and respect, and accept adversity without complaining. Timothy Christian is committed to developing a perspective on winning and losing that is consistent with the teachings of scripture³. We require our coaches and athletes to dedicate themselves to this goal. Our challenge is to be in contrast to a sports world that all too often emphasizes winning at any cost. Winning should be one of our goals, but we recognize that losing can present a beneficial learning experience. To this end, Timothy Christian strives for **Excellence with Christ-like Character** in all athletic endeavors.

Excellence places emphasis on:

- Education: participants will develop an understanding of the game, including strategy, rules, and fundamentals.
- Development: participants will develop their gifts, abilities, and skills in order to maximize their potential as individuals and as a team.
- Competition: participants will work hard and compete intensely to achieve victory, while recognizing that success will not be defined exclusively by winning.

Christ-like Character places emphasis on:

- Sportsmanship: participants will respect their teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials and will bring honor to their school and the Lord through their actions and attitudes.
- Perspective: participants will understand and experience the enjoyment of athletics within the context of a balanced lifestyle that seeks to reflect the wholeness to which our Lord calls us.
- Discipleship: participants will benefit from the Christian mentoring of their coach, and engage in practices that will promote their spiritual growth.

Objectives

The objectives we have for our coaches, teams and players are consistent with our philosophy.

1. To keep the well-being of the team and the individual as the priority in what we do and teach in our coaching. Coaching provides a unique opportunity to work with students. Few jobs provide the satisfaction derived from playing a part in the development of young people.
2. To develop within our athletes the individual and team skills necessary to compete successfully and reach their God-given potential recognizing that athletic ability is a gift from God and should be used to His honor.
3. To encourage and instill an atmosphere where all players feel included and a valuable part of the program. The goal is to play as many athletes as possible without diluting the objective of winning the contest.
4. To teach our athletes to compete with a humble attitude, thanking God for all good things, and to win or lose with a heart that praises God for the opportunity to participate and learn from the experience.
5. To teach our athletes to submit to the rules of the game and the officials who enforce the regulations. The goal is to win, but only in an appropriate manner.
6. To treat each opponent as being worthy of respect.
7. To emphasize that “sportsmanship” is more important than “championship”. How we win or lose must be consistent with the name we wear.
8. To provide the Timothy Christian School community with the enjoyment of athletics while they in turn encourage and support the students and coaches in both winning and losing efforts.
9. To experience respect and cooperation between all coaches within our school.
10. To teach each athlete that through caring, sharing, dedication and mutual respect, all participants contribute to a group that is greater than the sum of its parts. The goal is to build community and teamwork.
11. To understand the importance of maintaining a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Coaches and students have other tasks in life besides athletics; the demands on their time, energy and enthusiasm must be reasonable.
12. To help all participants experience the satisfaction of knowing they did their best to become the best they are capable of becoming.

¹ “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:6

² “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.” Luke 2:52

³ “The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” I Timothy 1:5