

The BCS Athletic Vision



The BCS Mission Statement states “Our goal is to prepare young people to live fully for God in a rapidly changing world, with the ability to understand, evaluate and transform their world from the foundation of God’s unchanging values”. The BCS K-12 athletic vision affirms these same principles. BCS is committed to educating both the heart and the mind of the student athlete. Athletics are a vital part of the Christian educational experience. As teacher/coaches, we believe in educating the whole person through mind, body, heart, and spirit. In athletics we actively integrate faith, learning, and character in our students. This athletic vision requires our continuing efforts of cooperation among all school programs.

The BCS athletic program enhances the quality of life in the individual participants, the school culture, and the greater community. It affords students an atmosphere of hard work and discipline, as they explore their own unique God-given gifts

The BCS Athletic Department Affirms:

- Academic aspirations of students
- Good sportsmanship
- Giving, receiving and rewarding maximum effort
- Fair opportunities for men and women
- Encouraging all students to participate in athletic activities as athletes or spectators
- Appropriate levels of competition for each developmental stage; K-12
- The desire to reach personal and team excellence when measured against ones “best self”.
1Cor.9:24-27
- The value of competition inherent in sports

As much as any other area of Christian life, athletics tests our perspective. Contrary to the attitude of the culture around us, we affirm that our athletes should participate for in a manner that enriches living, brings out sportsmanship, builds fellowship, and un-wraps God-given gifts.

BCS will continually work to maintain a balanced perspective, ensuring that the competition inherent in sport complements all of a students education.

As representatives of Jesus Christ and BCS, each person involved in athletics will approach competition with the values of honesty, fairness, respect, and humility, realizing that it is a privilege and honor to be a representative of Jesus Christ. The aim of this document is to address the goals and objectives of the athletic program at Bellevue Christian School.

Goal: Athletics will be one of many integral building blocks of a quality BCS education.

BCS values athletics as one integral part of a student's educational experience, but not the end all. It provides an additional arena where students can take risks, make mistakes, and be accepted, whether they succeed or fail. The value comes in the challenge for the individual to pursue performances that would otherwise be difficult to achieve, while aspiring to the ideals of fair play, commonality of purpose and the concept of team over self. Our athletic program develops athletes who accept victory with humility and defeat with grace.

Objectives

The Bellevue Christian School program will promote the following actions to maintain the value of sport programs while keeping them within the proper perspective of a quality education:

- Create an atmosphere where our student/athletes see themselves as reflecting God's image through their participation and development.
- Encourage students to participate in several sports as well as non-athletic activities – so they can fully develop their God-given gifts.
- Encourage student's to set aside daily study time.
- Reduce as much out of class time as possible in scheduling competition.
- Expect students to submit assignments on time and take tests as scheduled.

- Our school position is that school activities (of which sports are just one) should come after God, family and studies, but before outside "select" level activities/sports. Parents and children need to be assured that the near obsessive importance of sports in modern society is not the only building block in readying themselves for post-high school days. We believe it is important for students to have an opportunity to experience many different activities so they have an opportunity to discover and unwrap their God-given gifts and talents. We also believe we must avoid the cultural trend of obsessing on one activity and encourage our students to experience many different activities. Athletic specialization means students are focusing exclusively on one sport year-around.
- Another threat is the lack of balance, resulting from year-around practice, more games, further travel, and more grandiose championships. The athletic program should continually strive for a balanced perspective as it relates to more expansive titles, publicity, and taller trophies to meet what many consider is the definition of a "good" season. These imposed pressures and an expectation from well-meaning adults and communities, too often steals students' joy from the activity itself. When play/participation is not freely chosen, it becomes drudgery or "forced labor", and is no longer play. This should not preclude though the need for a dedicated approach of hard work when a team has the opportunity, talent and desire to achieve a goal such as a "state championship". In this case, we as an athletic department will do all in our power to support this quest.

The BCS program will consistently strive for balance and counsel parents and athletes that athletics is not the end all. It is just one building block in the preparation of our students to live fully for God in a rapidly changing world.

Goal: Success of the Athletic Programs at BCS will be measured through a reasonable combination of player/ team development, improved competition and wins/ losses

BCS must always play to win while demonstrating individual intensity and respectful competitiveness. We believe that winning must be redefined from what our popular culture calls “winning”. The scoreboard should never be the only indicator of success. The effort to prepare, and the desire to compete must take precedence over a comparative score. Success should not be based on the number of games won or lost, but rather on the basis of what each individual does in relation to his or her own ability and how the team has progressed as a cohesive group. BCS will define success as that self-satisfaction which comes from knowing that coaches and athletes did everything within our power to develop ourselves physically and spiritually.

Objectives:

- The Athletic Department will measure an athletic team/program’s success by a combination of player and team development (physical, emotional and spiritual), student participation and team enthusiasm.

Our coaches will:

- Strive for winning and excellence through preparation, constantly building decency in every athlete
- Have a personal philosophy that allows athletes to meet all challenges, whether favorable or unfavorable, with calmness, grace and composure
- Model correct behavior toward opponents and officials, including apologies

Our athletes will:

- Prepare to the best of their ability to become a “player of skill” (*Do your work heartily as for the Lord and not for men. I can do all things through Christ...*)
- Dedicate themselves to a total release of all that they are mentally, emotionally, and physically able to achieve and to become like Christ in every athletic situation, whether practice or competition
- Accept favorable or unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace

Our students, parents and fans will:

- Respect the decisions of the officials and coaches
- Respect and honor the abilities and best efforts of the student/athletes on both teams
- Model their game behavior with a Christ-like attitude, a positively encouraging all involved in the competition
- Value playing the game over winning or losing

Goal: BCS athletes, students, parents and fans will exhibit an attitude of sportsmanship that reflects our Christian Values

At Bellevue Christian School we believe that our behavior and attitudes should model those of Christ Himself. *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.....Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. (Philippians 2: 1-15)*

We should strive toward the highest of standards, that is, a Christ-like attitude. Athletics provides a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to model our beliefs in the public arena. Whether it is fair or not, everyone involved in athletic competition is under constant scrutiny because of the performance aspect of sport. Choosing to be involved in the athletic program at Bellevue Christian School as an athlete, coach, or spectator means choosing to represent Christ above all else.

Sportsmanship must be a priority at Bellevue Christian School. It must be taught, modeled and expected from athletes, coaches, the student body and adults. Cooperation is a key component of a successful athletic experience. We discredit the Lord and lose credibility with members of our community when we fail to show good sportsmanship. Officials are an essential part of the game and must be honored as an authority figure. Although they are not perfect in judgment and action, officials are serving our athletes, their efforts must be valued and respected.

Our competitors are not our enemies. Rather, they are what sharpen us as *Iron Sharpens Iron (Proverbs 27:17)*. They have similar goals, having prepared as diligently as we have and God loves them as much as he does us. The stronger the opponent, the better chance we have of producing our best performance.

For those students observing as fans, the school's teams are, in a fascinating way, an extension of themselves. There is a special institutional connection which motivates our fervent support and then rewards steadfast loyalties in a great variety of ways. By the same token, though, they must exhibit the same Christ-like expressions as player, coach and parents.

Objectives:

The game of life holds some great disappointments. Christians have God's wisdom, which James describes as "peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." James 3:17 When we let Christ control us, we can lose with grace because we are hoping in God. Keeping this in mind as a school, we must hold all of ourselves to the following expectations:

A BCS Athlete's Expectations:

In the heat of competition, an athlete should continue to remember the second greatest commandment of God in the words of Matt. 22:39, *Love your neighbor as yourself*. The expectation for BCS athletes is that their conduct be honoring to God in words and actions. They should strive to learn and live the life-lessons inherent in a positive "athletic attitude": honesty, integrity, dignity, obeying rules, attentiveness, learn from mistakes, give his/her best effort, coachable, self-disciplined, self-directed work habits, mental toughness, punctual, quiet confidence, humor, enthusiasm, focus, perseverance, humility, encourager, unselfish, gracious in victory and defeat. Athletes will:

- Show respect to officials, coaches, teammates and competitors. Show respect for opponents by shaking hands with them.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Display a Christ-like modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Submit to the disciplinary actions of the coach.
- Respect rules as guides to protect the team relationships
- Win and lose with dignity

A BCS Parent's Expectations:

Parents should set an example in conduct and behavior with their children in all of their athletic endeavors echoing the words of Proverbs 22:6: *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

- Be positive with your child. Let him/her know they are accomplishing something by simply being part of the team. Assure them that his/her role (no matter how much they play) is extremely important to the team.
- Support your child's coaches. Publicly criticizing judgments made by a coach is detrimental to the program. Remember to follow the Matthew 18 principles.
- Encourage your child to follow team rules set by the coach. A coach should expect more from their athletes than from a typical student. The more sacrifice one makes for the team, the more that team means to the student. Parents need to appreciate this and help motivate their child to succeed.
- Insist on your child doing their best in the classroom. Every player on the team is a valuable asset to the program.
- Be team players also. Parent jealousy can and will devastate a team. Strive to understand the importance of the "team". You as parents are a vital part of our program. When the coaches, players, parents, and administration (with Jesus at the center) are all supporting each other and believing in each other, all things are possible!!!
- Be an enthusiastic Viking fan. Always display a Christian attitude at ALL events. Display Viking Pride. Don't degrade officials or opponents.
- Expect your child to take responsibility for his/her actions. Give credit when things go well. But also hold him/her responsible when mistakes are made. We can only learn from our mistakes when we are held responsible for our actions.

A BCS Fan's Expectations:

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17

- Participate in cheers with the cheerleaders and applaud good performances.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Refrain from crowd booing, disruptive foot stomping or making negative comments about officials or participants.
- Stay off the playing floor or contest area at all times.
- Respect public property.
- Show the same respect for injured competitors as you would for BCS team players. *Love your neighbor as yourself. Matt 22:39*

Goal: The BCS coach will model a Christ-like attitude and approach in his/her daily work.

Coaching is both a privilege and responsibility and should never be entered into lightly. Coaches at Bellevue Christian build lifetime Christian character traits in young people. The Christian coach focuses on the example we have in Jesus Christ, and lives an attitude that is glorifying to God in all that we do (Col. 3:17, 23, 24).

The coach must develop a team that displays unity, hard work, ethical behavior, goal oriented and self-discipline. These traits show the teams love and respect for each other and their opponents. Coaches help athletes understand the difference between right and wrong behavior, how to work to achieve a goal, and offer positive discipline. These are the best expressions of love for the athletes.

The coach assists the student-athletes both in the development of skills necessary to contribute to the success of the team and skills which are age and ability appropriate to the teams. The coaching staff is responsible to bring these skills together to compete at a level in line with the team's developmental level (elementary, junior high, or high school) and ability.

Objectives:

BCS coaches must exemplify the same Christ-like attitude that is expected of athletes, parents, and fans as stated in Philippians 2 (servant attitude). The coach will provide a firm foundation for how student-athletes will approach life after BCS.

A BCS Coach's Code of Conduct:

- **Model Christian values**
- Provide a positive learning environment (*Train your child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*)
- Honor athletes with respect and dignity
- Model emotional control
- Communicate openly and honestly with athletes and parents

- Select a team that will represent BCS well, using physical skills, behavior and attitude as a criteria for team membership.
- Establish and maintain high ethical standards for behavior – expect and accept only good sportsmanship and behavior during all practices, games, on buses and while visiting other schools
- Teach fair play, and appreciation of the other team’s players, coaches, parents, and officials
- Model good sportsmanship in all circumstances
 - Teach how to win and lose with dignity
 - Follow school policies and communicate effectively with the athletic and activities director.

Job Requirements

The BCS Head Coach must:

- Be a professing Christian. Be a believer who aspires to develop a Christian mind.
- Be responsible to the Athletic/Activities Director and has overall leadership for the program. It is the head coach’s responsibility to establish direction and goals for their specific sport, kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- Establishes the fundamental philosophy, skills and techniques to be taught by staff.
- Develop a job description for each coach, both paid and volunteer, to include specific roles and responsibilities as well as expectations. The Athletic director will assist as needed.
- Train and informs staff, encourages professional grow through clinic attendance according to WIAA policy.
- Delegate specific duties, supervise their implementation and, at season’s end, analyze staff effectiveness and evaluate all assistants.
- Maintain discipline among staff and athletes and work to maintain positive morale and cooperation.
- Work through grievances

The BCS Coach must:

- Be a professing Christian. Be a believer who aspires to develop a Christian mind.
- Understand she has tremendous influence, either good or bad in the education of the student athlete, and she has responsibility as a role model to lead in such a way that her life exemplifies the Christian walk
- View coaching as an opportunity for ministry
- Work positively in all interactions and relationships within the athletic department, coaching team, and school staff,.
- Model and teach appropriate athletic behavior and correct inappropriate behaviors.(see BCS Affirmations)
- Earn credibility with the athletes, parents and community by being thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules and by being responsible for their interpretation to team members.
- Actively enhance sportsmanship among spectators through modeled behavior.
- Respect and support contest officials by not indulging in conduct that could incite players or spectators against an opponent or official.
- Prepare for practice every day in order to maximize learning.
- Commit to the hard work which is critical to athletic success

- Communicate an enjoyment of his sport and must form positive relationships with his athletes.
- Communicate to players, parents, and staff, the schools expectations, schedules, rules and concerns.
- Support the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct her program in cooperation with the total school program.

Goal: Athletes will be encouraged to participate in as many sports as possible while eligibility and team selection standards are maintained

Team Selection

- Each student should have the opportunity to try out for athletic teams. If team size must be limited due to availability of staff, facilities, schedules, or the safety of players, decisions to cut will be based on written criteria published in advance, by the head coach of that program and approved by the director of athletics/activities. The head coach will respect each player who is cut by discussing privately with the player the rationale for the decisions as well as the player's strengths and areas for growth.

We respect each student's right to participate as well as their decision/right not to participate.

Elementary programs will operate with a "no-cut" policy as long as the safety of students is not jeopardized. All students who turn out will be placed on a team. Teams will be divided into teams of comparable ability. The coach will have a management plan to ensure that the minutes of play in each game are equitable for each student.

The Junior High will continue to keep the "no-cut" policy as long as the safety of students is not jeopardized. All students who turn out will be placed on a team and will be expected to attend practices and adhere to all team expectations. The focus of the program is broad participation, development of skills and knowledge, and understanding of teamwork. Teams may be separated by age, skill level, or group dynamics, as determined by the Director of Athletics and Activities, based on league makeup, scheduling opportunities, and coach consultation. Each player will have some playing time in each contest.

High School programs are more competitive in nature. Coaches will select their teams each year using published criteria that may include the following:

- Attitude, effort and behavior
- Size and availability of the practice and game facilities
- Total number of minutes per competition and potential playing time for each athlete being considered.
- The need at the JV or Varsity level for players to perform specific roles to complete the team.
- Maximum manageable size of a team during a practice.
- Physical skills, conditioning, strength and knowledge of the game.

The coach will publish the complete list of criteria for player selection and team size limitation. If cuts are necessary, the coach will counsel those who don't make the team in a timely manner about the rationale for the decision, the player's strengths and areas for growth. The coach will also recommend alternative sports programs available in the school or community to encourage further development. The coach will communicate clearly to students and parents (when asked) the written guidelines as well as the reasoning and approach used in all team selections.

Objectives

Eligibility Standards

- Academic eligibility standards apply to all athletes in junior high and high school programs. They are not applied at the elementary level. The objective is to help students balance their goals, efforts and time commitments between athletics/activities and academics while ensuring that students progress successfully toward graduation. Coaches can teach many of the same skills in an athletic context that the teachers are looking for in the classroom (attention, focus, effort, self-motivation, punctuality, and having a teachable spirit). Athletics provides an opportunity to mentor and motivate many "at-risk" students. Coaches should work in partnership with teachers to monitor the academic progress of each athlete.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association has published standards for academic eligibility in their handbook under "Student Standards for Athletic Eligibility.

18.6.0 **Scholarship** – In order to maintain athletic eligibility during the current semester/trimester, the student shall maintain passing grades in a minimum of:

- 3 classes in a 4 period class schedule
- 3 classes in a 5 period class schedule
- 4 classes in a 6 period class schedule
- 5 classes in a 7 period class schedule
- 5 classes in an 8 period class schedule

RUNNING START COURSES	EQUIVALENT
2-5 credit quarter courses	2 high school credits
2-3 credit semester courses	2 high school credits

- 18.6.1 Any class taken as part of the regular schedule of the student during the semester/trimester shall be considered to be a full time subject.
- 18.6.2 Schools shall establish a grade monitoring system to ascertain the student's passing status in the minimum of required classes.
- 18.6.3 A student shall have passed the minimum number of classes as listed above in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program and accepted by the school district.
- 18.6.4 Incompletes may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester/trimester. The student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the incomplete(s) are cleared.
- 18.6.5 **ACADEMIC PROBATIONARY PERIOD**-A student who has been in regular attendance at least 15 weeks of the previous semester (10 weeks of the previous semester), but who failed to make the grade requirements of 18.6.0, shall be placed on

probation. The student shall be ineligible during the probationary period. If , at the end of the probation period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required above, the student may then be reinstated for interscholastic competition.

- A. The probation period for high school students shall be during the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.
 - B. The probation period for middle level students shall be during the first three (3) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.
 - C. Each student is eligible on Monday of the week following the end of the probation period. In the event of a school holiday, three or more teaching days shall constitute a week.
- Behavior and discipline eligibility standards apply to students at all levels. Behavior is considered in determining eligibility during team selection and athletes are held to the standards of the BCS Parent/Student handbook throughout the sports season on and off campus. The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association has published standards for behavior in their handbook under “Washington Laws and Student Eligibility:”.

Coaches will:

- Work with the Director of Athletics and Activities to establish and use a system to monitor academic progress, effort and behavior of each of their athletes throughout the season.
- Work with classroom teachers to help with changing student behavior or achievement
- Communicate with parents when an athlete is not meeting required standards that may jeopardize her eligibility
- Support the Director of Athletics and Activities and other school administrators regarding probations, suspensions, or other declarations of student ineligibility.

Athletes will:

- Understand the rules for athletic eligibility
- Understand that the coach and teachers are working together to benefit them
- Take responsibility for their own effort and behavior in every school environment, and realize that it could potentially affect his eligibility

Objective

Multiple Sport Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in as wide a variety of activities that they can successfully manage. Athletes benefit physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually by being involved in multiple quality athletic and non-athletic activities. Acceptance of this “full participation” model means that occasional conflicts between activities will occur.

The Director of Athletics and Activities will:

- Schedule contests in coordination with other school programs.
- Recognize athletes who participate at the varsity level in more than one sport and work to ensure they are given the opportunity to do this.
- Mediate a resolution process if needed when a sports program and other school activity compete for the time of a BCS student
- Work to reduce or eliminate as much out of class time as possible in scheduling competitions

Coaches will:

- Recognize which of their athletes are involved in multiple activities and the time commitments required
- Make an effort to coordinate schedules with the other school activities
- Limit the expectation for participation in “out of season” activities (i.e. open gyms, pre-season conditioning programs etc.) by students involved in other sports or activities.
- Establish a cooperative agreement with the “in season” coach when sharing athletes.
- Support and promote other sport and activity programs within the school
- Encourage participation in a variety of activities rather than specialization in one activity.