**CFCAL HANDBOOK 2021-2022**

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***Mission & Vision***

** Mission**

 The Central Florida Charter Athletic League works to aid the individual growth of Hillsborough County charter school students, through athletic competition in order to promote teamwork, a healthy lifestyle, and the constant pursuit for academic excellence.

 ** Vision**

CFCAL will develop and maintain annual sports leagues competitions as a venue to showcase charter school students in the Hillsborough County area.

***C.F.C.A.L Goals***

 It is the goal of CFCAL to facilitate safe, professional, and fun competitions.

 It is the goal of CFCAL to promote and value sportsmanship above all other aspects in all CFCAL Activities.

  It is the goal of CFCAL to develop a competitive league that is available to all charter schools in the Tampa area.

 It is the goal of CFCAL to promote a sense of community among the area charter schools and to help build a stronger sense of charter school unity.

 It is the goal of CFCAL to provide a program that is an incentive to help foster the development of a student’s good behavior, good grades, and their overall character.

 It is the goal of CFCAL to provide activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

  It is the goal of CFCAL to provide competitions that promote the lifelong lessons that are obtained through teamwork.

***Competition Codes/Sportsmanship***

Competition Codes are established in order to ensure that any participating school, athlete, coach, fan, participant, or any other individual associated with our member schools, conduct themselves in a manner that is in the same spirit as the CFCAL Mission & Vision. Individuals, campuses, and other entities failing to meet the standards set forth by the following competition codes may be subject to penalty.

 All opponents are to be treated as guests, emphasizing the value of sportsmanship over the result of a competition.

  Winning participants and their supporters are to display good sportsmanship in their victory, while participants that do not win and their supporters are expected to display good sportsmanship in their loss. Any boasts, insults, or displays of poor behavior as a result of loss or win is counterproductive in the individual participant’s growth and development, as well as contrary to CFCAL’s Mission & Vision, and are subject to penalty.

  Coaches are expected to keep safety as the top priority while coaching, and as well, are expected to teach tactics in a manner that are both ethical and in the spirit of competitive integrity. In addition, coaches are expected to coach in a manner that is conducive to the educational value of the respective competition, and should not resort to skirting the rules or employing unethical tactics.

 Participants and their supporters are expected to accept rulings of competition officials in a mature and humble manner, and are further expected to treat all officials, spectators, and attendants at CFCAL events with courtesy and affable character.

 Removing teams from competition as a means of protest is counterproductive to the fundamental aspects of both competition and team sports, and such action is likely to stunt rather than encourage personal growth for those individuals participating.

  Coaches are also expected to set a good example for his/her team by demonstrating affable and professional rapport with officials, opposing team members, coaches, and spectators.

  During the most trying times of competition, coaches are expected to lead their team in maintaining a positive attitude and in appreciating the value of the lessons learned through competition, rather than focusing on the negative aspects of a result.

 Coaches are expected to encourage core school academics above and beyond any aspect of competition.

 Participants and all affiliated individuals are expected to respect the facilities being used and are to clean up after themselves prior to exiting.

***Registration Requirements***

 All schools must complete and submit the registration forms

  All participating schools must have their approved liaison to the league sign and return the Handbook Understanding Agreement.

 All schools must pay for each activity fee at least 14 days from the time of the date of Invoice

  In the instance where an event deadline has passed, late entries will be permitted at the sole discretion of CFCAL.

***Refund & Payment Policies***

  All schools must pay their activities fee 14 days from the time they received their official invoice.

 If a specific sport league in your school does not make (M.S girls Basketball), your charter school will be refunded in full for the activity fee.

***General Contest Rules***

**All Players must have all appropriate paperwork complete before competition, along with physical and insurance (should be required by school anyways).**

**\***Team rosters are due to the CFCAL Director before the start of the season. If rosters are not received by a team, they will forfeit each game until rosters are received. The CFCAL Director will collect all rosters and email them to all opposing teams. Rosters MUST include students: Name, jersey # and date of birth.

 Student’s eligibility is up to each individual school.

 A student must be under the age of 15 as of September 1, of the current school year to be eligible to participate in the 6th – 8th Grade age group.

 A student must be under the age 12 as of September 1, of the current school year to be eligible to participate in the 3rd – 5th Grade age group.

 Any student can play up in age, but they cannot play down. Any student can play up in grade but they cannot play down in grade.

 Girls are eligible to participate on the boys’ team, **only if her school is not able to field the girls’ team for that same sport.**

  Boys cannot participate on girls’ teams.

 Athletes must be a full-time student at the team’s school in order to play for that team. A student may **NOT** play for a sister school.

* Athletes may ONLY be registered on ONE roster per season.

 Penalties for using an ineligible player can include, but are not limited to:

 Suspension of a player

  Suspension of coaches

 Forfeiture of previous victories

  Suspension of team

***Athletic Scheduling and Regular/Playoff Season Format***

* Each team will be scheduled to play a minimum of 7, max of 10 games in the regular season in all sports, unless there are uneven amount of teams or too few teams to allow for 7 games.
* If a sport has more than 8 teams competing, the top 8 in record will advance to the playoffs.
* Makeup dates will be scheduled in case of inclement weather.
* Makeup games must be agreed upon by both teams as well as the director to ensure referees and/or facilities are available.
* It is the responsibility of each home schools A.D to inform the director of any weather issues they may face on a game day, as well as reach out to the opposing A.D to update them on any changes that may take place.

***Playoff Details***

 CFCAL will coordinate all playoff facilities with participating schools and/or County facilities for all playoff games in all sports. CFCAL will also arrange for all referees for the many rounds of the playoffs.

• If there is a tie in record at the end of the regular season to determine a playoff spot, the deciding factor will be point differential.

***Athletic Directors role***

All A.D’s will be given a spreadsheet with all of the contact information for each of the A.D’s in our league. Please contact A.D’s directly for any questions or concerns that involve a change in a games status.

A.D’s should reach out to each other to solve conflict between players, parents or Coaches within 24 hours of the incident. If the issue does not get resolved email a formal complaint to the CFCAL Director

 **Teams will submit results and scores to the CFCAL Director via text message by 8:00 pm on game day.**

Teams will submit rosters and any **roster changes** to CFCAL Director before the start of their next game, after the roster change.

***Protests/Appeals Process***

  Schools that wish to make a formal complaint or protest must contact both the CFCAL Director and describe the issue at hand, this must be submitted within 5 days of the incident that took place.

  Schools may protest a student’s eligibility.

  Schools may protest possible cheating.

 Schools should bring to the attention of CFCAL all acts of un-sportsmanlike behavior.

 Schools may not protest a referee’s judgment or ruling. CFCAL will not overturn a referee’s ruling or judgment.

  CFCAL will not change results or scores except in the event of un-sportsmanlike behavior, an ineligible student, or cheating. (Please note that penalties will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of CFCAL)

  The CFCAL Director reserves the right to act on all protests and appeals and serves as the final authority on all disputes.

***Hosting Teams Responsibilities***

 Responsibilities of Host Team:

 The Host Team must take measures to ensure there is always a safe environment for the competition.

 We encourage each Host Team to have a non-coach representative present at all home games. The representative may be any coach (other than the game coach), teacher, administrator, or staff member associated with the school.

 The representative works to ensure a safe environment.

 The representative assists the officials in any manner necessary to discourage improper conduct by players, coaches, or fans.

 Host Team is responsible for reserving their own facility for all home games in which facilities are needed.

 Host Team must take measures to ensure that prohibited activities do not occur during game play; warm-up or wrap up of the game.

* Prohibited activities shall be defined as any activities that are against the rules and regulations of the home team’s school or facility.
* Additionally, prohibited activities include any activities that are against CFCAL rules and regulations. Or any activity prohibited by law.

 Host Team must ensure that the home team as well as the visiting team is adhering to all CFCAL rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, sportsmanship, competition codes, as well as the rules and guidelines for each individual activity.

***Health & Wellness***

 It is the policy of CFCAL to not initiate or continue outdoor events when the Heat index is at 105 or higher. The heat index is determined when factoring temperature and humidity together.

* It is also the policy of the CFCAL to not initiate outdoor events when there is lightning in the area. We recommend the lightning tracker app on your schools A.D phone to ensure we are taking the necessary precautions in inclement weather.
* CFCAL uses the websites accessing the National Weather Service, such as weather.com, to determine the temperature, humidity and lightning of an area.
* In regards to rain, it is up to the referees and both coaches’ discretion to continue playing if rain occurs with NO lightning**. If a game is called in the second half, the final score will stand.**
* Please remember to provide sunscreen and shading for your teams at all outdoor activities.
* Please always bring plenty of water and food for your team. Please never assume that water and food will be provided.

 ***Concussion Training and Guidelines***

 All coaches AND AD’s for all sports MUST complete the concussion training held by the county in order for your team to participate. CFCAL will send out information on these trainings as soon as we confirm the details. This training is also available online @ NFHSLearn.com and is free.

* Hillsborough County may have other guidelines necessary for all coaches to be eligible to coach on county property.
* All Coaches and AD must take either the volunteer coaches training provided by the county or through NAYS.ORG.
* All Coaches and AD must be CPR/FIRST AID/AED certified.

***Rules and Guidelines for CFCAL Competitions***

* Please see all rules and guidelines for each sport on our website. [www.CFCAL.weebly.com](http://www.CFCAL.weebly.com/)

***Updates and Changes to the Handbook***

* CFCAL reserves the rights to add or modify general rules and guidelines at any time. Notification will be done via the website. Once a rule is posted on website it will immediately take effect. CFCAL will try to notify schools of the changes but it is the responsibility of all participants to check regularly with the website in order to stay up-to-date. CFCAL will not excuse failure to comply with rules because an individual claim to be unaware of the rules and regulations.

***2021-22 Handbook Understanding Agreement***

**\*\*must be signed and turned in with registration form\*\***

 The handbook understanding agreement must be signed by either the administrator or the person appointed by the administrator as the primary contact to work with CFCAL on the school’s behalf.

 I acknowledge by signing the following that I am signing on behalf of my school and all of my coaches and that I fully understand every aspect of the handbook, as well as all matters referenced in the handbook, including, but not limited to, full knowledge of all competition rules of activities that my school is participating in. I agree to ensure that all coaches, participants, parents, students and all those attending or participating in CFCAL events are aware of the rules and guidelines in the Handbook and understand that they will be expected to abide by those rules and guidelines.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On Behalf Of (Insert your school’ name.): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return via email to cfcalathletics@gmail.com : Please note that this handbook is subject to change at any time via the webpage. Schools are required to routinely check the webpage for updates to the handbook. All schools participating in CFCAL activities are bound by the rules of this Handbook whether they fill out the Handbook Understanding Agreement or not.

CFCAL Director – Casandra Peacock