

Calvary Schools of Holland



Athletic Handbook 2018-2019

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

Calvary Schools of Holland participates in the Alliance League Conference, including MHSAA, in order to provide maximum opportunity for wholesome athletic competition against other schools for fun and to provide students opportunities to develop skills best cultivated in co-curricular activities (including athletics). The school presently fields a variety of teams including coed cross country, boys' 8 man football, boys' soccer, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, boys' baseball, girls' soccer, co-ed cross country, and eight man football for secondary students. Middle school opportunities vary annually. The ability of Calvary to offer any particular sport is dependent upon successfully retaining a coach for that sport and having enough participants to field a team. Depending on student interest and school growth, other sports may be offered in the future.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS

Each student who wishes to participate in a middle or high school sport must be enrolled in a minimum of 20 credit hours (equivalent to attending four classes that meet once a day for five days, PowerPlus equals one credit hour) at Calvary Schools of Holland. These guidelines are set by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, of which Calvary is a member school. Once a student is enrolled in 20 credit hours, the academic eligibility criterion applies in order to be able to participate.

In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular athletic activities, a student must have a "C" average overall and may not be failing any class. Eligibility grades are checked throughout the school year. If a student on the team falls below the requirement, he/she will be notified of their ineligibility to play at an athletic event for one week and the grade(s) have improved. During this time period, the student will be expected to be at all practices and games but will not be allowed to participate during the games.

CONDUCT QUALIFICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS

Students who demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after a game may be dismissed from the team and subject to other disciplinary action. Unsportsmanlike conduct at athletic events by a parent or a student will be addressed by the Athletic Director first, and then an Administrator if needed.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE

When a student commits to a team, he/she is expected to attend all practices and games of that team. Habitual absences may make a student ineligible to participate. If a practice is listed as optional, attendance is not required.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Any student who is not in school starting with the first period is ineligible to play in a game that day. There are exceptions to this rule, exceptions will need to be approved by the AD.

Letter from the Athletic Director

Dear Student Athlete and Parents:

We are excited to have you become a part of the Calvary Schools of Holland's Athletic Program. We sincerely wish that your experience in our athletic program is satisfying and rewarding. We

feel that participation in athletics is an important part of the educational process as athletic participation provides the opportunity for student athletes to develop knowledge, skill and attitudes that will develop Christian character and train them to be servant leaders of our community and society.

The CSH Athletic Program seeks to provide an experience that is fun and promotes individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. We hope that all students will participate in some phase of our athletic program as these will be memorable high school experiences that will last a lifetime.

When your daughter/son chooses to participate in one of our sports programs, we feel that they have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some specific policies/rules that are necessary for a well organized program of interscholastic athletics.

Calvary Schools of Holland are members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). We are affiliated with the Alliance League and compete as a "Class D" school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the CSH Athletic Program and/or this handbook, please contact the Athletic Director at 396-0248.

We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to "be the best you can be, to the Glory of God."

In His Service,

Richard Laninga
Athletic Director

Calvary Schools of Holland Philosophy of Athletics

Basketball • Soccer • Baseball • Volleyball Cross Country Foot ball

Calvary Schools views athletics as another instrument to fulfill the school mission and disciple students. Physical exercise and a healthy degree of competitiveness should encourage students and complement school culture.

Our school is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) with varsity teams in volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, cross country, and football! Many of these sports are also available to younger grades. We compete in the Alliance League and against public, private, and other Christian schools similar in size.

The Calvary Difference

Self-control in adversity, the value of hard work and practice, godliness regardless of circumstance, consideration of others, and respect for authority are some of the key spiritual issues addressed through athletics. The mission of Calvary athletics is the same as the mission of the school; to build Christian character and servant leadership. Each Calvary athlete is a multi-faceted individual who needs not only physical development, but spiritual, emotional, social, and mental as well.

The driving motive of Calvary athletics is to disciple the athlete physically, spiritually, socially, emotionally and mentally so that he/she will love Jesus Christ and make an impact for His Kingdom.

With this driving motive, our athletic program will look different than other schools that do not have this objective. Christ-like behavior and attitudes from athletes, parents and coaches are not just important – they are critical to the very mission of Calvary athletics. There is no room for pragmatism (whatever works, use it), subtle breaking of the rules to gain an advantage or expressions of disrespect and insubordination toward authority. While these are prevalent in our broader athletic culture they are counterproductive toward Calvary's goals.

What is the Calvary Difference?

Difference #1: Calvary athletics will elevate the name and reputation of Jesus Christ.

A team may establish many goals, none of them are greater than bringing glory to our Lord and Savior. As a Christian school, we should be noticeably different in our attitudes and actions. We are called by our Lord to be a “city on a hill” in an athletic contest. We need to continually encourage our athletes and coaches to pursue the elevation of Christ's reputation.

Difference #2: Calvary athletics trains the body, soul, and mind.

There is no difference between morality in sport and in everyday life. Galatians five contains two lists of traits, the fruit of the spirit and the fruit of the flesh. We are always developing one set of traits or the other. There is no neutral ground. We must admit that actions on the field or the court are accurate indicators of the true person, whether positive or negative. We must also accept that the disciplined training during practice is effective discipleship and that the hard work, dedication, discipline and teamwork that a coach builds into a player will have real life spiritual impact.

Difference #3: Calvary will not link the value of an athlete to the athlete's performance.

Value as an athlete or a team is not determined by a win-loss record. Individual athletes or a whole team may perform poorly but are still worthwhile, valuable and to be loved and accepted. This is God's example to us; in that, while we were still sinners He loved us and sent His Son to die for us. No member of any team is more valuable than another; each has a role to play and must be challenged to play that role with excellence.

Therefore, success in Calvary athletics is evaluated based on each individual's personal athletic growth, the Biblical characteristics and spiritual qualities revealed in the contest and finally on how the team as a whole works together to attain its goals.

Difference #4: Calvary is thankful to God for victory or defeat.

The spoilsport who does not try to win is worse than a cheat. If a sport is to be a sport at all, it's goal must be to win. Hard work, sacrifice and training's goal is the crown of victory. We must not, however, equate victory in a contest as proof of God's blessing or approval. An athlete may work diligently and lose. It is clear in Scripture that obedience, hard work and patience does not always result in victory, at least not in this world (Genesis 37 – 50). Our attitude should be prepare to win and play to win; then regardless of the outcome...Learn the key life lessons – without grumbling!

Difference #5: Calvary honors and respects all authorities.

All authority comes from God (1 Peter 2:13). Many times human authorities make human mistakes which have a negative impact on us. Our response to this injustice is of great importance to God. Which is more important, my rights or God's reputation? 1 Peter 2:1 states, "For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God."

Difference #6: Calvary views athletics as a vehicle to disciple the whole person.

Our God created many vehicles intended to teach us about life. Drama, music, academics and athletics are a few. We need to provide an environment through which God's truths can be effectively communicated. In athletics, one experiences all of the human emotions from joy to sorrow, pride to humility, and camaraderie to loneliness. These experiences provide opportunities for godly Christian coaches to come alongside and impart God's truths as to how these situations should be handled. Above all, our coaches and athletic staff are to be mentors to the young athletes in their charge.

It is vital to communicate clearly to our athletes and their families the "Six Differences of Calvary." Our parents and supporters make a difference in the success or failure of our programs, and therefore, need to understand and support Calvary's unique athletic program.

Student Participation in Athletics

Each student who wishes to participate in a junior or senior high sport must be enrolled in a minimum of 20 credit hours (equivalent to attending four classes that meet once a day for five days, PowerPlus equals 1 credit hour) at Calvary Schools of Holland. These guidelines are set by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, of which Calvary is a member school. Once a student is enrolled in 20 credit hours, the academic eligibility criterion applies to be able to participate.

Athletics and Parents

Calvary enjoys great support from the parents of our student athletes. We believe the parent's presence at games greatly encourages all students, and allows parents to use sports in their efforts to disciple at home. We also believe parents have an opportunity and a mandate to reveal Christ to other parents, coaches, and the athletes of other schools by their enthusiasm and godliness by cheering and encouraging students, with the constant realization that the athletic competition is temporal, but relationships eternal. It is our responsibility to own our Christian

testimony by refraining from any behavior that would jeopardize its integrity. Inappropriate behavior or comments that criticize or demoralize any coach, player, and/or official will not be tolerated.

M.H.S.A.A.

Each year Calvary Schools of Holland applies for membership into the Michigan High School Athletic Association. In doing so, Calvary, its athletic department, and participants agree to implement and enforce the rules of the M.H.S.A.A. The M.H.S.A.A. rules become Calvary's rules. Each year, M.H.S.A.A. publishes a handbook containing the basic regulations. A copy of this handbook is available for reading through the athletic department. Other items of interest are published throughout the year, and also, can be made available by contacting the athletic department. Parents and athletes are encouraged to read the handbook, as this will prove helpful in the enforcement of the regulations.

Calvary Schools of Holland competes in the Alliance League and against public, private, and other Christian schools similar in size. Currently, we offer six varsity sports. Girls may participate in cross country and volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and soccer in the spring. Boys may participate in cross country and soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and baseball in the spring. Calvary does not allow mixed gender sports. CSH competes in the M.H.S.A.A. state tournament with all varsity sports. Currently, CSH participates as a Class 'D' school. These tournaments are played at the conclusion of each sport's respective season.

Privilege of Participation

As an athlete, you commit yourself to your team the day you put your name on the sign-up sheet. At CSH it is a privilege to participate in athletics, not a right. Once practice begins an athlete has demonstrated his/her commitment to being there for his/her team. When an athlete decides to quit, he/she demonstrates a lack of commitment, which is a key character trait being taught through athletics. It is important that all student athletes finish the season they start.

In order for Holland Calvary to compete at the level at which it is most capable of competing, it is extremely important that all athletes make themselves available for all practices and all games. Practices are where the Crusaders get better and are an essential part of athletics. Athletes are not just practicing for the opportunity to play in games, but they should be working to better themselves and form a team through practices. The privilege to participate in a game is earned through hard work in practice. Missing practices and/or games may reveal a lack of commitment to the team, CSH and an athlete's personal testimony. It is understandable that some things are unavoidable and sometimes a practice or game will be missed. Excusable exceptions include: death in family, illness, doctor's appointment related to current illness, injury that does not allow for attendance at practice or game, an essential youth group activity of an athlete's home church planned prior to the current sport schedule being available, and possibly others deemed credible by the administration. Inexcusable reasons include: music lessons, no transportation, family vacations, homework, or possibly others to be considered by administration. When an athlete misses a practice and/or game with an unexcused reason that athlete will be subject to team discipline to be decided at the head coach's discretion. It is the responsibility of the player to let the coach know if he/she won't be at practice or a game.

Students should not participate in more than two **Calvary Schools of Holland** extracurricular activities at any given time.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in any sport that is currently sponsored by Calvary Schools of Holland an athlete must meet certain academic requirements. An eligible student, academically, is a student who is attending CSH full time, carrying the required academic class load, and is maintaining an overall grade percentage of 70% or higher. Furthermore, a student may be carrying a 70% average or higher and still be academically ineligible. When an athlete receives a failing grade (59% or lower) at the time that grades are submitted, that athlete is automatically declared ineligible, until the failing grade becomes a 60% or higher. When a failing grade becomes a non-failing grade, then the overall average must be a 70% or higher to be academically eligible. If a student is deemed academically ineligible due to grades submitted on Friday, ineligibility takes effect Monday through Sunday of the next week.

At the beginning of each school year all athletes are academically eligible, as long as they are enrolled with a full load of classes. At the conclusion of the third week of the Fall semester, eligibility reports for each athlete will be run on Friday afternoon. It will be the athletic director's responsibility to inform any athlete that they are ineligible and office personnel's responsibility to contact the parents. Percentage grades will be figured on the semester marking period, not the nine-week period. A three-week grace period will be given at the beginning of the Spring semester. (Note: If an athlete is ineligible at the conclusion of the Fall semester, this athlete will remain ineligible until grades are submitted after the grace period of the spring semester).

If you are declared ineligible, this does not mean you are removed from your team. An ineligible athlete is still an active part of his/her team. While ineligible the athlete must continue to practice with the team, attend all games in proper dress code, and sit on the bench with the team. Failure to comply with this policy will result in immediate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, possible dismissal from the team.

At Calvary an athlete is expected to be in attendance for the entire school day to be eligible to participate in an athletic contest on that same day. If an athlete has questions about their eligibility due to absence, they must contact the athletic director before suiting up for a contest. Scheduled doctor's appointments are not considered an absence. The general rule is that once the bell has rung for the first period of the day, any athlete who is not present in class will be ineligible.

Physicals

In order to participate as an athlete on a sponsored CSH team, each athlete is required to have a physical form on file in the athletic office. Each subsequent school year another physical form must be on file. Athletes participating in Junior High sports are also required to have a physical on file. A physical for the current year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after April 15 of the previous school year. The forms must be signed by the MD, DO, PA, or NP who administers the exam. The forms can be picked up in the main office at CSH or downloaded from the MHSAA website.

Behavior

It is considered a privilege to participate in athletics at Calvary Schools of Holland. One way to lose the privilege is to disobey the rules of the school, which governs the athletic department. If an athlete receives a detention, for whatever reason, the detention takes precedence over practices, scrimmages, or games. An athlete is not allowed to change the day that he/she serves the detention to accommodate the athletic schedule. If an athlete is caught abusing this policy, immediate disciplinary action will be taken, including, but not limited to, possible dismissal from the team.

Game Day Attire:

- Each team will be allowed and encouraged to purchase a team shirt which can be worn on the day of their game. The athletic director will work with the coaches to make sure the shirts are affordable and in compliance with the rest of the dress code. This applies to athletes at all levels.
- If an athlete chooses not to wear their team shirt, normal dress code attire for that day will be required.
- Although we rarely, if ever, have Wednesday games, chapel dress is required for athletes every Wednesday regardless if there is a scheduled game or not.

Transportation

Transportation for all away contests will be arranged by the athletic director and the athletic coordinator. The athletic director will give a Vehicle Departure Form to each coach at the beginning of each respective season. The school will provide, or arrange for transportation to all away games that are outside the surrounding area of Calvary Schools of Holland. Sometimes carpools need to be arranged for away games (parents will be asked to create their own carpools). Student drivers will not be allowed to drive other students for liability reasons. Baseball may require unique arrangements to games. All vehicles will be treated with respect and all refuse will be cleaned up upon return. Only students who are on the teams will be allowed to ride on the bus with the team.

Athletes are required to ride the transportation provided by the school. At the conclusion of the game, an athlete may ride home with their parent. (Please sign out with coach.) If a parent makes arrangements for their child to ride home with another family ahead of time, a note is required letting the coach know it is okay for their child to ride with that parent. Otherwise, the athlete will ride the bus back to school. A head coach will not be allowed to accept any other circumstances and at no time will an athlete be allowed to ride home with anyone else. Coaches, or a designated adult, are responsible for the conduct of their team while in-transit.

Transfers

If a student should transfer into the high school at CSH from another high school, it is important to see the athletic director to check on the status of eligibility. All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities; however, CSH must comply with M.H.S.A.A. regulations.

Cancellations

If school is canceled for any reason, do not assume that any athletic events, practices or games are canceled for that day. Please check the school website for updates. Athletic events can be canceled even when school is in session, if the weather is forecasted to worsen or the opponent does not wish to make the trip. When there are athletic events scheduled for a Saturday, the athletic director will contact the head coach, who will be responsible for contacting his/her team roster. When possible the cancellation will be announced on the local media mentioned in the academic handbook. If you are unsure if a contest is being held, please feel free to contact the athletic office.

Facilities

The present facility at Calvary will not accommodate all of the teams' needed practice time. Currently, the baseball team is required to practice at area township parks or other area high schools. Transportation will not be provided back to the school. Parents can pick up athletes at the practice site. If an athlete has a valid Michigan Driver's license, that athlete will be permitted to drive to designated practice sites. At no time will teammates be allowed to ride with anyone without written permission from the parents of both students. (driver and rider) The only exception is when siblings are on the same team and one sibling has a license.

Sometimes the athletic department has to rent other facilities for practices and/or games. In order to keep good relations, as well as a good testimony with area organizations, we need to be good stewards of the facilities that are rented. At times these facilities will have special announcements that will be communicated through the public address system before a particular contest. It is of extreme importance that we abide by the rules of the facility we are renting. Failure to comply with facility rules could result in immediate dismissal from the stands, without a refund.

Objectives of the Christian Coach

- ◆ Do everything to God's glory. *Prov. 16:4; Eph. 6:7; Col. 3:17,23*
- ◆ Strive to be conformed to the image of Christ. *Isa. 55:8-9; Matt. 5:48*
- ◆ Be an "ambassador for Christ". *I Cor. 5:17-20*

Purpose of the Christian Coach

- ◆ In the Christian school, our purpose must be in line with the purpose of the Christian church. *Eph. 4:12-13*

Bottom Line:

Coaching, for the Christian, cannot be separated from our daily walk with Christ. Our daily walk with Christ can only be maintained through the regular input and output of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. Teaching our players to glorify God, strive to be like Christ, and be a witness is impossible if we are not living the truth. As Christian coaches, we fall short of our ultimate purpose when we fail to make every possible effort to direct young people to conform to Christ, instill a heart for Christian ministry and encourage the building of the lives of the athletes God directs across our path.

Coaches' Responsibilities:

1. The coach must exercise mature judgment in communicating that team membership is not the ultimate loyalty in a young Christian's life.

2. The coach must strive to keep the school's testimony intact at all times.
3. The coach must see that God is uplifted at all times.
4. The coach must encourage all athletes to enjoy and love what they do and accomplish.
5. The coach must remember that he or she is a role model and that they may influence a young person's life more than a parent, pastor, teacher, or any other authority figure.

Distinctive Coaching Qualities

Every program undertaken by Calvary Schools of Holland (CSH) must support or encourage the school mission statement. Given these criteria, coaches pursued and instated by CSH must bear certain distinctive qualities.

- I. Fundamental Personal Qualities
 - a. Each coach must display active, growing relationship with Christ
 - i. This is marked by active involvements and membership with a local church of like faith.
 - ii. There is an absence of continual, obvious, unchecked sin.
 - iii. There is an obvious desire to be obedient to Christ and a service to His people.
- II. Each coach must view every activity and relationship in light of the work of God in his or her life.
 - a. The act of coaching is an opportunity to disciple young people.
 - b. There is a unique understanding of how to relate sport and preparation for sport to the Christian life.
 - c. The coach must see themselves as an example of Christ-likeness in every aspect of the coaching process:
 - i. The running of a practice
 - ii. Expectations for participants
 - iii. Treatment of parents/officials
 - iv. Personal habits observed by students
 - d. The coaching staff must be dedicated to the development of excellence in sports participants.
 - i. The coach must have an understanding of the game and be willing to learn the MHSAA requirements for students.
 - ii. He or she must be physically able to develop and coach challenging practices and games.
 - iii. He or she must not knowingly break any MHSAA or CSH requirements for athletes.
 - iv. He or she must be willing to communicate clearly with parents.
 - e. Guidelines for coaches attire
 - i. All coaches shall maintain a personal appearance that is a role model of cleanliness, modesty, good taste, and in agreement with school policy.
- III. Programmatic Preferences
 - a. The Athletic Director (AD) is responsible for the presentation of eligible coaching candidates to the Executive Director (ED) to interview for said coaching position.

- IV. The AD will screen possible candidates based on the above criteria and supply all applicable information to the ED.
- V. The ED will have final say in the hiring of coaching staff persons.
- VI. The AD will be responsible to follow through with the observation/evaluation of coaches and present the ED with information as needed for the continual growth and development of the coaching staff.
- VII. Safety Standards
 - a. Every coach and assistant must observe the following safety standards:
 - i. Coaches are never to enter an opposite gender locker room for any reason.
 - ii. Coaches should secure any necessary medical forms on file at the school office before the season begins. These forms must be kept with the first aid kit at practices and games.
 - iii. Coaches should direct all official contact (written or telephone) to parents as well as students.
 - iv. Coaches should observe all academic requirements as outlined by the AD
 - v. Coaches should submit program goals to the AD.
 - vi. Coaches must never place the health or safety of an athlete in jeopardy.
 - vii. Any difficult situation that could possibly compromise any above standard must be approached with full knowledge of the AD and Administration.
 - viii. Coaches should avoid transporting individual athletes in their personal vehicles and should never transport an individual of the opposite gender.
- VIII. It is the preference of CSH to hire same gender coaches.
- IX. If a suitable same gender coach cannot be secured, an opposite gender coach may be instated with the following criteria. The opposite gender coach must:
 - a. Be completely above reproach
 - b. Be willing to submit to any accountability necessary by the AD and ED
 - c. Never be alone with a (single) player or transport any player
 - d. Secure an assistant of the same gender as the athletes to assist in said game or practice
 - e. Adhere to the safety standards outlined above.

Coaches' Duties:

1. Varsity coaches are required to clearly communicate with parents through a parent meeting, letter, or email.
2. Coaches must understand the academic eligibility policy at Calvary and adhere to it.
3. Coaches must be aware of all rules in their sport according to MHSAA.
4. Coaches must be responsible for all equipment, uniforms, and equipment room.
5. Coaches must submit a completed roster to the athletic office one week prior to the first contest.
6. Coaches must make sure the facilities they use for practice are secured after use.
7. Coaches must communicate any needs they have immediately with the athletic director (i.e. med kit supplies, special practice arrangements, equipment, or uniform orders, etc.).
8. Coaches must report scores to local newspapers and TV (varsity only) before 10:30 pm.

<i>Holland Sentinel</i>	<i>392-2314 (ask for sports)</i>
<i>Grand Rapids Press</i>	<i>800-878-1455 (ask for sports)</i>
<i>Wood TV8</i>	<i>616-235-4317 or 4325</i>
<i>WZZM TV13</i>	<i>616-224-7816</i>

9. Coaches must turn scorebooks and cumulative stat records at the end of the season, awards (MVP, Most Improved, and Christian Character), and anything deserving of attention.

Procedure for Adding a New Sport

Periodically, the need arises to add a new sport to Calvary School's athletic program. Any student, teacher, staff, or parent may initiate the process to establish a new sport or expand an existing sport. The following steps will be followed:

- All requests to establish a new sport or expand an existing sport to another level will initially be presented to the Calvary Schools of Holland Athletic Director.
- The Athletic Director will take the request to the Athletic Committee, which consists of the Athletic Director, Administration, Executive Director and the designee's who have been appointed for that purpose.
- The Athletic Committee will gather information about each of the elements for consideration of the proposal for approval or disapproval.

The following elements are considered in the approval of a new sport, or the expansion of an existing sport:

- I. Liability and safety
- II. Compliance and synchronization
- III. Compatibility with Calvary Schools of Holland's mission, policies and regulations
- IV. Compliance with Title IX and any other applicable laws
- V. Availability of practice and game space
- VI. Availability of same-level competition
- VII. How the sport would benefit the Calvary Schools of Holland overall community
- VIII. Demonstrated need/interest in the new activity
- IX. Timeliness of the request in relation to the current athletic season and budget cycle
- X. Availability of staff (including sponsors, coaches, trainers)
- XI. Availability of transportation
- XII. Estimate on expenses and income
- XIII. Well established and communicated schedule of events communicated prior to the start of the season
- XIV. Coach orientation meeting and background check

The initiators and participants of a proposed sport must cover that sport's expense and equipment through player dues and/or Sports Boosters for at least two years.

After considering all of the above questions, the Athletic Committee will approve or deny the addition of the sport and communicate that decision to the administration and School Board.

The Calvary Schools of Holland School Board has given the Athletic Committee the responsibility and authority to add and/or subtract sports for the school.