



OASIS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY LIONS

OFFICIAL 2026-27 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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Faith • Character • Academics • Athletics

Effective for the 2026-27 School Year

1. Purpose, Scope, and Authority

This handbook establishes expectations for students, parents/guardians, coaches, volunteers, and spectators participating in or attending Oasis Christian Academy (OCA) athletics. Athletics is an extension of OCA's educational ministry and is governed by OCA policies, the OCA Student Handbook, applicable law, and the rules of the athletic association governing the applicable sport or contest.

If this handbook conflicts with applicable law or a binding rule of a governing athletic association, the law or governing rule controls. OCA reserves the right to interpret, revise, suspend, or apply athletic policies as reasonably necessary for student safety, school operations, Christian mission, and compliance. Athletic participation is a privilege and does not create a contractual right to team membership, a particular position, playing time, awards, or continued participation.

2. Athletic Program Philosophy

The primary focus of athletics at OCA is teaching student-athletes to use athletic competition to reflect Jesus Christ faithfully while developing character, discipline, teamwork, leadership, and excellence.

- Faith: Student-athletes are encouraged to honor Christ in conduct, effort, and sportsmanship. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Family: Student-athletes are encouraged to honor and respect their families. (Ephesians 6:1-2)
- Academics: Academic responsibilities take priority over athletics. (Proverbs 18:15)
- Excellence: Student-athletes are expected to give their best effort and pursue excellence with integrity. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

OCA athletics promotes Lion P.R.I.D.E.: Pledge (Commitment), Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence.

Program Objectives

- Promote Christ-like conduct, sportsmanship, responsibility, fairness, and respect.
- Develop self-discipline, teamwork, leadership, and resilience.
- Support academic success and responsible time management.
- Provide age-appropriate instruction and competitive opportunities consistent with available staffing, facilities, enrollment, safety, and governing-association requirements.

3. Sports and Program Offerings

Sports, grade levels, seasons, team levels, and program availability may change based on enrollment, facilities, coaching availability, safety, scheduling, and governing-association requirements. The Athletic Department's annual published schedule and team offerings are controlling. Listing a sport or program does not guarantee that a team will be fielded.

4. Participation Requirements

1. All required OCA participation forms, medical/physical forms, consent forms, and applicable governing-association forms must be completed and approved before a student participates in conditioning, tryouts, practices, scrimmages, or contests.
2. Students must satisfy OCA academic, attendance, conduct, enrollment, and eligibility requirements and all applicable governing-association requirements.

3. Parents/guardians must provide accurate emergency-contact and relevant medical information and promptly notify OCA of changes.
4. Student-athletes must follow coach instructions, safety rules, equipment requirements, medical restrictions, and return-to-play requirements.
5. Where applicable under current law or governing-association rules, required cardiovascular screening, electrocardiogram documentation, exemptions, and medical clearances must be completed before participation.

Academic Eligibility

OCA will apply the academic eligibility standards adopted for the school year together with any controlling governing-association requirements. The Athletic Director or designee will verify eligibility at required checkpoints. Students who become academically ineligible may not participate until eligibility is restored under the applicable rule or OCA policy.

Conduct Eligibility

School discipline may affect athletic eligibility. OCA administration may impose athletic consequences for conduct that violates the Student Handbook or materially harms team safety, order, sportsmanship, or OCA's mission. Consequences will be based on the circumstances and applicable school and governing-association rules.

Non-OCA and Homeschool Student Participation

- OCA-enrolled students receive priority for roster opportunities.
- Homeschool students may participate only when OCA determines that there are not enough OCA students participating to adequately field or maintain a team and when participation is permitted by applicable law and the governing athletic association.
- Homeschool students must complete OCA's application/interview process and all eligibility, medical, conduct, registration, and participation requirements before joining a team.
- Homeschool participation may be discontinued if OCA enrollment, roster needs, eligibility requirements, or governing rules change.
- Non-OCA students and homeschool students must complete an interview process before being accepted to participate in OCA Athletics. This process must include a meeting with the Head of School.
- Participation in OCA Athletics is limited to students who, in the judgment of OCA administration, would otherwise meet OCA's standards for admission and enrollment. A non-OCA or homeschool student who would not be accepted for enrollment at OCA is not eligible to participate in OCA Athletics.
- Non-OCA students and homeschool students must provide current report cards or equivalent academic records demonstrating good academic standing before participation and at other times requested by OCA. They must continue to satisfy OCA and applicable governing-association academic eligibility requirements throughout the season.

Team Captains

Team captains and co-captains must be students currently enrolled at OCA. Captaincy is selected by the coaching staff based on leadership, character, conduct, commitment, team needs, and other legitimate factors. Captaincy may be changed or removed when circumstances warrant.

5. Attendance, Commitment, and Team Membership

1. Team membership requires a season-long commitment. Student-athletes are expected to attend practices, meetings, and contests unless excused by the head coach or administration.
2. Students must meet OCA's school-day attendance requirement before participating in a same-day practice or contest unless administration approves an exception.
3. A student who voluntarily leaves a team after the official start of the season may be restricted from participating in another OCA sport during the same season. Administration may approve exceptions for injury, family circumstances, academic needs, safety concerns, or other good cause.
4. Removal from a team may occur for safety concerns, ineligibility, misconduct, repeated unexcused absences, failure to follow team expectations, or other substantial reasons determined by administration.

6. Athletic Fees

Athletic fees, due dates, and included items will be communicated in writing. All athletic fees are due in full prior to the student's first sporting event or contest. Fees help offset program costs and do not purchase playing time or guarantee a roster position.

Unless otherwise stated in writing, athletic fees become non-refundable after a student accepts a roster position and begins regular team participation. OCA administration may approve a full or partial refund or credit when OCA cancels a team, a documented season-ending medical condition occurs, or exceptional circumstances warrant an adjustment.

7. Playing Time and Team Selection

Coaches determine team selection, positions, roles, and playing time based on factors including skill, effort, attendance, preparation, attitude, safety, sportsmanship, team needs, and eligibility. Playing time is not guaranteed. Developmental teams may emphasize broader participation, but equal playing time is not promised.

Tryouts may be used when roster size, safety, facilities, or competitive level require them. Final roster decisions are made by the coaching staff subject to Athletic Director and school-administration oversight.

8. Practice and Supervision

1. Practices will comply with OCA scheduling rules and applicable governing-association limitations. OCA teams will not practice on Sundays.
2. Only OCA-authorized coaches or approved school personnel may supervise OCA athletic activities.
3. Practices are closed to the general public unless the Athletic Director or administration authorizes otherwise.
4. Coaches must maintain appropriate student supervision until athletes are released to an authorized adult, approved school program, or other authorized arrangement.
5. Student-athletes may not participate when a coach, administrator, or qualified medical professional determines that injury, illness, environmental conditions, equipment issues, or other safety concerns make participation inappropriate.

9. Communication Procedures

Coaches will provide practice and contest schedules and communicate material changes as promptly as reasonably possible. Weather, facility availability, opponent changes, and other circumstances may require last-minute changes.

1. Questions about a team should normally begin with the head coach.
2. Concerns involving the head coach may be directed to the Athletic Director.
3. Unresolved concerns may be directed to the Head of School or designee.
4. Except for urgent safety, medical, student-welfare, suspected misconduct, harassment, discrimination, abuse, or other matters requiring prompt attention, parents/guardians should wait until the next day after a contest before initiating a discussion about a disputed game-related matter.

10. Student-Athlete Conduct

Student-athletes represent OCA and must comply with the OCA Student Handbook, team expectations, and governing-association sportsmanship requirements. Misconduct may result in corrective action, suspension, or removal from a team.

Ejections and contest disqualifications will be handled under the applicable governing-association rules. OCA may impose additional school-based consequences when warranted. Any association fine or fee will be handled in accordance with the association's rules and OCA policy and will not automatically be transferred to a student or family.

11. Parent and Spectator Conduct

- Model Christ-like sportsmanship and support the academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of students.
- Remain in designated spectator areas and do not enter playing surfaces, benches, locker rooms, scorer areas, or officials' areas without authorization.
- Do not confront, threaten, harass, or abuse officials, coaches, students, opposing teams, or spectators.
- Follow host-site rules, security instructions, and governing-association sportsmanship requirements.
- Report urgent safety or student-welfare concerns immediately to appropriate school personnel.

OCA may restrict or revoke a spectator's attendance privileges when reasonably necessary to protect safety, order, sportsmanship, or school operations. A student will not be disciplined solely to punish a parent or guardian; however, participation may be affected when a parent's conduct creates a material safety, supervision, transportation, or operational problem that cannot reasonably be addressed another way.

12. Transportation and Student Release

OCA may provide school transportation for some away contests. Transportation availability is not guaranteed.

1. Students using school transportation must follow all school transportation and conduct rules.
2. A student may be released to a parent/legal guardian after an away event when the head coach or designated school representative confirms the release.
3. Release to another adult requires advance written authorization from the parent/legal guardian and approval by the head coach or Athletic Director. Identification may be required.

4. Student driving to or from an athletic event is permitted only when expressly authorized under current OCA policy and applicable law.
5. No coach or school employee should transport a student in a personal vehicle except under an OCA-approved transportation arrangement or an emergency authorized by administration.

13. Uniforms and School Property

School-issued uniforms and equipment remain OCA property. Student-athletes are responsible for reasonable care and timely return. OCA may charge the family the reasonable replacement cost for items that are lost, not returned, or damaged beyond ordinary wear.

The Athletic Director is responsible for maintaining a uniform/equipment inventory, establishing the return process, and ensuring all issued uniforms and equipment are returned and accounted for at the conclusion of each season.

14. Athletic Awards

Athletic awards are discretionary recognitions and are not entitlements. To be eligible, a student must complete the applicable season in good standing and satisfy the academic and behavioral standards established for the award. The Athletic Director will verify academic and disciplinary eligibility before awards are issued. OCA administration may resolve unusual circumstances, including injury, transfer, or other situations, consistent with the purpose of the award.

Athlete of the Year

If OCA offers an Athlete of the Year award, the Athletic Department will publish the criteria and selection process before nominations or voting begin. Criteria will be applied consistently and reviewed annually.

15. Assumption of Risk, Medical Care, and Insurance

Participation in athletics involves inherent risks, including sprains, fractures, concussion, heat illness, cardiac events, head, neck or spinal injury, paralysis, serious illness, and, in rare cases, death. Reasonable safety precautions reduce risk but cannot eliminate all injuries.

Parents/guardians and students are responsible for disclosing relevant medical restrictions and complying with required medical clearance. OCA personnel may provide first aid, activate emergency medical services, use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and take other reasonable emergency measures within their training and authority. When emergency care is reasonably believed necessary, OCA may seek treatment without delaying care to obtain additional parental permission.

OCA requires separate annual participation consent, assumption-of-risk, and emergency medical authorization forms as applicable. Families are responsible for understanding their personal health insurance and any school-provided accident coverage.

16. Concussion and Return to Play

A student with signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion or potentially serious head or neck injury will be removed from participation. A student suspected of concussion may not return to play or practice the same

day. Evaluation, medical clearance, and a graduated return-to-play process must comply with applicable law and governing-association requirements. Coaches may not independently override a medical restriction.

17. Sudden Cardiac Arrest and AED Readiness

OCA will follow applicable law and governing-association requirements concerning sudden cardiac arrest education, screening, emergency response, AED access, CPR/AED training, and medical clearance. Employees or volunteers who are reasonably expected to use an AED must satisfy required training. AED locations and emergency procedures will be communicated to appropriate personnel and maintained in OCA's internal Emergency Action Plan.

18. Heat Illness, Hydration, and Environmental Safety

Outdoor athletic activities will follow current heat-stress, hydration, acclimatization, cooling-zone, and activity-modification requirements applicable to OCA through law and its governing athletic association. Required personnel will complete annual heat-illness identification, prevention, and response training.

When required by the applicable standard, rapid cooling equipment, including cold-water immersion or an approved equivalent, will be immediately available. Suspected exertional heat stroke will be managed under the governing emergency protocol, including onsite cooling before transport when required and medically appropriate.

19. Emergency Action Plan

OCA maintains a separate, site-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for regular practice and competition venues. The EAP is an internal operational safety document and is not part of the parent/student handbook. It contains current emergency roles, venue access information, AED and emergency-equipment locations, EMS procedures, emergency contacts, and other site-specific information.

The Athletic Director and school administration are responsible for ensuring that the EAP is reviewed and rehearsed as required, that appropriate personnel know their assigned responsibilities, and that outdated contact or venue information is promptly corrected. Personal staff phone numbers will not be published in this handbook.

20. Coaches and Volunteers

All coaches and volunteers must satisfy OCA screening, background-check, training, certification, and supervision requirements before authorized service with student-athletes. Coaches must complete all certifications and annual safety trainings required by OCA and the applicable governing association.

21. Policy Administration

The Athletic Director is responsible for day-to-day administration of this handbook, including eligibility verification, schedule communication, uniform and equipment accountability, coach compliance, required records, and coordination of the Emergency Action Plan. The Head of School or designee has final authority for OCA policy interpretation and exceptions unless applicable law or a governing-association rule provides otherwise.

OCA may revise this handbook when necessary. Material revisions will be communicated to affected families. Failure to enforce a provision in one circumstance does not waive OCA's ability to enforce it in another circumstance.

22. Parent/Student Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have received access to the Oasis Christian Academy 2026-27 Athletic Handbook. I understand that athletic participation is a privilege and agree to follow OCA athletic policies, the OCA Student Handbook, team expectations, safety rules, and applicable governing-association requirements. I understand that athletics involves inherent risk and that separate medical, consent, eligibility, and participation forms may be required before participation.

Student-Athlete Name	Grade
Sport(s)	School Year
Student-Athlete Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature
Date	

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