Christian Athletic League



Official Handbook

**Table of Contents**

[OVERVIEW OF THE CAL 1](#_Toc297728410)

[MISSION STATEMENT 1](#_Toc297728411)

[PURPOSES OF THE CAL 1](#_Toc297728412)

[CAL Calendar 2](#_Toc297728413)

[Acting Board of Directors 2](#_Toc297728414)

[Member Schools 4](#_Toc297728415)

[CAL Rules, Regulations and Policies 5](#_Toc297728416)

[1. League Administration 5](#_Toc297728417)

[1.1. League Meetings 5](#_Toc297728418)

[1.2. Board Members 5](#_Toc297728419)

[1.3. Obtaining League Membership 5](#_Toc297728420)

[1.4. Renewing League Membership 6](#_Toc297728421)

[1.5. Organization of Member Schools for League Play 6](#_Toc297728422)

[1.6. Amendments to Rules Regulations and Policies 7](#_Toc297728423)

[2. Student Eligibility 9](#_Toc297728424)

[2.1. Age 9](#_Toc297728425)

[2.2. Attendance 9](#_Toc297728426)

[2.3. Credit Requirements 9](#_Toc297728427)

[2.4. Enrollment 9](#_Toc297728428)

[2.5. Grade Level Eligibility 9](#_Toc297728429)

[2.6. Graduates of Secondary Schools 10](#_Toc297728430)

[2.7. Physical Examination 10](#_Toc297728431)

[2.8. Scholastic Eligibility 10](#_Toc297728432)

[2.9. Seasons of Participation 10](#_Toc297728433)

[2.10. Semesters Enrolled 10](#_Toc297728434)

[2.11. Substance Abuse 10](#_Toc297728435)

[2.12. Good Standing 11](#_Toc297728436)

[2.13. Waiver Requests 11](#_Toc297728437)

[3. Administration of Student Eligibility 13](#_Toc297728438)

[3.1. Certifying Student Eligibility 13](#_Toc297728439)

[3.2. Ineligible Player 13](#_Toc297728440)

[3.3. Eligibility List 14](#_Toc297728441)

[3.4. Responsibility for Student Eligibility 14](#_Toc297728442)

[4. League Sports 15](#_Toc297728443)

[4.1. Soccer 15](#_Toc297728444)

[4.2. Volleyball 15](#_Toc297728445)

[4.3. Basketball 16](#_Toc297728446)

[5. Administration of League Sports 18](#_Toc297728447)

[5.1. Contest Rules 18](#_Toc297728448)

[5.2. Game Officials 18](#_Toc297728449)

[5.3. Local Control 18](#_Toc297728450)

[5.4. Protests on Decisions of Contest Officials 18](#_Toc297728451)

[5.5. Reporting Violations of League Rules and Regulations 19](#_Toc297728452)

[5.6. Responsibility For Participating Teams 20](#_Toc297728453)

[5.7. Scheduling of Contests. 20](#_Toc297728454)

[5.8. CAL Post-Season Tournaments 21](#_Toc297728455)

[6. Codes of Conduct 24](#_Toc297728456)

[6.1. Responsibility for Conduct 24](#_Toc297728457)

[6.2. Code of Conduct Requirements 24](#_Toc297728458)

[6.3. Athletic Directors and Administrators 24](#_Toc297728459)

[6.4. Coaches 25](#_Toc297728460)

[6.5. Players 26](#_Toc297728461)

[6.6. Officials 26](#_Toc297728462)

[6.7. Parents 27](#_Toc297728463)

[6.8. Spectators 28](#_Toc297728464)

[7. Administration of Codes of Conduct 29](#_Toc297728465)

[7.1. Improper Conduct Adjudicated by the CAL Board 29](#_Toc297728466)

[7.2. Improper Conduct Defined 29](#_Toc297728467)

[7.3. Penalties for Improper Conduct 29](#_Toc297728468)

[7.4. Coaches Ejection From a Contest 30](#_Toc297728469)

[7.5. Student Ejection From a Contest 31](#_Toc297728470)

[7.6. Spectator Ejection From a Contest 31](#_Toc297728471)

[7.7. Submission of Appeals 32](#_Toc297728472)

[7.8. Code of Conduct Board of Directors Jurisdiction 32](#_Toc297728473)

[*League Policies* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc297728474)

# OVERVIEW OF THE CAL

The Christian Athletic League exists to provide Christian schools and organizations the opportunity to participate in athletic competition with other Christian schools of similar size and philosophy. It is the intent of the league to foster long-standing and meaningful relationships between the member schools.

The Christian Athletic League was formed in 1997. The Christian Athletic League has grown since its inception and has represented up to fifteen schools and/or organizations and has to date served thousands of student athletes.

The league is incorporated under the name “Christian Athletic League.” Cf. By- Laws, Article I.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Christian Athletic League partners with its member schools to give further opportunities to student-athletes to use the God-given abilities they are developing and to encourage these young people to glorify God in all they do.

# PURPOSES OF THE CAL

The Christian Athletic League is organized for the following purposes:

* To provide student athletes of smaller Christian schools the opportunity to benefit from inter-league play and a post-season tournament
* To establish uniform and equitable rules and guidelines to ensure a level-playing

field for member schools as they engage in league athletic competition

* To administer its programs as well as regularly review and evaluate their effectiveness

# CAL Calendar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mid-Late AugustSeptember 1 | Triannual CAL MeetingApplications and fees to renew League membership due. Membership fees paid after this date till October 1st will be assessed a late fee. |
| September 15 | Soccer and volleyball eligibility lists finalized. |
| Last Friday/Saturday in October | **CAL Soccer and Volleyball Tournament**  |
| Early NovemberDecember 1 | CAL Fall League MeetingBasketball rosters and schedules due. |
| January 7 | Basketball eligibility lists finalized. |
| First Thursday-Friday-Saturday in March | CAL Basketball Tournament  |
| March/April | CAL Spring League Meeting |
|  |  |

# Acting Board of Directors

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | School | Position | Elected | Term Expires |
| Jeff Bonkoski | Cambridge Christian | Director | (Standing member) | Annually |
| Marie Casto | Immanuel Lutheran | Secretary/Treasurer | (Standing member) | Annually |
| Mike Elmhorst | Community Christian | Board Member |  | Annually |
| Jeff Gisi | RAHS | Board Member |  | Annually |

# CAL Rules, Regulations and Policies

This section contains rules, regulations and policies that are intended to provide a uniform body of rules from which schools will certify and administer student eligibility, and by which the league will administer CAL sponsored activities and the conduct of CAL members.

# League Administration

## League Meetings

League meetings are held in accordance with league By-Laws. Cf. Article IV – Members, Sections 6 – 14.

## Board Members

The Christian Athletic League Board is comprised of a minimum of 3 members. The League Director and Secretary will be standing members of the CAL board along with additional members elected to the board. Qualifications, responsibilities and election of board members are contained in the league By-Laws. Cf. Article V – Board of Directors.

All CAL board members shall receive $0.20 per mile reimbursement when traveling to attend board meetings held on a different date than regular league meetings.

## Obtaining League Membership

* + 1. Schools wishing to join the league will:
1. Contact the League Director or Secretary and inform them of their desire to become league members.
2. The school will then be instructed to submit an Application for Membership and to schedule games with as many league members as possible for all athletic activities they are participating in for their next season. This will be considered the applicant’s trial year.
	* 1. During the applicant’s trial year the CAL board will interview the applicant to ensure that they meet the qualifications for membership as described in the League By-Laws (Cf. Article IV – Members, Section 16 Qualifications for Membership) and that they will abide by the League’s By-Laws and Rules and Regulations as published in the latest edition of the League Handbook. At that time, applicants will also be given an understanding of the importance the league attaches to the commitment of each member school to:
3. Promptly pay required fees.
4. Faithfully attend scheduled league meetings.
5. Meet league deadlines for providing team rosters (including all related information), schedules.
6. Regularly monitor the commitment of their administrators, fans, coaches, and players to the league’s philosophies, standards, goals and objectives.
	* 1. At the league meeting in March, the board will present its findings recommendation to the league. The applicant’s request for membership will be discussed. The applicant will not be present during that discussion. Following the discussion, the recommendation of the board will be presented for action.
		2. The League Director will notify the applicant of approval or disapproval within 10 days after the March league meeting.

## Renewing League Membership

* + 1. For a school to renew their membership they need to submit a Renewal Membership Application and pay the membership fee by the established due date of each year. The annual dues required for each member school shall be determined at the Spring AD meeting.
		2. To be eligible for membership renewal, member Schools must be members in good standing.
		3. Member schools must have at least one concurrent year of membership up to the year they are renewing their membership. Schools coming off a year of suspension or not renewing their membership the previous year must submit an Application for Membership and undergo the process for obtaining membership (as specified in paragraphs 1.3.2. and 1.3.3. above).

## Organization of Member Schools for League Play

In an effort to create a balanced schedule, the league can reorganize its member schools at any regularly scheduled league meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

Current organization of League Members

 Soccer – no special alignment

 Volleyball – no special alignment

 Basketball – no special alignment

## Amendments to Rules Regulations and Policies

* + 1. Vote on Rules, Regulations and Policies.
1. The Rules and Regulations of the league may be amended at the spring league meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
2. Policies may be adopted at any regularly scheduled league meeting by a majority vote of the members present.
	* 1. Time for Submission.
3. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the League Director before the fall league meeting of each school year. The League Director will then send copies of the proposal to each member of the board
4. By December 1 of each school year, the board will review the amendments and bring recommendations to the league membership.
5. By January 15 of each school year the amendments submitted, along with a recommendation from the Board, will be sent to each league member’s representative for their review.
6. By the spring league meeting each year the amendments submitted will become an agenda item at which time the league members will have an open forum for people to voice their concerns or support for an amendment and vote on the amendments presented to the league.
	* 1. Sponsors of Proposals.

Proposed amendments may be submitted:

* By the designated school representatives of three (3) or more schools;
* By the Board of Directors.
* By action of the league members at a league meeting.
	+ 1. Effective Date.

Unless otherwise specified, all amendments to the Rules, Regulations and Policies approved by the league membership become effective on August 1.

# Student Eligibility

## Age

Students participating in league-sponsored activities shall be under 19 years of age prior to September 1st of the school year in which they are participating.

## Attendance

Students must be attending school and classes regularly. Students who have been dropped because of irregular attendance, extended absence, or suspension from school are not eligible to participate in league-sponsored activities.

## Credit Requirements

Students must be full time students according to their respective state’s Department of Education criteria. Students must meet the school’s credit requirements for graduation in four years beginning with the student’s entry into 9th grade.

## Enrollment

* + 1. Students who are enrolled full time in the member school are eligible to be placed on that school’s eligibility list and participate in league activities offered by the school the student attends.
		2. Home school students meeting all CAL eligibility requirements are allowed to be placed on a member school’s league eligibility list and participate in league activities at the discretion of the member school.

Home school students are not eligible to participate in **any** league activity if they participate at any other school in an activity the league sponsors.

* + 1. Students taking PSEO courses are eligible to participate in any league activity if they are registered through the member school or as a home school student.

## Grade Level Eligibility

Participants in league sponsored activities are limited to students in grades 7 - 12.

## Graduates of Secondary Schools

* + 1. Students who have graduated from a secondary school are not eligible for participation in any league-sponsored activity.
		2. Students who have participated with a college or university team are ineligible for participation in any league-sponsored activity.

## Physical Examination

The league does not require student participants to have a physical examination performed by a physician prior to participating in league sponsored activities. However, the league does recommend that each member school encourage their student athletes to have a physical examination by a physician prior to participating in league sponsored activities.

## Scholastic Eligibility

Students must be making satisfactory progress towards the school’s requirements for graduation.

## Seasons of Participation

* + 1. Students may not participate in more than four seasons in any one sport while enrolled in grades 9 to 12. Cf. 2.5 Grade Eligibility.
		2. Participation, no matter how limited, will count as one season of participation.

## Semesters Enrolled

Students shall be eligible for participation in league-sponsored activities for eight consecutive semesters (four years), beginning with their initial entrance into the 9th grade.

## Substance Abuse

* + 1. A student shall not at any time, regardless of the quantity:
1. Use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol.
2. Use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or
3. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance.
	* 1. **Penalty**: For substance abuse violations, the member school will impose a penalty commensurate with the infraction.

## Good Standing

* + 1. **Good Standing**: In order to be eligible for regular season and league tournament competition a student must be in good standing.

**Definition**: The term “good standing” shall mean that the student is eligible under all of the conditions and eligibility requirements of that school as well as the eligibility requirements of the league.

* + 1. **Penalty**: A student who is penalized by a school is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the member school, which will impose a penalty commensurate with the infraction. The member school must also consider league rules when imposing a penalty. Any penalty imposed will be honored by any member school in the case of a transfer.

## Waiver Requests

* + 1. Waiver requests can be submitted to the CAL board for its consideration. Our Christian Athletic League Guidelines have been created and refined to maintain league integrity, a level-playing field, and emphasize accountability. Those submitting waiver requests can expect that these requests will be carefully scrutinized to determine if granting the request would conflict with the spirit of our guidelines. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing at least two weeks in advance of the finalization date for the roster (eligibility list) for the sport in question, and must also detail the circumstances necessitating the waiver request.
		2. Waivers must be submitted in writing to the league secretary. The league secretary will then forward the waiver request to board members for consideration. Athletic Directors and coaches requesting a waiver must provide as much information as possible to expedite this process. The board will render a decision within 7 working days.
		3. Waivers that are approved are valid only for the school year in which they were submitted. Approved waivers are transferable from sport to sport within the same school year.
		4. Waiver requests must be submitted for each new school year and are not transferable from school year to school year.
		5. Until and unless a waiver is approved students for whom a waiver is submitted are ineligible to participate in league sponsored activities.

# Administration of Student Eligibility

## Certifying Student Eligibility

* + 1. Students who are fully enrolled in and attending a member school are eligible to participate for that school in league-sponsored activities.
		2. Home school students are eligible to participate in league sponsored activities if they are registered through a member school. Cf. paragraph 2.4.2.
		3. Prior to a school’s first league game it shall:
1. Place on file a complete Eligibility List, via the league website, of all students participating in an activity for that school year.
2. Furnish a hard or electronic copy of the Eligibility List to the League Secretary.
	* 1. Additions to the Eligibility List will be certified before competition.
		2. No player on a CAL team’s Eligibility List may be on any other school’s Eligibility List or roster for an activity that the league sponsors.

## Ineligible Player

* + 1. If an ineligible player is used in any league-sponsored game, whether deliberately or inadvertently, forfeiture of that game and any associated honors for the individual and team shall be automatic and mandatory.
		2. An ineligible student, who participates in any league sport, shall be disqualified from all league-sponsored athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student’s original period of ineligibility.
		3. If an ineligible player participates by mutual agreement of the teams involved, each participating school shall be suspended by the league for a minimum of the remainder of that season. The board reserves the right to continue the suspension through the following season if the violation occurred later in the year.
		4. Practice While Ineligible. The league Rules and Regulations apply only to competition against another league team in a game or meet. The question of whether to allow a student to practice when ineligible is one of local determination.
		5. The board may penalize the member school further if it deems the error to be deliberate, intentional, or sufficiently careless to warrant such special action.

## Eligibility List

* + 1. The Eligibility List is an official declaration made by the principal/administrator/athletic director that the names and data included within are accurate and valid and that the individuals named are fully eligible to represent the school in all league activities.
		2. The Eligibility List must include the grade level, date of birth and the year the student first entered ninth grade for all participating athletes.
		3. Member schools must have their Eligibility List turned in to the league office and entered on the league website prior to playing their first league game or the specified date established for their respective sport.
		4. Eligibility Lists must be finalized by the dates established for their respective sport. No player added after that date will be eligible to play in league regular season contests or the league post-season tournament.

**Eligibility List finalized by:**

1. Soccer and Volleyball: September 15th.
2. Basketball: January 7th.

## Responsibility for Student Eligibility

* + 1. The designated administrator of a member school shall be held completely and solely responsible to certify that all students representing their school in league sponsored activities are properly enrolled and meet all of the eligibility requirements of the league. When a violation of the Rules and Regulations occurs, school administrators are expected and required to enforce the penalties prescribed in the Rules and Regulations.
		2. It is not the responsibility of league officials to certify the eligibility status of students representing member schools. It is the responsibility of the league to examine and rule on all evidence submitted in relation to purported and actual violations of league Rules and Regulations. It is also the responsibility of the league to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that all member schools abide by our league Rules and Regulations.

# League Sports

## Soccer

* + 1. League member school’s soccer schedules will be limited to 18 games plus the CAL post-season tournament.
		2. To be eligible for league regular and post-season competition, a student must be on the member school’s Eligibility List Cf. paragraph 3.3.4.
		3. Maximum Squad Size:
1. Coaches - 3.
2. Student Managers – 2.
3. Players – 22.

4.1.4 All-League and Honorable Mention Awards will be awarded to select student-athletes from each member varsity team.

1. Award winners will be determined by a team’s seeding for the CAL soccer tournament. The #1 and #2 seeds will receive three (3) awards; #3 and #4 seeds receive two (2) awards; all other seeds will receive one (1) award. In addition, all teams may also receive one (1) Honorable Mention Award if they so choose.
2. Soccer coaches should nominate players based on their conduct, leadership, and achievements for the current soccer regular season.
3. Coaches need to submit their top four (4) nominations ranked from highest to lowest when they submit their final seeds.

4.1.5 Coach of the Year Award. Each season, a coach from a member school will be recognized for demonstrating a strong Christian witness during the season. Each head coach will nominate one coach for this award. Nominations are due at the seeding deadline.

## Volleyball

* + 1. League member school’s volleyball schedules will be limited to 18 games plus the CAL post-season tournament.
		2. To be eligible for league regular and post-season competition, a student must be on the member school’s Eligibility List Cf. paragraph 3.3.4.
		3. Maximum Squad Size:
1. Coaches - 3.
2. Student Managers – 2.
3. Players – 18.

4.2.4 All-League and Honorable Mention Awards will be awarded to select student-athletes from each member varsity team.

1. Award winners will be determined by a team’s seeding for the CAL soccer tournament. The #1 and #2 seeds will receive three (3) awards; #3 and #4 seeds receive two (2) awards; all other seeds will receive one (1) award. In addition, all teams may also receive one (1) Honorable Mention Award if they so choose.
2. Soccer coaches should nominate players based on their conduct, leadership, and achievements for the current soccer regular season.
3. Coaches need to submit their top four (4) nominations ranked from highest to lowest when they submit their final seeds.

4.3.5 Coach of the Year Award. Each season, a coach from a member school will be recognized for demonstrating a strong Christian witness during the season. Each head coach will nominate one coach for this award. Nominations are due at the seeding deadline.

## Basketball

* + 1. League member school’s basketball schedules will be limited to 28 games plus the CAL post-season tournament.
		2. To be eligible for league regular and post-season competition, a student must be on the member school’s Eligibility List Cf. paragraph 3.3.4.
		3. Maximum Squad Size:
1. Coaches - 3.
2. Student Managers – 2.
3. Players – 18.

4.3.4 All-League and Honorable Mention Awards will be awarded to select student-athletes from each member varsity team.

1. Award winners will be determined by a team’s seeding for the CAL soccer tournament. The #1 and #2 seeds will receive three (3) awards; #3 and #4 seeds receive two (2) awards; all other seeds will receive one (1) award. In addition, all teams may also receive one (1) Honorable Mention Award if they so choose.
2. Soccer coaches should nominate players based on their conduct, leadership, and achievements for the current soccer regular season.
3. Coaches need to submit their top four (4) nominations ranked from highest to lowest when they submit their final seeds.

4.3.5 Coach of the Year Award. Each season, a coach from a member school will be recognized for demonstrating a strong Christian witness during the season. Each head coach will nominate one coach for this award. Nominations are due at the seeding deadline.

# Administration of League Sports

## Contest Rules

Except as modified by the CAL or the MSHSL, the National Federation rules books shall govern all interschool competition in Basketball, Soccer and Volleyball.

## Game Officials

5.2.1 Only MSHSL or WIAA certified officials shall be employed for all Varsity interscholastic contests in Soccer, Volleyball and Basketball. Officials shall not be immediate family members of any player, coach or school staff of the host team. Emergency exceptions must be mutually agreed upon in advance.

5.2.2 All Varsity interscholastic contests in Soccer will have a minimum of two (2) certified officials. Three certified officials may also be used if desired. Non-certified line judges will not call offside.

5.2.3 All Varsity interscholastic contests in Volleyball will have a minimum of two (2) certified officials.

5.2.4 All Varsity interscholastic contests in Basketball will have a minimum of two (2) certified officials. Three certified officials may also be used if desired.

## Local Control

Member schools may, if they so desire, prescribe eligibility bylaws that are more restrictive than those of the league. They may not adopt rules, regulations or by-laws, which lessen the effect of or change league Rules and Regulations.

## Protests on Decisions of Contest Officials

* + 1. Protests against decisions of contest officials will not be honored.
1. League officials will render an interpretation to all parties involved as to the proper application of contest rules in cases protested if the complete facts are presented, in writing, to league officials. Such interpretations, however, will not alter the outcome of the contest. The decisions of the contest officials are final.
2. It is recognized that errors in interpretations and application of Rules and Regulations and in judgment situations are inevitable. However, the orderly and sportsmanlike conduct of high school activities require that officials’ decisions must be honored and be final.
3. Videotape replay will not be used to overrule an official’s decision or change the outcome of the game or meet.
	* 1. School officials are expected to employ the best-qualified contest officials available and to place the operation of the contest entirely in their hands.

## Reporting Violations of League Rules and Regulations

* + 1. Any protests against a member school for violation of league Rules and Regulations shall be made in writing to League officials. The protest shall:
1. Be made within 24 hours after receipt of information, and
2. Set forth the known facts, sources of information, witnesses and the time such data became known. Failure to make the report as required will not relieve the offending school of its responsibility. Such negligence may jeopardize the standing of the official and/or the school for withholding evidence.
	* 1. League officials shall make a timely report of the information received to the principal/administrator and athletic director of the school in which a violation is suspected.
		2. If there is insufficient time to complete an official investigation and to rule on it prior to the next contest or contests, the student(s) may participate subject to the condition that the full penalty of the Rule and Regulation will apply to such contests and to the student(s) if the charges are substantiated. However, the school may chose to determine who is responsible for the violation and censure the responsible party or apply other administrative sanctions as may be appropriate. The school must notify the league of its action.
		3. Nothing in this section may be considered as voiding the responsibility and duty of league officials to investigate eligibility of students or violation of Rules and Regulations received in an unofficial or less than official form.

## Responsibility For Participating Teams

* + 1. **Faculty Representative**. A member of a school’s administration, faculty or coaching staff shall accompany contesting teams. The school representative shall be responsible to act on behalf of the member school.
		2. **Conduct of Teams, Students and Spectators.** School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.
		3. **School Responsibility to Inform and Enforce League Bylaws**. The member school has a responsibility to educate student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on league bylaws and policies that could affect their participation in league sponsored activities. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with league eligibility requirements.

## Scheduling of Contests.

* + 1. All contests in which member schools participate shall be scheduled and arranged by the official representative of the schools concerned. Contests may be scheduled and played only when all of the Rules and Regulations of the league are observed.
		2. Member schools are required to schedule a minimum of one regular season contest with each member school.

In an effort to balance the traveling for schools from year to year, the league will provide a recommended home and away schedule. However, member schools are not obligated to abide by this schedule and both schools should be in agreement when deviating from it.

**Penalty:** Member schools that fail to schedule or play scheduled games or fail to play a complete game with league members, except for valid reasons, are subject to any or all of the following disciplinary actions as deemed reasonable and appropriate by the CAL Board of Directors:

1. Public censure.
2. Forfeiture of games.
3. Suspension. This may include the school, team, coaches or Athletic Director.
4. Reimbursement of expenses, which may include but are not limited to officials fees, facility rental fees, traveling expenses.
	* 1. Member schools must have their season schedules in their entirety entered on the league website by the designated date or prior to their first league game, whichever comes first.
		2. Participation in a jamboree (non-official scrimmage type games) will not count as a game or match.
		3. When weather conditions present a threat to the safety of participants and spectators, the host school representative has the authority to postpone or suspend the contest.
		4. Tournament games/matches played during the regular season will not count towards the set number of required league contests required by each team.
		5. Member schools are responsible for entering their team’s box score on the CAL website for all regular season contests. Member schools are to enter the box and game scores within one week of the completion of the game.

## CAL Post-Season Tournaments

* + 1. Any member of the league may extend an invitation to host a league Post-Season Tournament. Member schools that wish to host a post-season tournament need to assess their ability to meet the logistical needs of a tournament.
		2. CAL Post-Season Tournament dates are established under the following guidelines:
1. The CAL Soccer and Volleyball Tournaments will be held the last Friday and Saturday of October.
2. The CAL Basketball Tournaments will be held in the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of March.
	* 1. The seeding deadline for all post-season tournaments will follow any league games held the Friday prior to the tournament.
3. The head coach of each team must submit their final seeds to the CAL secretary on or before the seeding deadline.
4. Contests against CAL member schools will only be considered when determining final seeds.
5. Tournament games/matches played against CAL opponents during the regular season will not be considered when determining final seeds.
	* 1. CAL tournament seeding will be determined by the voting of each head coach.
6. Decisions should be made based off CAL contests only (non-league contests should have no bearing in final seeds)
7. Various factors should be considered when determining final seeds (i.e. strength of league schedule, injuries, head-to-head, etc…)
8. Regular tie breaker rules will apply if there is a tie after all coach submissions (cr. 5.8.5)
9. Coaches must submit final seeds on or before the seeding cutoff date
10. Coaches should not include their own team when submitting final seeds
11. A loss will be given for each school that has not played each other during the regular season. This loss will be for tie-breaker purposes only in determining seeds (cr. 5.7.2)
	* 1. Tournament seeding tie-breakers:
12. Head-to-head record
13. Percent of wins vs. common league opponents
14. Points scored differential within head-to-head
15. Coin flip

5.8.5 Tournament Formats:

1. All soccer CAL tournament matches will be full varsity regulation 40 minute halves
2. All volleyball CAL tournament matches will be best of 5
3. All basketball CAL tournament games will be full varsity regulation 18 minute halves.

5.8.6 The Christian Athletic League will purchase a standard set of trophies and medals for each end-of-season league tournament. Trophies will be purchased for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Consolation with individual medals for 1st place.

5.8.7 The Christian Athletic League will purchase all-tournament medals to be distributed to all-tournament selections for each end-of-season league tournament.

1. The number of all tournament selections will be equal to the number of participating teams plus 4.
2. Coaches will vote and they will not vote for anyone from their own team.

1. Every attempt will be made to represent each participating school.
2. Final discretion of the list is left to the host school (in cases of a tie or to ensure all schools are represented if needed, etc…)

## CAL Sportsmanship Award

One member school shall be recognized annually for consistently demonstrating and upholding Christian character and sportsmanship on and off the field of play. All coaches and Athletic Directors are encouraged to nominate any school they believe should be recognized. Nominations are due no later than the seeding deadline for the basketball season.

In recognition and honor of the hard work, demonstration of Christian character, and the many years of service shown by Doug Libby since the inception of this league, the award shall be called the DOUG LIBBY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD.

# Codes of Conduct

## Responsibility for Conduct

* + 1. Each school is responsible to see that their managers, coaches, players and spectators abide by the respective CODE of CONDUCT.
		2. School officials shall be held responsible for the conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.
		3. All managers, coaches, players and parents or guardians of players will be provided copies of the appropriate CODE of CONDUCT Acknowledgment forms prior to the start of the season.

## Code of Conduct Requirements

* + 1. CODE of CONDUCT for spectators and players should be thoroughly discussed at a pre-season joint meeting between coaches, players and parent/guardians of players.
		2. All coaches, parents/guardians and players are required to sign the CODE of CONDUCT Acknowledgment form indicating they understand and accept their responsibilities as stated in the code.

## Athletic Directors and Administrators

* + 1. Review and follow the rules and regulations of the Christian Athletic League to ensure that the philosophies and objectives of the league are met.
		2. Support programs that train and educate players, coaches, parents, officials and volunteers.
		3. Communicate with parents regularly and hold parent/player orientation meetings; be available to answer questions and address problems.
		4. Work to provide programs that encompass fairness to all participants whether teammates or opponents and promote fair play and sportsmanship in all settings.
		5. Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate a Christ-like character and qualities conducive to being positive role models to the youth in sports.
		6. Make every possible attempt to provide everyone, at all skill levels, with a place to participate and experience personal growth by benefiting from the life lessons that can be taught in the context of athletic competition.

## Coaches

* + 1. Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of all players, your own as well as the opposition. Care more about the players than winning the game. Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and a positive spirit.
		2. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect for others.
		3. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and/or intended to humiliate.
		4. Instruct team members in the rules and coach in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
		5. Respect the officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner. Be aware that close and/or questionable calls will occur in most contests.

*Note: Referees, especially young and less experienced ones, are like you and your players - they need time and experience to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable and occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly-aggressive behavior. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and if you support the officials, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly-concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice. Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the spirit of the contest! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game and the orderly maintaining of the goals of the Christian Athletic League will remain intact.*

* + 1. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the game and at its conclusion, regardless of the outcome. If they are having difficulty doing the same, do not lower yourself to that level.
		2. During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game permanently, if needed, or at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
		3. Be fully aware that your conduct, mannerisms, and demeanor during games will set the tone for your players, as well as spectators in the stands.

## Players

* + 1. Respect your coaches, teammates, parents, opponents and the officials.
		2. Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
		3. Never argue with the decision of an official or coach.
		4. Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
		5. While playing to win is an important goal, it never supercedes the need to and the value of maintaining your own Christian character, prioritizing sportsmanship, treating all involved with dignity and respect, and maintaining a sense of fair play without which all that can be good and valuable about athletic competition can be soon lost.
		6. Maintain control of emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper directed at any players, coaches, official, or spectators at any time.
		7. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy and respect manifested by each individual player.

## Officials

* + 1. Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take their roles seriously.
		2. Strive to provide a safe and sportsmanlike environment in which players can properly and fairly engage in athletic competition.
		3. Know all the rules of the contest, their interpretations and proper application.
		4. Remember that officials are to deescalate tension not escalate it. They will, therefore, set good examples to this end.
		5. Make calls with quiet confidence, never with arrogance.
		6. Control games only to the extent that is necessary to provide a positive and safe experience for all players.
		7. Be fair and impartial at all times.

## Parents

* + 1. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, young people learn best by Christian example; if we expect them to show grace under pressure on the floor or field, we need to show the same in the stands.
		2. Do not embarrass your child or their school by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child and the children of others will benefit by the tone and example set.
		3. Emphasize the benefits of responsibility, a good work ethic, and reasonable efforts dedicated to skill development.
		4. Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials. This approach will help in the development of the sport.
		5. Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat; enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice - it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse from athletic competition.
		6. Recognize the importance of coaches, who in many cases volunteer their time. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them in the proper way and support them. Do not undermine their efforts or impugn their motives.
		7. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about it and respect the spirit of it and what it has to offer when all involved conduct themselves properly!

## Spectators

* + 1. Know and respect the rules of the game.
		2. Adhere to all practice/game facility rules and regulations.
		3. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and sense of dignity of all associated with it, including its fans.
		4. Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials; never address them in a loud, disrespectful or abusive manner.
		5. Always act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
		6. Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents, or other negative display intended to demean.
		7. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and all objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
		8. Always do your best to contribute to a safe environment that is enjoyable for all involved.
		9. Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity. Remember a mistake made is not to be construed as trigger for abusive or derisive behavior.
		10. Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
		11. Be supportive after the game - win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.
		12. Realize, accept, and practice the principal that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.

# Administration of Codes of Conduct

## Improper Conduct Adjudicated by the CAL Board

* + 1. Conduct of managers, coaches, players or spectators detrimental and contrary to the CAL CODE of CONDUCT may result in suspension from further participation for whatever period of time deemed reasonable and appropriate by the CAL board of directors.
		2. The CAL board reserves the authority to render a judgment about and a penalty for conduct deemed detrimental to the good order of the league. Such actions may include warning, suspension or termination.

## Improper Conduct Defined

No coach, player, parent/guardian or spectator is to:

1. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
2. Be guilty of objectionable demonstration by throwing equipment or any other forceful action.
3. Be guilty of heaping verbal abuse upon an official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.
4. Be guilty of abusive verbal attacks upon a player, an opposing coach, official or spectator.
5. At any time, lay hands upon, push, shove or strike an official, coach, player or spectator.
6. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, opposing, coach, official, spectator, or official.

## Penalties for Improper Conduct

* + 1. Improper conduct that results in an ejection will be considered a CODE of CONDUCT violation, and the coach or player is automatically suspended for at least ONE (1) game.
		2. The CAL board will define any further appropriate penalties and must approve permission for any suspended player, coach to participate in games subsequent to the incident for which they were ejected.
		3. A player or coach ejected from a game should be notified at the time as to the cause of the ejection; both coaches are still required to notify the League Secretary when an ejection occurs.
		4. Any coach, player, team representative, or spectator striking or shoving an official will be suspended from attending any CAL activity for the remainder of the season.
		5. Improper conduct on the part of managers, coaches, players or spectators may result in expulsion from the game/practice facility, or in extreme cases, forfeiture of the game.
		6. A written report should be made in all situations involving an ejection.
		7. All rulings of the board will be expedient, provided that a report of the facts relative to the ejection is made promptly.

## Coaches Ejection From a Contest

* + 1. **Notification to School Administration:** Head coaches of each team in the contest are required to inform their school administration and the League Secretary regarding any coach being ejected from a contest within 24 hours.
		2. **Penalties:**
			1. A coach who is ejected from a game is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted league game at that level of competition and all games in the interim at other levels of competition.
			2. A coach who is under suspension for an ejection may not:
* Have access to the locker room prior to the game, during half-time, or following the game.
* Be seated in an area proximal to the team bench.
* Serve in any official capacity as a coach, statistician, supervisor, etc. until the suspension has been served.
	+ - 1. A second and subsequent violation carries a four regularly scheduled game ineligibility.

## Student Ejection From a Contest

* + 1. **Notification to School Administration:** Head coaches of each team in the contest are required to inform their school administration and the League Secretary regarding any student being ejected from a contest within 24 hours.
		2. **Penalties:**
1. A student-athlete who is ejected from a game is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted game at that level of competition and all games in the interim at other levels of competition.
2. A player who is under suspension for an ejection may travel with the team and be in the locker room and on the sideline but may not be in uniform while under suspension.
3. If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season or league tournament and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over to the next sports season in which the student athlete participates.
	* 1. A second and subsequent violation will carry a four regularly scheduled game ineligibility.

## Spectator Ejection From a Contest

* + 1. **Notification to School Administration:** Head coaches of each team in the contest are required to inform their school administration and the League Secretary regarding any student being ejected from a contest within 24 hours.
		2. **Penalties:**
1. A spectator who is ejected from a game is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted game. This will be enforced by the school of the spectator.
2. In addition, the administrators/principals of the schools involved may take additional action in accordance with their own school policies.
	* 1. CAL recommends that a second and subsequent violation should carry a four regularly scheduled game suspension to be enforced by the school administration.

## Submission of Appeals

A written appeal on behalf of a coach or player may be submitted to the Christian Athletic League director within TWENTY-FOUR (24) hours of the penalty decision. The decision of the league's Board of Directors will be final.

## Code of Conduct Board of Directors Jurisdiction

When penalties for conduct violations are not specified, they will be decided by the CAL board.

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