Handbook for Parents
Updated 5.2025

WELCOME PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS!

Thank you for choosing the Western Christian School for your child's youth sports experience! Our goal is for all youth sports participants, both parents and children, to have an enjoyable experience.

Skill development is the main component of all WCS Youth Sports. A fun and friendly environment is characteristic of all WCS Youth Sports programs.

Our program is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer coaches. They put in many hours of work to make the league a success, investing their time and energy into the lives of young people in our community. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact your WCS youth sports director.

We hope you will take an active role in your child's experience this season. Please support your child by participating with him/her during the practices and games. Time spent with your child at home developing sports skills builds confidence and strengthens parent-child relationships. We look forward to serving you and your child in our youth sports program.

Jacqi Clem, *Youth Sports Director (volleyball, basketball & soccer)*
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Mission: We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect for sports and instill good sportsmanship and Christian character among teammates and others. We believe that all players should be able to develop their skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WCS YOUTH SPORTS

1: Everyone Plays
Our goal at this age level is to build a love for the sport and learn the basics and fundamentals for the sports program.

2: Safety First
Although some children may get hurt playing sports, we do all we can to prevent injuries. We rely on parents to supervise their players and stop any unsafe activities.

3: Fair Play
Fair play is about more than playing by the rules. It's about other players showing respect for everyone involved in youth sports. It's about being a role model of good sportsmanship and guiding your players to do the same. We're more interested in developing children's character through sports than in developing a few highly skilled players.

4: Positive Competition
We believe competition is positive when the pursuit of victory is kept in the right perspective. Winning isn't everything. Learning to compete is important for children, and learning to cooperate in a competitive world is an essential life skill. The "right perspective" means adults make decisions that put the best interests of the children above winning the game. These are the lessons we want to teach through youth sports.

5: Family Involvement
We encourage parents to be involved appropriately along with their child. In addition to parents being helpful as volunteer coaches, officials, and timekeepers, we encourage them to be at practices and games to support their child's participation.

6: Sports for All
We strive to make this an inclusive sports program. That means that children with different abilities and skill levels are included in participation.

7: Sports for Fun
Sports are naturally fun for most children. They love the challenge of mastering the skills of the game, playing with their friends, and competing with their peers. As parents, we all have a role to play in keeping the focus on having fun and providing a positive, supportive environment.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Uniforms

Athletic or sport-appropriate shoes and shorts and/or sweats should be worn at practices and games.

Soccer - Players should bring water in spill-proof, non-breakable containers. We require shin guards to be worn at all practices and games. Optional equipment is their own ball and cleats (no metal cleats.) All levels use a size 4 ball.

Volleyball - Players should bring water in spill-proof, non-breakable containers. We recommend that they wear knee pads. Optional equipment is their own ball. Grades 3-6 use a Volley Lite. All borrowed items will require a cash or check deposit that will be held to ensure gear is not lost and returned at the end of the season (Jersey $50 deposit). Deposit will be returned at the end of the season when borrowed items are returned.

Basketball - Each player will receive their team jersey/shirt before the first game of the season to be **borrowed** throughout the entire season. All borrowed items must be returned within two weeks of the final game of the season. If not returned or returned in poor condition, your FACTS account will be charged $50.00.

Players should bring water in a spill-proof, non-breakable container. Optional equipment is their own ball. All age levels both boys and girls use a 28.5-inch intermediate.

Team Formation

We try to meet every player, coach and practice request when creating teams, however, that is not always possible. To create complete teams, teams might be co-ed or merged with a grade level, resulting in playing at a higher grader level. In cases where we are not able to meet a request, we will do our best to find a team that will be a good fit.

Practices and Games

Each team has two practices a week . Games will be determined by the game schedule but are typically held on Saturday at the location determined by the game schedule you receive at the beginning of the season. Practice and game schedules will be sent at the beginning of the season.
Practices held during non-school days (i.e Spring Break, Thanksgiving Break, etc.) may be held but attendance must be optional and court/field time should not be affected.

Game Locations

Teams will have games at locations other than WCS. All soccer games will be at Joe Dancer Park in Mcminnville. We limit travel as much as possible and make it fair for all teams in the league. In order to create full leagues and allow all kids the opportunity to play, some travel will be required.

Coaches

All coaches at WCS Youth Sports participate on a volunteer basis. They must complete volunteer training and are subject to a criminal background check. We do not take your

children's safety lightly and take steps to ensure that our youth sports programs provide a safe environment. (If you are interested in learning more about becoming a coach for the WCYS, please let your youth sports director know! Coaches attend a pre-season coach's meeting where they receive information they need.) On the first day of practice, coaches are introduced to parents and players and they provide their contact information.

Instructional Sports

Our leagues are instructional in nature to help children learn a new activity or build upon previous skills. The emphasis is on skill development and enjoyment.

Cancellations

Sometimes it is necessary for practices/games to be canceled due to inclement weather or scheduling conflicts. WCS youth sports directors are responsible for making these decisions, and will do so in a timely fashion via text and emails to coaches and parents. We will make every effort to schedule make-up games but they are not guaranteed due to possible time and field constraints.

Youth Sports Cancellation Policy/Refunds

We hope you do not have to cancel, but if you do, please know our policy: ● Cancellations made prior to the registration deadline will receive 100% refund ● Cancellations received after the registration deadline will be subject to a $15 fee ● No refunds will be issued for cancellations after the second scheduled game

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent's Responsibilities and Expectations

WCS Youth Sports requires the parent/guardian that signs a participant up for volleyball and basketball to commit to a minimal level of **volunteer time.** Volunteer options will include: cleaning up after the games, score keeper, operating the game clock, reffing, selling concessions, organizing uniforms, etc. Please attend the meeting to sign-up, as well as learn more about the agreement. In order to make this program a success, we need HELP and we thank you for your understanding. If you are unable to volunteer, a fee will be added to your child's account.

Team Communication

As a registered participant in WCS Youth Sports, you will be required to join the Remind App. Coaches and Sports Directors will communicate with teams solely through the app. Coaches will post team game schedules, updates about any practice or game changes (time, date, location), and monitor messages by team families and respond within a few days.

Parent Code of Conduct

WCS has implemented a Zero Tolerance policy throughout our sports programs. Sportsmanlike behavior is expected from all coaches, players, and spectators at all times. If an individual is asked to stop their unsportsmanlike conduct and they fail to comply, they will be asked to leave the facility. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to: intimidating officials, players, and/or coaches, arguing, taunting, swearing, pushing, and fighting.

As a WCS parent, we ask that you:

- Have your child participate in as many practices and games as possible. ● Provide proper supervision for all of the children brought to practices and games. Parents are expected to be present at all practices and games, unless previously arranged with the coach. You must make contact with the coach when picking your children up from practice.
- Unless clearly communicated and agreed up by both parties, parents are responsible for walking their child to the practice location. Older siblings are not permitted to be 'incharge' of siblings. Please make proper arrangements with an adult.
- Be a positive role model for your child and the other players on his/her team. ● Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of the players ahead of your personal desire to win.
- Ask your child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect. ● Do not coach your child, or other children, during games if you are not an official coach.
- Keep off of the playing field/court at all times, unless specifically told otherwise by an official or coach.
- Do not taunt, heckle, argue with any coach, official, or opposing player during the course of your child's games/practices.

Player Behavior

Any player who does not follow the league rules, referee calls, or coaches' direction may be disciplined by missing an opportunity to play, or may be asked to leave the game and go sit with their parents. Recurring situations will be addressed by the WCS Youth Sports Director.

- The head coach or WCS staff will first talk to parents of the child, with the child present, to warn them of the possible results of such behavior.
- If the coaching staff are not getting the proper response from the player, then the matter will be referred to a WCS Administrator.
  - If the behavior continues or if parents are not willing to participate in assisting the coach with behavior management, the player may not be allowed to return.

This rule is to help control games and practices better, keep children who are not paying attention from getting hurt, and to give coaches the ability to coach the whole team with sportsmanlike attitudes.

REMEMBER: OUR COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS.

In the event a child physically abuses another person at any point in time, immediate action will be taken:

1. The parents should be asked to immediately remove their child from the practice or game for safety reasons. The closest Youth Sports staff should be notified asap. 2. The WCS Administrator will meet with the families involved and facilitate further actions before the player is allowed to return.

> *14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*
>
> ***Philippians 2:14-16***

Thank you for choosing WCS Youth Sports!

If you have questions, please contact the WCS Youth Sports Director:
youthsports@wcspioneers.org

WHAT IT MEANS TO PUT ON A PIONEER JERSEY

Participating in athletics at Western Christian School is a privilege. The moment you put on a Pioneer jersey, you are representing much more than just yourself. Your **words, actions**, and **attitudes** make statements about your team, coaching staff, school, and the name of Christ.

ATHLETES:

● I have read through, understand and agree to abide by the WC Youth Sports Handbook. ● I understand the privilege of wearing a Pioneer uniform and willingly accept the expectations and heightened scrutiny that come with it.

● I agree to be held accountable for my words and actions (on or off the court/field) by my teammates, coaches, and WCS staff.

● I commit to avoiding conduct that is detrimental to myself or my teammates. ● I understand that if my name is consistently mentioned in the context of conduct unbecoming of this program and WCS, it may affect my playing time and/or standing on the team. The burden of proof is not on those in authority over me to prove what I did or didn't do. The burden and responsibility is on ME to avoid situations where I can be associated with those things.

● I will strive to be a positive leader and good example in school.

● I will speak positively of coaches, players, and fans but if I do have a disagreement, I will go through the proper channels to address the issue.

PARENTS:

● I have read through and understand the WC Youth Sports Handbook. ● I have read through and understand my expectations as a parent as set forth in the ***Parent's Responsibilities and Expectations*** section of the Handbook.

● I will strive for unity as a faithful supporter of WCS Athletics.

● I will model sportsmanship and Christ-honoring behavior at events and encourage others to do the same.

● I will partner with the coaching staff in challenging my child to reach their fullest potential on and off the court/field as a Pioneer athlete.

● I will speak positively of coaches, players and fans but if I do have a disagreement, I will go through the proper channels to address the issue.

I/we certify that I/we have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in the Athlete-Parent Handbook. I further acknowledge that if I/we have not understood any information contained in this handbook, I/we have sought and received an explanation of the information prior to signing this statement.

_____ _____ Parent/ Guardian's Signature

Date signed

_____ _____ Student-Athlete's Signature

Date signed

This form must be completed by the parent/guardian and student-athlete and submitted to the Athletic Director prior to participation in sport.