

# WARE ACADEMY

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



WAIVES

## Athletic Philosophy

The purpose of the Ware Academy athletic program is to provide an opportunity for our student-athletes to participate and share in a positive environment of spirited competition. Our goal is to instill basic values that build character, self-discipline, and self-esteem as an individual and member of a team through the involvement in an interscholastic athletic program.

## Expectations

To be successful, everyone needs to know and understand the goals and objectives. At Ware Academy, we provide a student-athlete handbook to help share our desires and goals for our students and athletic community. We have outlined the purpose of our program and expectations for everyone involved; student-athletes, coaches, parents and spectators. Athletics is a venue for teaching and reinforcing solid values and character. Our goal is to give every student an opportunity to succeed.

Success is not measured in how many wins and losses or by goals or points. Success is measured by hard work, honesty, teamwork, sportsmanship and character. All individuals are unique and possess a particular skill and talent. Those who optimize these assets, seizing the opportunities to participate, are the ones who succeed.

## Athletic Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Ware Academy athletic program are to assist our students towards becoming more effective citizens through the following learning opportunities.

- a) Cooperation - Develop the importance of teamwork  
i.e. self-discipline, respect for others, the spirit of hard work and sacrifice, pride, loyalty, trust, perseverance and commitment.
- b) To develop a desire to excel.
- c) Sportsmanship - To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best and we must treat others, as we would have others treat us.

- d) Improvement - Continual improvement is an essential component of good citizenship. As an athlete, one must establish goals and constantly work towards achieving that goal, improving in the skills and knowledge and those personal traits that enhance the success of the team.
- e) Success - We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. One can learn to accept defeat by striving to win with earnest dedication.
- f) Fitness - To develop desirable personal health habits for lifetime fitness.
- g) Leadership - To develop leadership skills and enhance communication with coaches and teammates.
- h) Fulfillment - To develop the acknowledgement of all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics and for students to give sufficiently of themselves in order to persevere.

## Sportsmanship

Ware Academy prides itself on consistently displaying positive sportsmanship and providing a good-natured environment for athletic competition. The athletic program at Ware Academy encourages all coaches, players, parents and spectators to observe the following at each athletic event

Everyone has a role, do yours and yours only.

Let the players play.

Let the coaches coach.

Let the officials officiate.

Let the fans cheer with positive encouragement.

## Requirements for Participation

### 1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A yearly physical examination is required. The examination covers all sports for the entire school year provided it was administered after May 15, 2005. The form will be kept on the file in the main office and a copy of it in the athletic office.

### 2) EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

A copy of the Emergency Medical Authorization/Release Form that was filled out by each student's parent/guardian, which gives permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s) are not available will be kept in the medical kit for availability at all practices and contests.

### 3) PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Each parent/guardian and athlete shall read the athletic handbook and certify that they understand the athletic program policies. This signed document will be filed in the athletic office.

## Participation

Ware Academy students in grades 4 - 8 participate in athletic competition.

### Grades 4 - 5

Fourth and Fifth grade teams' primary focus is on developing skills, building self-confidence and fostering teamwork. This is an opportunity for the students to gain exposure to team sports with their classmates in a fun, learning atmosphere. At this level students will play games against schools of the Independent School Athletic Conference (I.S.A.C.) and will participate in a round robin tournament format "play days" during the soccer and basketball seasons.

### Grades 6 - 8

Ware Academy Middle School athletic teams are a member of the Independent School Athletic Conference and compete with other independent and non-conference schools. All students in grades 6 - 8 are strongly encouraged to participate. Students can choose to be a member of a team in a variety of ways, as a player, team manager, statistician, scorekeeper, photographer, journalist or fan.

### Guidelines for Varsity & Junior Varsity Teams

The Varsity is for those students who will make a serious commitment to a competitive team sport environment, who possess the skills, understanding and work ethic that is appropriate for that level of play.

The Junior Varsity is designed for those students who desire to work on their skill development in a less competitive environment while still representing their school in interscholastic competition.

\* Ware Academy Athletic Department reserves the right to place a student on the team which will best suit the student and team after an evaluation process.

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

Weather conditions often result in adjustments to the practice and game schedule. In all cases, the safety of the players and spectators receive primary considerations. Other considerations are safe transport, field conditions and long-term field health. Decisions on game postponements, cancellations and terminations (after game has started) will be made collaboratively by the Athletic Director, coaches and game officials.

### **Rain**

Practices and games may be postponed, cancelled or halted in the event of excessive amounts of rain.

### **Snow**

Late opening - All practices and games may proceed as scheduled (pending opponents situation).

Early dismissal - All practices cancelled and games postponed.

School cancellation - All practices cancelled and games postponed.

### **Heat**

Practices and games may be postponed, cancelled or halted in the event of excessive heat.

### **Lightning**

The Athletic Director, the official in charge or the Headmaster shall suspend an athletic contest in progress immediately, when the first sound of thunder is heard and/or the first sighting of lightning is observed. Under no circumstances should a contest be resumed until at least 20 minutes has passed since thunder was heard or lightning observed. To be clear, the clock timing the 20 minute waiting period is reset each time thunder is heard and/or lightning is observed, regardless of the perceived location of the storm.

If the contest should be resumed, the official, Athletic Director and head coach of each team must agree to continue play.

### **Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Signature**

I hereby state that my son/daughter and I have reviewed the Athletic Handbook together and understand the philosophy and policies of the Ware Academy Athletic Program.

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature