



## **Developing Biblical Priorities and Practices in Sports**

One of the pillars upon which Matthews Christian Academy rests is the character development of our students. Our athletic program assists us in doing this by providing “out of class” instruction, an insistence upon discipline and concentration, and an opportunity to become well-rounded individuals. While athletic ability is important, a student’s behavioral and academic performances significantly influence his/her participation in our athletic program. BBCS seeks to develop the following priorities and practices in the lives of our student athletes.

# PRIORITIES

## I. Glorify My God

- 1 Cor. 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
- 1 Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen."
- Christian Winner's Creed: I believe that a true winner always does his best, never to the glory of self but always to the glory of God. With the Lord's help, I will strive to be a true winner today.

## II. Obey My Authority

- 1 Pet. 2:13-17 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."
- Our students are clearly instructed to obey their parents in God's Word (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). Coaches and officials at ball games are an extension of parental authority through the school. As a result, students should adhere to the guidelines of these authorities.
- Our young people will be helped or hindered by the example their parents set at athletic events. Please remember that parents have delegated the responsibility and authority for the young person to the coach. "Hands-on" coaching or officiating from the stands during games is not acceptable. Uninvited parental intervention is a serious distraction and is detrimental to our program. Parents are encouraged to interact with school officials the day after games if any issues arise.

### **III. Edify My Peers**

- Rom. 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”
- I Thess. 5:11 “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
- I Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- It is our desire to have our student athletes “build up” their teammates, fans, and opponents on and off the court/field in word and action.

## **PRACTICES**

### **I. Teachable**

- Prov. 13:10 “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”
- II Tim 2:5 “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”
- Teachableness involves humility. Being teachable will benefit our student athletes long after they have left their years of training at BBCS behind. Coaches and officials will give instruction and make decisions that our young people will need to submit to.

### **II. Gracious**

- II Pet. 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.”
- Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

- Graciousness involves a pleasant external appearance before, during and after games. Verbally encouraging teammates, helping an opponent to his/her feet, and non-excessive celebration over success exemplify this attitude.

### **III. Selfless**

- Rom. 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."
- Phil. 2:3 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."
- Selflessness involves the realization that there is no "I" in "TEAM." Those who only give their very best effort in their favorite facet of the game are thinking of themselves rather than the rest of the team (Col. 3:23, 24).

### **IV. Thankful**

- I Thess. 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
- I Tim. 4:8a "For bodily exercise profiteth little."
- Thankfulness is the will of God for all of His children. It is reflected in appreciation for the profit of bodily exercise, the effort and time invested by coaches, the expertise of officials, and the opportunity to fellowship with others. We are excited about the opportunities before us through our athletic program! We want to excel in this arena of life as well. Let's do our best to bring home the biggest trophy! Athletic events provide insights as to what we are made of. May God be pleased with what He sees in our program.

