Owosso Home School Sports

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Athletic Handbook

This handbook is adopted March 11, 2004

Latest Revision: June 12, 2025

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FOREWARD

The intent of this handbook is to provide the Board of Directors, coaches, athletes and parents with the policies and procedures of the Owosso Home School Sports association.

MISSION STATEMENT

Owosso Home School Sports is a non-profit corporation formed to provide a Christ-centered opportunity for home schooled students to participate in an athletic arena, to develop individual skills, teamwork and an attitude of good sportsmanship.

Board of Directors

Chairman ..... Mario Escamilla
Co-Chairman……..
Secretary.....
Treasurer ..... Anna Holmes
Athletic Director..... Anna Holmes
Registrar ..... Anna Holmes
Member.....Sara Dodson
Member……
Member……

ELIGIBILITY

Meaning of Home Schooled Student

The following guidelines are used to define who is considered a home schooled student:

1. A student who is taught at home by one or more of the student's parents or grandparents; or
2. A student who is taught at home by an older sibling (18 years or older); or
3. A student who is taught at home by a legal guardian; or
4. A student who is taught at home, or someone else's home, by another home school parent or tutor, provided that it is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent; or
5. A student who is taught in a central location for a particular subject (i.e. chemistry, speech, calculus, etc.) by a home school parent or tutor; or
6. A student who is taught through correspondence or online course; or
7. A student who is in an apprenticeship under their parent or legal guardian; or
8. A student who is taught in programs such as Teen Works or Grace Academy
9. A student may also take courses at a community college or university as long as they are a dual-enrolled high school student.

Age Requirements

1. Elementary students are considered ages 12 and under.
2. Junior High students are considered ages 14 and under.
3. Junior Varsity students are considered ages 16 and under.
4. Varsity students are considered ages 18 and under.
5. Age is determined as the current age of the student on August 1st of the year of participation.

Academic Eligibility

Parents or legal guardians will be responsible for determining academic eligibility. They are asked to keep coaches informed of possible changes in their student's eligibility.

Final determination of eligibility of any players(s) desiring to join the sports program will be at the discretion of the Owosso Home School Sports board.

LINE OF AUTHORITY

Recognizing the unique relationship of Owosso Home School Sports and their desire to uphold the family structure, we submit the following line of authority to be adhered to concerning any complaints:

1. If anyone has a complaint against another, he should go to that person to work out the grievance (Matthew 18:15).
2. If the offended party (parent, student, coach) is not satisfied with the response, the grievance should then be taken to the Athletic Director.
3. If the problem is not able to be resolved, the matter should then be brought before the Board of Directors. All decisions of the Board of Directors will be final.

FORMATION OF TEAMS

There will be a maximum of 14 players allowed pre basketball and volleyball unit.

Teams will be filled in the following order:

1. Players from the previous season who remain eligible under paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 below. (They must sign-up and pay deposit at previous years' Awards Banquet to hold their place. Checks will not be deposited before June 1st of that year.)
2. Home schooled student as defined in this manual. (Placed on roster on first deposit received basis.)
3. After June 1st, rosters will be opened to Christian School students with no opportunity for competitive sports given within their respective institutions. (Placed on roster on first deposit received basis.)
4. After August 1st, if there is available space, students from other Christian Schools will be allowed to apply.

Formation of Varsity Teams - Varsity and Jr. Varsity players will practice as one during the pre- season camp. At the end of camp, the varsity coach(es) will choose the players they wish to be on the varsity team. All seniors will be on the varsity team. There may be times due to illness, injury, or ineligibility that coaches may have to borrow players from other teams.

REQUIRED FORMS

A completed *OHSS Registration Form* and registration fee will be required for each athlete before he/she is considered a team member.

The *Christ-like Character Contract* must be signed by each parent or guardian and athlete before the athlete will be considered a team member.

The *Medical History and Release Form* must be filled out, signed and turned in to the respective coach before any athlete will be allowed to practice or play.

Permission and Release of Liability must be signed and turned in to the respective coach before any athlete will be allowed to practice or play.

A *OHSS Background Check Authorization Form* must be completed by anyone 18 years old and older who will be working with the athletes. Additionally, the background check must be completed before their work with the athletes begins.

PLAYING POLICY

While we trust our coaches will strive for balance and fairness in determining playtime at all levels, because of the formative aspect of our program, it is expected that they will adhere to the following guidelines at each level:

Elementary/Junior High (grades 5-9) Program: Amount of playtime will depend more on athlete's level of ability and as game situations dictate. While each athlete should receive some playing time, it may not be equal time in each competition. If a player does not receive much playing time one game, he/she may receive more the next. In addition, it may be that not all athletes will see playing time in each contest.

J.V., Varsity - High School (grades 9-12) Program: Amount of playing time is solely at the coach's discretion. The coach will decide which players at any given time will maximize the team's ability to compete in the games at the highest level. The coach will take into consideration player's skill level, attitude, attendance at practice and games. For clarification, it should be understood that an athlete may not experience playing time.

Pertaining to all levels:

Coaches have authority to withhold playtime due to missed practices and games and this penalty takes precedence over playtime guidelines for that level.

Tournaments can be considered a more competitive event and coaches may prioritize more skilled and older players at these events, regardless of level.

Poor sportsmanship / inappropriate behavior or attitude can be used to withhold playtime, regardless of level.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND HOME WORK

Coaches may provide homework to help try to improve a player's game and increase his or her playing time. The more a player practices on their own, the better they will be. Check with your coach as to what they might offer.

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

In keeping with the mission statement to be Christ-centered, all those who represent OHSS (Board of Directors, coaches, students and parents) are expected to exhibit Christ-like character (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). We are first representatives of Christ before others and then representatives of each other in everything we say and do. The following principles seek to define the spirit of our mission:

1. Recognizing our responsibility to be under authority (Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Ephesians 5:21), we pledge ourselves to uphold the traditions of good sportsmanship and fair play. At all times we are expected to abide by and respect the decisions of the officials.
2. Recognizing our responsibility to control our tongues (Ephesians 4:29; James 3:1-12), we pledge ourselves to refrain from unwholesome speech. Cursing, vulgar language, berating words and gossip will not be tolerated.
3. Recognizing our responsibility to be submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20), we pledge ourselves to refrain from the improper use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other addictive substances.

4. Recognizing our responsibility to purity (Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:3; Job 31:1), we pledge to refrain from all areas of sexual misconduct and pornography. Understanding the seriousness of this issue, we clearly state that there is a zero tolerance policy concerning any sexual misconduct between adults and children. Any misconduct of this nature will be immediately reported to any member of the Board of Directors by filling out and turning in the *Incident Reporting Form. A*ppropriate action will then be taken by the Board.
5. Recognizing our responsibility to love one another (John 13:13-35, 15:12; Matthew 7:12), we pledge ourselves to treat each other with honor and respect. No form of hazing or initiation rites will be tolerated.
6. Recognizing our responsibility to respect possessions of others (Ephesians 4:28), we pledge ourselves not to take or misuse the property of others. Equipment belonging to OHSS will be returned in satisfactory condition or be expected to be replaced. Facilities used will be treated as if they are our own
7. Recognizing that we need to prefer other above ourselves (Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 5:5) we pledge ourselves to respect their time by being committed to personal timeliness. Practices must be attended or proper arrangements made with the coach prior to any absences. Arrival at games must be timely.

All Board of Directors, coaches, parents and students will annually sign a commitment to abide by these principles upon their registration with OHSS. **The parents are asked to sign the commitment form as a support to the student(s) in abiding by the principles of the contract and also in support of the Board of Directors for the administration of the commitment.**

Violations of these principles will have consequences. The Line of Authority will be used to hold parties accountable. Discipline will seek to follow principles of restitution and restoration. Misuse of controlled substances, sexual immorality or misconduct, stealing, flagrant speech or attitude problems and hazing will result in automatic suspension. The offending person will be encouraged to seek counseling. Upon completion of counseling, evidence of a repentant spirit and changed attitude and with the approval of the Board, the offending person may be reinstated.

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OWOSSO HOME SCHOOL SPORTS
CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER CONTRACT

We have received, read, and understand the Athletic Handbook of the Owosso Home School Sports association. We commit ourselves to abide by the policies and procedures as listed in the handbook. We further acknowledge the Board of Directors authority to implement the observance of these policies. We covenant with them to develop Christ-like character.

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Signature	Date
Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Signature	Date
Athlete's Signature	Date
Athlete's Signature	Date
Athlete's Signature	Date
Athlete's Signature	Date
Athlete's Signature	Date

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES (ESV)

Matthew 18:15 - If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,[a] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Romans 13:1-5 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and
you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

1 Peter 2:13-15 - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Ephesians 5:18-21 - And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,**20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

James 3:1-12 - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,**8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we

bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. **2** For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;**4** that each one of you know how to control his
own body in holiness and honor, **5** not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. **8** Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Ephesians 5:3 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

Job 31:1 - I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

John 13:13-35 - You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. **18** I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' **19** I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.**20** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." **22** The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. **23** One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, **24** so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. **25** So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" **26** Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27** Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." **28** Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. **29** Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. **30** So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. **32** If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. **33** Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Matthew 7:12 - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Ephesians 4:28 - Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Romans 12:10 - Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”